

SPEER First Annual Summit

Topics for Summit Working Sessions

Monday, February 25, 2013

Working Group Session 1: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm

Ballroom D-F: Measuring & Improving Efficiency in Existing Commercial Buildings:

Without knowledge of a building system's performance, it is hard to make a case for efficiency. Could benchmarking and disclosure policies be a key strategy to accelerate both energy and water efficiency? How would benchmarking lead to additional opportunities in retro-commissioning? Could asset rating help move the market? How would disclosure advance tenant interests? What training could improve operational efficiency of commercial and multi-family buildings?

Oak Room: Status & Progress of Energy Codes for Buildings in Texas and Oklahoma:

Local jurisdictions in Texas and Oklahoma are responsible for compliance with state adopted energy codes, but how is compliance measured? How can compliance rates be improved? Is utilization of 3rd party inspectors or raters a best practice? Would consistent amendments or enforcement policies increase compliance? Which jurisdictions are moving toward higher or performance based codes?

Southpark: Increasing the Contribution of Demand Response & Load Management in Texas & Oklahoma Energy Markets (Demand Response Coalition):

Participants will discuss policy changes needed for DR and LM to contribute to the ERCOT's resource adequacy challenge. Vertically integrated utilities in both Texas and Oklahoma are beginning to build demand response or load management resource capacity. ERCOT is endeavoring to expand participation in its emergency demand response programs. What needs to be done? How can the industry and allies best impact these initiatives, to accelerate the maturation of this resource?

Working Group Session 2: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Ballroom D-F: Energy Efficiency Project Finance for New & Existing Commercial Buildings:

Many companies or institutions resist investing in long-term savings measures. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) or "on-bill repayment" may become available financing options for commercial buildings. How can verification of savings increase consumer and investor confidence? Could local jurisdictions or investors establish revolving loans (like LoanStar) to increase available funding? Would "energy efficient leases" be an option to address the split-benefit for tenant occupied buildings?

Oak Room: Above Code Programs - Moving the Market to Net Zero:

Some jurisdictions accelerate the move toward future codes through higher amendments or even "stretch codes." Would it help if industry and jurisdictions agreed on above code goals? Could greater consistency allow for customers to compare "above-code programs" through a rating score or benchmarked value?

Southpark: Green Button: Engaging with Smart Meter Texas and Vertically Integrated Utilities:

Smart Meter Texas gives customer access to meter data in the competitive areas of Texas, but efforts to allow customers to seamlessly share that information with service providers is still underway. Over 150 other utilities in Texas and Oklahoma offer less automated access or none. We will consider how industry will respond to the PUCT comment period regarding third-party access to data through the Smart Meter Texas portal.

Working Group Session 3: 4:30 pm – 5:30 pm

Ballroom D-F: Overcoming the First Cost Barrier for Efficiency in New & Existing Homes:

Up front cost of upgrades make voluntary efficiency a hard sale, but if appraisals captured the value of efficiency, home improvement financing through loans or mortgages could be possible. Potentially, Energy efficient leases provide an option to share savings and costs for tenants in multi-family units. Does disclosure of efficiency add value to increase occupancy, or reduce time to sale? There are MPG type metrics that can be posted to the Multiple-Listing Service. What outreach and education is needed for the appraisal, banking, and real estate professionals to make this successful?

Oak Room: Energy Efficiency Auctions – A Future Framework for Advancing Efficiency:

Texas spends less per capita on energy efficiency than all major states, and existing incentive programs are not likely to increase in the near term. We'll discuss a possible framework for an Energy Efficiency Auction at ERCOT to tap this massive resource. Could ERCOT solicit permanent load reductions in a similar manner to its solicitation of demand response? Can such an auction be compatible with an 'Energy-Only' Market, and the IOU energy efficiency programs in ERCOT?

Southpark: Overcoming the Challenges of Performance Contracting:

How can Performance Contracting expand commercial retrofits in the region? Why has the State of Texas not entered into a single performance contract in 5 years? Are there real barriers, or only a need for better communication and outreach? Does the industry need to develop standards of performance or transparency to win or recapture consumer confidence?

Tuesday, February 26, 2013

Working Group Session 4: 9:30 am – 10:30 am

Ballroom D-F: Advancing Energy Efficiency through Local Initiatives:

What local initiatives have been successful and can be replicated in the SPEER region? How can we make this information available to expand visibility? Are there funds available through Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds to create revolving loans? What can Pecan Street contribute to neighborhood initiatives? What water conservation goals can be initiated by local governments or communities to positively impact water supply?

Oak Room: Integration of Smart Energy in Codes & Above Code Programs:

How can codes and above code programs support smart energy development? Can in-home displays or communicating thermostats or controls become options for meeting codes or above code standards? Can other measures be included that impact building efficiency? Should plug-loads such as smart appliances become voluntary above code measures? What is the value of micro-data from sub-metering?

Southpark: Role of Distributed Generation to Reach Net Zero and Support Resource Adequacy:

Broader adoption of distributed energy, such as solar, CHP, or storage will be needed to reach Net Zero, reduce water consumption, stabilize congested areas and obviate the need for new transmission, distribution, and central plants. But what is the effect of low gas pricing? Do interconnection standards create a barrier? Does solar leasing provide enough financial motivation for broader adoption in both rental properties and owner occupied properties?