

Brief Topic Descriptions:

Full descriptions of each of these breakouts are available by clicking on the session title:

Monday, April 13, 2015

10:45 am [Recommendations of the SPEER Commission on Texas Energy Efficiency Policy](#)

The SPEER Commission on Texas Energy Efficiency Policy released over 20 recommendations earlier this year including increasing the availability of energy efficiency financing, aligning electric companies' interests with increasing energy efficiency, maximizing efficiency in public buildings, improving energy performance of new homes and buildings, and better leveraging the smart grid to drive efficiency actions – and for Texas to use energy efficiency as an air quality improvement strategy.

12:30 pm [Introductory Plenary Panel](#)

Energy Code Challenges and Opportunities

– Introduced by Ian Hughes, Bayer Material Science

Voluntary Challenges: 2030 District, Better Buildings and more

– Introduced by David Low, Architecture 2030

Efficiency as an Emissions Reduction Strategy

– Introduced by John Hall, Environmental Defense Fund

Status of Utility Efficiency Programs in the Region

– Introduced by Lark Lee, TetraTech, the State of Texas EM&V Contractor

1:30 pm [Breakout Sessions](#)

[Energy Codes: Challenges and Opportunities](#)

Energy codes are a hot topic, with energy code bills being considered in the Texas and Oklahoma Legislature this year. SPEER is also engaged in a Field Study to collect data through a sampling of homes during construction and assess the state of building practices in Texas. We will also discuss the 2015 Energy Codes, compliance challenges, and industry engagement needed to make this next level of efficiency achievable.

[Voluntary Initiatives: 2030 District, Better Buildings, and more](#)

Organizations and individuals are participating in voluntary energy efficiency initiatives to drive real results. This working session will discuss Architecture 2030 Districts, Better Building Challenge initiatives, and other local voluntary challenges in the region, how to join or initiate similar efforts, and what resources are needed.

[Efficiency as an Emissions Reduction Strategy](#)

Energy efficiency can help reduce emissions of all air pollutants, alleviating air quality compliance issues facing the region. As carbon emission regulations under the Clean Air Act (section 111(d)) are finalized, and as many areas strive for attainment, energy efficiency efforts may be among the most cost-effective methods for Texas and Oklahoma to comply. This session will explore the opportunity to address air quality compliance with energy efficiency.

Status of Utility Efficiency Programs in the Region

While investor-owned utilities have increased their budgets in the last five years, rising baselines, and changing consumer and political expectations assure programs continue to evolve. This discussion will include the status and the evolving nature of electric and natural gas incentive programs in our region, new program ideas, and emerging technologies.

3:00 pm Introductory Plenary Panel

Local Government Initiatives to Accelerate Energy Efficiency

– Introduced by Sam Gunderson, City of Fort Worth

Financing Commercial Retrofits

– Introduced by Matt Golden, Investor Confidence Project

Critical Infrastructure and CHP

– Introduced by Lynn Crawford, Affiliated Engineers

Utility of the Future: Integrating EE, DR, DG and Storage

– Introduced by Michael Quinn, Oncor

4:00 pm Breakout Sessions

Local Government Initiatives to Accelerate Energy Efficiency

Many efficiency initiatives and policies originate at the local level, including advanced building codes, PACE districts, benchmarking programs, public building retrofits, and other local initiatives and challenges. Discuss with the cities in this region at the forefront of Resilient Cities, City Energy Project, DOE's Better Buildings Challenge, and Architecture 2030 Districts.

Financing Commercial Retrofits

A number of new financing methods are becoming available as investors and building owners gain confidence that savings will materialize. Texas has enabled PACE districts, but can we drive adoption of PACE districts around the state? What other financing vehicles are available - what is necessary to increase private investment in commercial retrofit projects?

Critical Infrastructure and CHP

Texas Law HB 1864, passed in 2013 requires ALL local and state governments to consider CHP when updating or building new critical infrastructure. DOE CHP Technical Assistance Partnership provides resources to support building owners to determine whether CHP is a feasible option for their facility to improve energy efficiency and resiliency. Stakeholders will also discuss CHP's cost savings benefits, new tariffs, and other policy and economic drivers influencing CHP development.

Utility of the Future: Integrating EE, DR, DG and Storage

Distributed energy resources, increasing renewable energy generation, electrification of transportation, big data and the internet of things, are creating either a perfect storm or a perfect opportunity for the distribution utility of the future. This working session will address the complexity of these issues from the perspective of the utility, industry, and consumers.

Tuesday, April 14, 2015

11:00 am Introductory Plenary Panel

Lighting: Has the Market Transformed?

– Introduced by Christopher Lubeck, OSRAM Sylvania

Financing Residential Retrofits

– Introduced by Colin Bishopp, Renewable Funding

Creating a Smart Energy Roadmap: Using Data to Drive Efficiency

– Introduced by Michael Murray, Mission Data

Distributed Energy Resources

– Introduced by David Walters, Walters Power, former Governor of Oklahoma

12:00 pm Breakout Sessions

Lighting: Has the Market Transformed?

The commercial buildings sector uses a third of its electricity on lighting, so what better place for the market to look for energy savings? In the last 30 years, more efficient lighting technologies, like LEDs, have been introduced to the market, but none have reached substantive market transformation. This session will address the challenges and opportunities of commercial, residential, outdoor lighting markets.

Financing Residential Retrofits

The residential retrofit market is limited by up-front cost and lack of financing options. This session will explore multiple ways the region could support efficiency financing: Warehouse for Energy Efficiency Loans (WHEEL), Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), and a variety of USDA or clean air/clean water funds could be deployed. This session will discuss how these programs work and how we can get the programs started here.

Creating a Smart Energy Roadmap: Using Data to Drive Efficiency

Texas has deployed smart meters to customers representing nearly 80% of the state's electric consumption, but this potential driver of efficiency is not being maximized. This granular energy data is available to customers and third-party energy managers, through the Smart Meter Texas portal. This session will be discussing concepts to define the "Roadmap" to increase smart energy data usage.

Distributed Energy Resources

Regulatory systems and market rules have to adjust to market innovations. The PUCT has a rulemaking underway that will update the interconnection process, the role and responsibilities of a third-party generator, and whether to alter the definition of distributed generation. ERCOT model limits the contribution of small-scale loads and on-site generation to the market. Attend this session to hear the challenges to development of distributed generation in the region, and initiatives to overcome the existing barriers.