MEEAC Meeting Minutes

October 2, 2019

Attendees: Tim Via Ameren, Sherry Holloway Ouachita, Hank Love Elevate, Angelina Benson, Quin Beever Elevate, Josh Campbell MEI, Richard Reilly Earthways, MEEA, Phil Fracica Renew, Annika Brink NHT, Laura Goldberg NRDC, Dana Gray Tower Groves,  Nate Hackney, Jill Schwartz Liberty Utilities, Lisa Kremer DOE, Paul Engler Spire, Andy Savastino City of KCMO, LeMart Holman Spire, Marty Hyman, Christopher Harrison, Tammy Huber DE, John Engelman, Mark Leonard, Chris Delatorre, Tim Nelson, Theresa English, Kevin Brannan Evergy, Geoff Marke, OPC

Economic Development in Evergy Footprint

Energy Efficiency is a prevalent option in recruiting and retaining businesses to Evergy footprint

Challenges in Rural Communities

* Lack of available sites/buildings
* Workforce challenges
* Trying to go it alone

Opportunities in Rural Communities

* Community Readiness
* Future Workforce Training and Attraction
* Existing Business Focus and Entrepreneurism
* Regionalism

How Evergy Works with Rural Communities

* Economic Development Rider- 5- year discounted rate for new or expanding non-retail customers
* Revenue Justification- Buy down cost of needed infrastructure upgrades based on projected new revenue
* Connections- Working with state or local economic development organizations

Working with Rural Communities

* Marketing
* Organizational Development
* Location One IS
* Business Retention & Expansion
* Project Support

Case Study- Johnson County Eco Development Partnership

* Dollar Tree $110 MM distribution center

PAYS Program Quachita Electric Cooperative

Ouachita Electric Coop- 7,000 members and 9,400 meters

* Switched on-bill loan program (HELP) to a tariffed on- bill program (HELP PAYS)
  + Only property owners were eligible under on bill program
  + Loans posed higher risk
  + Loans capped at $3,000
* First Coop in state of Arkansas to offer
* Member Benefits
  + No credit
  + Not required to own home
  + Little upfront costs
  + Low interest rate financing
  + Investment capped at $25k
  + Loans offered over a 10- year period
  + Upgrades tied to premise not customer
* Process
  + Utility reviews bill history, on-site measurement and engineering modeling
  + Utility recovers 80% of savings over life of measure
  + Utility recovery period capped at 80% of useful life of the upgrades
* 75% of offers made to participants invest in upgrades that were accepted
* Renters accounted for nearly half of the participants (Primarily multi-family)
* Total investments in first four months exceeded $1.5 MM (Total investments approx. $5 MM)
* Most common measures; LED's, HVAC, Attic/Insulation, Duct-Work
* Average savings is approximately 20 percent per home
* Average monthly payment is approximately $48 per month
* Rural Energy Savings Program to provide funding for Energy Efficiency Measures
  + Ouachita received funding/loan for energy efficiency measures over a 20- year term.

Utility Highlights Working Session

*One Recent Highlight or Success Story Around in Energy Efficiency and Customers in your service territory*

*How is your utility addressing rural and underserved customers?*

*How do we move energy efficiency forward in Missouri?*

* Evergy
  + Company Rebrand
  + Community Engagement (Public Affairs, Eco Dev, Products & Services)
  + Connect Center
* MEI
  + 4 PACE projects recently closed in KC area
  + +$120 MM in investments in Missouri
* Spire
  + Agricultural Energy Efficiency Opportunities in Southern Missouri
  + Partnerships and Town Hall Meeting
* Liberty Utilities
  + LED lighting driving Energy Efficiency + 10 GWh in 2019 savings
  + +2,300 EE kits to multifamily tenants
  + Being more selective around which kWh/kW to target
  + Planning on filing a MEEIA application sometime in 2020
* Ameren Missouri
  + Launched MEEIA Cycle 3
  + Redesigned program to target deeper more holistic savings along with educational offerings
  + Collaboration with stakeholders to gain awareness around how to drive change.
  + Smart Energy Plan
* Tower Grove
  + Recent Assessment for one of recent properties
  + Education to property owners on how to make buildings more EE
* Elevate Energy
  + Recent success from local property owner in Evergy territory that is realizing energy savings
  + Utilization of local contractors through job creation and workforce development
* Renew Missouri
  + ACEEE scorecard moved up from 33 to 30.
* Ouachita Coop
  + Retrofit upgrade of fire department training center to recruit and develop workers

Contemporary Issues

* EM&V 5% rule allowance flexibility. Focus on impact only research.

Group agreed to carry this issue forward for further discussion on how to address

* Exploring the links between short/medium term screening analysis (e.g. TRC, UCT, etc.) for MEEIA plans as compared to long term IRP planning
* Review of MEEAC Charter

Recommended that members plan to review in advance of the spring MEEAC meeting

Recap/Action Items/Next Meeting

* Future MEEAC Topic Ideas

Utility Coordination (Update on co-delivery amongst utilities)

Non-Energy Benefits (should topic be reconvened into a work group)

Marketability of EE to realtors and other market actors

* Active Work Groups: Low Income
* Jefferson City proposed as next location with Liberty Utilities as sponsor