

Energy Efficiency Advisory Group (EEAG)
August 11, 2022

Present:

Alexa Bouvier – Office of Energy & Mineral Resources
Aly Bean – Idaho Conservation League
Anna Kim – Public Utility Commission of Oregon
Connie Aschenbrenner – Idaho Power
Diego Rivas – Northwest Energy Coalition
Don Strickler – Simplot
Donn English – Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Evie Scrivner – Community Action Partnership
Jason Talford – Idaho Public Utilities Commission

Kevin Keyt – Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Laura Conilogue – Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Nick Sayen – Public Utility Commission of Oregon
Quentin Nesbitt – Idaho Power
Sid Erwin – Idaho Irrigation Pumpers Association
Taylor Thomas – Idaho Public Utilities Commission
Tina Jayaweera – Northwest Power & Conservation Council
Wil Gehl – City of Boise

Not Present:

Jim Hall – WaFd Bank
Marissa Warren – Office of Energy & Mineral Recourses

Guests and Presenters*:

Andrea Simmons – Idaho Power
Annie Meyer* – Idaho Power
Becky Arte Howell – Idaho Power
Billie McWinn* - Idaho Power
Chad Severson – Idaho Power
Chad Ihrig – Google Nest
Chellie Jensen* - Idaho Power
Curtis Willis – Idaho Power
Dahl Bietz- Idaho Power
Denise Humphreys – Idaho Power
Gavin Hamilton – Idaho Power
Jeff Rigby* – Idaho Power
Julie Rosandick – Idaho Power

Kathy Yi* – Idaho Power
Kevin Kitz – KitzWorks Llc
Melissa Thom – Idaho Power
Michelle Toney – Idaho Power
Mindi Shodeen – Idaho Power
Ray Short – Idaho Power
Rosemary Curtin – Facilitator
Shelley Martin – Idaho Power
Theresa Drake – Idaho Power
Tracey Burtch* – Idaho Power
Todd Greenwell – Idaho Power
Tracey Burtch* – Idaho Power
Zack Thompson – Idaho Power

Note Takers:

Michelle Toney and Kathy Yi – Idaho Power

Meeting Facilitator: Rosemary Curtin**Virtual Webex Meeting Convened at 9:32 a.m.**

Rosemary convened the meeting and led introductions.

9:37 AM-Announcements

Quentin reviewed the agenda. There were no questions or comments about the May 2022 meeting notes or the August agenda.

9:40 AM-2022 Financials & Savings – Quentin Nesbitt

Quentin presented DSM savings and costs by sector and program from January through June 2022. He also provided an overview of the program evaluation schedule. In addition, Quentin mentioned the company has sent out an RFP for selecting contractors for the 2023 evaluations.

One member had a question about the “Other Evaluation” category specifically mentioning the DR programs and whether the company is doing Impact Evaluations. Quentin said DR evaluations are done every year and include the impact of the program and that the reports are included in Appendix 2 of the annual DSM report. The “Other Category” is to indicate it wasn’t done by a third party.

9:55 AM-Cost Effectiveness – Kathy Yi

Kathy presented the DSM program’s cost-effectiveness (by sector) with a deeper dive on some specific programs. She provided an update on the Heating & Cooling Efficiency (HCE), and a refresher on how lower savings for Ductless and Air Source Heat Pumps (HP) are impacting the programs cost-effectiveness. Kathy reviewed the new 2023 federal standard for Air Source HPs and impacts on the program, then went over the company’s next steps. She discussed the changes in lighting and the impacts to efficiency potential due to the Energy Independence and Security Act (EISA) and the Department of Energy’s (DOE) 2019 final rule.

Discussion and Questions:

Small Business Direct Install (SBDI) program

One member asked about what makes SBDI more cost-effective from the Total Resource Cost (TRC) perspective and specifically why the benefit is higher under that test. Kathy said the TRC includes an additional 10% conservation benefit as well as non-energy benefits. The member then asked if Idaho Power is expecting SBDI to be borderline cost-effective because of increased costs and whether we expect higher savings due to the larger population of small businesses in the treasure valley, mentioning that it seems the economies of scale would improve with larger populations. Kathy said it’s hard to predict, but that cost effectiveness is more affected by the type of lights being replaced more than the total overall number.

Another member questioned if it's possible to continue the SBDI program because small business is a class of customers that are harder to reach. Getting guaranteed savings with direct installs is a huge benefit. Quentin commented that this program was designed to roll across the service area before March 2023. All small business customers have had at least one chance to participate.

One member asked about the SBDI details including the top three costs that rose faster than expected and identify then breakdown a few problematic areas. Kathy said she doesn't have the specific breakdown of costs. Quentin said that we contract with a third-party vendor therefore, we don't see the specific costs, but they are saying they're experiencing cost issues and will not be able to renew the contract at the current price.

Another member asked what the average cost of an SBDI install is. Kathy answered that she's only looked at the total numbers and hasn't looked at the per-project numbers yet.

Residential Heating & Cooling Efficiency

One member said the RTF found HPs installation practices are very impactful on savings. Some are installed in homes with gas heat, to supplement cooling, which results in low or negative savings. It seems the company requires the minimum HSPF standard for air source HPs for an incentive. Kathy said this is correct and electric heat is required and the incentive is based on the higher HSPF. The new standards change the baseline, so we claim less savings. Another member stated they see this as a factor in the C&I space as well.

A guest asked if the company would consider smart thermostats in conjunction with a hybrid heat pump with gas backup system. Billie proposed the Program Specialist and guest connect outside the EEAG forum for a detailed discussion about program strategies for HPs and smart thermostats.

Lighting

One member asked about the programs affected by the EISA, when the contract with the lighting vendor ends, and whether the types of bulbs can be updated mid-contract. Kathy said our current residential lighting by down ends this year and added that Chellie would present on some commercial program impacts also.

There was a question about if the savings is higher with LED fixtures versus a screw-in LED. Kathy answered that the company does have fixtures in the programs, but it is an area that isn't fully transformed yet. We could potentially offer incentives but if we don't have a specific Buy-Down program, it could impact how we can offer an incentive. We may be able to offer incentives through the new Marketplace Program.

10:40 AM-Break 10 mins

10:50 AM-Residential Programs – Billie McWinn

Billie presented an overview of the programs in terms of savings and participation, noting she will be seeking feedback for the Lighting Buy-Down program. Billie then showed program updates on Multifamily Savings, Welcome Kits, Lighting Buy-Down, Home Energy Reports (HER), AC Cool Credit DR program (ACCC), and the Marketplace.

Discussion & Questions:

Welcome Kits

One member asked if the company could include thermostatic shower valves (TSV) in the Welcome Kits. Billie said the kits go to all customers and the savings from TSVs can only be claimed if the customer has an electric water heater. Denise added TSVs are expensive. Another question was if there is anything in the student kits that could be incorporated. Denise provided an overview of the kit's contents and said the savings are minimal, but we are exploring ideas with the vendor.

Another member asked if the energy efficiency tips can be added to the kits. Denise said the education flip book includes that information, and the book is updated annually to reflect any program or other changes.

One member had a question about the packaging being adjusted for kits in 2023. Denise responded that the box is going to change but that does not reduce the shipping costs. We are exploring options for other shippers at a lower cost.

Another member asked if the company tracks the participation in other energy savings programs from customers that receive Welcome Kits. Billie said we don't have direct tracking in place. The member asked if there was a follow-up survey about possible changes in usage. Denise said new customers wouldn't see that change because there is no comparison of historic bills.

Lighting Buy-Down

One member questioned if the Buy-Down Program is cost-effective. Billie said yes. The member pointed out a clean break at the end of 2022 may be more straightforward because while there are potential saving opportunities into 2023, it could get messy in terms of evaluating the programs cost effectiveness.

Another member commented, retailers may try to exhaust their inventory of cheaper inefficient bulbs, it makes sense to try to counteract that and continue the program into 2023. Perhaps reducing the Buy-Down amount could potentially give the lower income customers a glide path to help with the higher cost without the buydown.

There was another question about other utilities or co-ops in Idaho and where they are targeting lighting incentives beyond 2022. Billie said our vendor does run other programs in the region and we engage with them.

Another member said that if the Buy-Down Program is cost-effective, they would prefer continuing it into 2023, because in rural areas, there are smaller businesses and high inflation over the past several months.

HER Program

One member said they received their HER report and asked if changes in weather are accounted for in the savings. Denise said comparisons are from the same area that experience the same weather.

Another member asked if the HER is an opt-out program, and whether there has been a decline in participation. Billie confirmed it is an opt-out program and affirmed that participation decreases over time is due to attrition. The member asked if there's an attempt to backfill those participants. Billie said the treatment and control groups must start at the same point to be able to make a comparison. Denise added, at the start of the program, all residential customers with adequate meter history were included in the participant pool. The company continues to monitor customer eligibility, but currently, there's not enough residential customers meeting the criteria to create a new treatment and control group.

AC Cool Credit DR program

One member asked if Idaho Power is considering a Bring-Your-Own Thermostat (BYOT) program. Billie said we are monitoring that. The member also asked if the company would stop using the switch if it added a BYOT program. Billie advised no, because the current switch option is a cost that is already invested. Billie also added that a BYOT program would require a considerable investment in the control interface for our load-serving operations.

Another member asked about the cost per switch and the current Smart Thermostat incentive. The company responded that the cost of the switch is \$165, which is based on buying in volume, and the Idaho Power incentive for a Smart Thermostat in the H&C Efficiency program is \$75.

Marketplace

One member asked about how local smaller retailers participate in Marketplace. Mindi said the Marketplace tool can provide a list of the local stores that carry the product. However, retailers that want to list what their daily price for products are, would need to provide a file of all product model numbers and prices daily.

11:35 AM-Marketing – Annie Meyer

Annie provided marketing updates for all sectors highlighting residential A/C Cool Credit, smart summer contest, EE awareness campaigns, and commercial and industrial EE incentives.

One member suggested the Marketplace timing to be up and running prior to Black Friday/Cyber Monday/holiday season and mentioned Idaho Power could leverage those retailer/OEM promotions. Melissa responded yes, that is our hope to get it going by then.

12:00 PM-Lunch Break 1 HR

1:00 PM-My Account – Tracey Burtch

Tracey's presentation covered the My Account default view for homes and businesses, showing daily use with temperatures and how to use the features. She also demonstrated the ease of adding information to the home profile and the information and tips My Account will provide in the savings center. Tracey then showed how customers could sign up for alerts. There were no questions or comments.

1:12 PM-C&I&I Programs – Chellie Jensen

Chellie provided year-to-date savings and participation for the commercial, industrial, and irrigation programs. She also highlighted the 2022 DR participation compared to 2021 and showed the event days so far this season.

Discussion & Questions:

Irrigation Program

One member wanted to know what drove the program reduction in participation. Chellie said Ag Reps found many reasons for the change in participation, but we expect to know more post-season. The

member added, there was a higher loss of MW than sites. Chellie said we did lose large MW participants but gained a lot of smaller ones. Quentin added the reduction in participation was related to the impact of the program changes.

Energy Efficiency Savings

One member asked if there is a good pipeline of projects for the programs. Chellie said we have a good pipeline for Custom Projects, not as good for Retrofits and pretty good for New Construction. For the New Construction program, it's been difficult to get architects and engineers to engage. There is a lumpiness in savings, but if you look at the second half of last year, it's the same rate of savings as the first half of this year. It doesn't look like we'll get to 2021 total savings level, but we could get a few large projects in 2022 that would change things.

Another member inquired if the 2022 numbers should be read as YTD or only Q2. Chellie said the numbers reflect the first half of the year (YTD).

Commercial Savings Kits

One member asked about the measure life on the LEDs. Kathy said this was the estimate of how long the previous life would last. She explained how the company settled on the savings claimed and added that a third-party is currently evaluating. The member inquired about the exit signs and aerators. Kathy said they have different measure lives.

2:00 PM-Engaging With C&I Customers – Jeff Rigby

Jeff discussed the company's engagement with large power customers through the company's Key Account Energy Advisors (KAEA). He presented the number of Idaho Power KAEOs, their role, the type of support they provide, and how they help find opportunities for energy efficiency and to influence customer participation in the company's energy efficiency programs. Jeff also gave examples of EE projects that KAEOs helped with.

Discussion & Questions:

One member asked if the company has Tribal Governments or Reservations in the service area and would those be considered Key Accounts. Jeff said we have one in the Pocatello area, but to be a Key Account, and have an assigned KAEA, depends on if the business falls into the 1 MW or greater demand. The member added, is there any specialized outreach to those entities that might be harder to get involved in these programs. Jeff said that we are consistent across the board with our Key Accounts, but we could be missing other program opportunities. Connie added, we do have a lot of engagement with our cities and have a team who maintains those close relationships. The member stated the question is more about the tribal territories than cities. Connie added that we do have engagement with local tribal communities.

2:25 PM-Wrap-up/Open Discussion – All

Rosemary reminded the group that the next EEAG meeting was November 17th.

Quentin provided an update on some of the responses from the members regarding meeting preference (in person or virtual) but would like to hear from the rest of the group.

Rosemary then gave each member an opportunity to ask questions or to make their final comments.

Members comments:

Appreciate it today. All the discussions and responses to my questions. Nothing to add, but thanks for everybody's time.

No final questions. Thank you for entertaining my questions that I had.

No additional comments for me. Thank you for the informative and enjoyable meeting. I appreciate it.

Thanks everyone. No final questions. Just know it's challenging times and I appreciate everybody working hard and trying to get through it and moving forward. So, thank you.

I do want to thank you for the presentations today. Very informative and some changes going on due to the lighting. Appreciate active management. Thank you.

I believe you answered all my questions. It was very informative, and you were specific about everything.

Quentin added that he very much appreciates the time each member takes out of their day to help us.

3:00 PM-Adjourn