



## Executive Director's Report November - December 2021

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### **10,000 Home Energy Audits Performed**

Our Home Performance with Energy Star Program has surpassed 10,000 homes audited. According to the census there is only about 320,000 owner occupied homes in Delaware. That means about 1 out of every 32 homes have been audited. Credit for this achievement goes to our staff, particularly Suzanne Sebastian, and the Franklin Energy team.

### **Survey of Salary and Benefits**

Through our membership in the Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement (DANA) I was able to secure a small contract, under my \$10,000 purchasing threshold, for one of their consultants to do a salary and benefits review of the organization. It will do a comparison of comparable nonprofits. This is something that was discussed at the November Board meeting. I hope to have the review completed by our March meeting.

### **"Energy Future" Exhibition at Delaware Agricultural Museum**

Last Fall I reported that we met with the Delaware Agricultural Museum Director to discuss the possibility of sponsoring the "Energy Future" Exhibit. This is something Senator Carper requested that we look at. Green Energy will be front and center in this exhibit. It will be part of a much larger exhibit on the impact that rural electrification has had in Delaware. The Delaware Electric Cooperative will sponsor the overall exhibit. We would be recognized at the exhibit, in publications and on their website. As a permanent exhibit it will have a lasting public awareness impact. The cost of sponsoring this permanent exhibit is \$25,000. I have put this in the revised budget for your consideration.

### **Funding a Grid Distribution Planning Survey by UD Institute for Energy Conversion**

The Energy Stakeholders Group, hosted by Senator Hansen, has been discussing the critical need for an Electric Grid modernization study given the growth of solar energy and electric vehicles. There is legislation that allows a 5% utility wide load cap on solar energy. That cap is likely to be reached in the next few years. Whether the 5% load cap is necessary, understanding what the grid's capacity is, and how and where capacity can be increased, can only be done through Grid Distribution Planning (DP). Without DP it is not possible to determine where and how much solar and EVs can be added in Delaware. To better understand the state of Distribution Planning, a survey of the eleven electric companies' capacity for DP was proposed. Funding was not readily available, so I offered to have the survey funded through our Research and Development budget. The cost for the survey will be \$12,000. There are sufficient funds in our budget to fund this phase. However, I listed this in the proposed revised budget for your consideration to approve.

**Strategic Plan** – We are ready for the Board to view our draft Strategic Plan. We will present a new Mission, Vision and Values Statement along with seven strategic initiatives. Should these be approved by the Board, we will move on to the next phase, which will be development of a Business/Action Plan that puts forward more specific activities and measures for the next five years.