2022-6-8 MEETING NOTES (updated 6/10/2022; input is from Steve Miller, Greg Gorman, Ken Dolsky)

Attendees from Governor’s Office/Office of Climate Action and the Green Economy

Catherine Klinger, Senior Policy Advisor; Preethi Thangaraj, Policy Advisor (transportation). [Two years ago was an executive assistant at Rutgers].

Attendees for “NJ 50x30 Building Electrification Team”:

Pat Miller, Steve Miller, Ken Dolsky, Bob Erickson, Mike Winka, Greg Gorman, Eric Benson

Jane Cohen did not attend. There was a “hard” cutoff at noon.

Spokesperson was Catherine Klinger (Catherine’s history and interest is public health and housing)

She said she reviewed the letters to the Governor.

This is Catherine’s 5th week in current job. Personal Interest, and previous job was green buildings, and health effects of low/moderate income housing:

She (Jane’s org?) has been “thinking along the same lines” [Her team enjoins with the “NJ 50x30 BE Team” cause, but her team is behind]

1. Doesn’t know where in the budget process Murphy’s funding of 3300 LMI housing; nor know if building electrification is being considered (Catherine will check the authorization in the budget)
2. On Decarbonization roadmap, the Governor’s Office is teaming with BPU for next 12 months (lead will be Governors office). Expect to fully develop roadmap including
* building electrification – including both new and existing buildings
* Public buildings (electrification?)
* EV ready
* In the short term they are focused on piloting BE installations - mainly in government buildings.
1. Establishing a Building Decarbonization working group. She is looking for people to join and expects to have representation from various departments and organizations throughout the state. The group will be convened by the gov office and led by BPU.

However, she is inviting a number of organizations and is not sure how many nominations she is getting, and don’t know if there will be a spot for NJ 50x30 Building Electrification Team. The BE team subsequently nominated Steve Miller stevemiller@comcast.net to represent the 50x30 BE Team. Pat emailed this to Catherine, who emailed this reply: “we're still vetting the working group concept with our agency partners and internally at GO. However that certainly won't stop us from engaging you all as stakeholders in our broader building decarb work”.

4. A lot of interest on RNG and hydrogen. Need to socialize real info and cost [Need help to counter the RNG lobby]

* Eric said he is proposing legislation, and can provide resources.
* Ken said happy to help; in touch with Sen Bob Smith on hydrogen
* The BE Team subsequently forwarded the 5/25/2022 RMI report on a study in NYstate, which determined a limited role for hydrogen and RNG in buildings in NY. <https://rmi.org/low-carbon-fuels-have-a-limited-role-to-play-in-new-yorks-buildings/> Ken Dolsky later emailed [the report is] “mainly beating the dead horse of using hydrogen in buildings as this is easily one of the most unreasonable uses of H”.]

5. Catherine discussed the status of the big picture of 50X30 beyond buildings [Ken’s perception of Catherine’s answer is that essentially nothing is being done], and suggested two docs are useful:

* EMP is updated each 3 years. BPU is updating now
* 80X50 report covers a LOT of topics; “Jane is biting off wind/solar/transportation”

6. Green Jobs report will be avail Oct. BE has largest share of green jobs.