



Executive Director's Report November 2023

Business Plan – The Staff will have a survey out to all participants in the three Strategic Planning workgroups in the next few days. In addition, the survey will be available as a ribbon on our website for anyone that would like to provide comments. We plan to leave this open for comments through December 31st.

Farm Program – At the end of September, the contract with our farm program partner, EnSave, expired. With the planned redesign, it was determined the best scenario was to take the program in-house. Since then, we have had discussions with the University of Delaware, Farm Bureau, USDA Rural Development and Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Delaware Department of Agriculture. We believe it's important to build a workforce in Delaware to meet the growing needs of our agriculture community and we're working hard to accomplish this goal.

Governor's Energy Advisory Committee – The GEAC continues to meet weekly in three-hour segments. Our Staff has participated in these meetings and provided potential recommendations to the four subcommittees.

ZeMod – We currently have six ZeMods in Delaware, but an issue has arisen where some of these homes are not zero energy. While certified Zero Energy, the usage in the homes has spiked to where the solar cannot provide the difference and utility bills are higher than expected. Staff is working with Milford Housing Development Corporation to identify the issues.

Loans – We continue to see strong interest in our loan program given lower than market interest rates. One consideration is the transfer of Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs) in exchange for the lower interest rate. Not all projects may utilize their SRECs and this would provide an opportunity to transfer the SRECs to Energize Delaware where we can provide them to utilities in need of credits to meet their Renewable Portfolio Standard compliance.

Police Athletic League – We are working with the Police Athletic League to improve the efficiency in their two buildings. After an energy audit by our Energy Assessment program run by the Industrial Assessment Center at the University of Delaware, it was determined that 25 measures could be taken to reduce their energy consumption. With all measures in place, the projected kilowatt hour savings would offset one entire building. This is a tremendous opportunity for both the League and Energize Delaware to showcase energy audits, efficiency, and potentially renewable energy.

Description	Electricity kWh	Natural Gas MMBtu	Cost Savings
Total Savings	597,923	1213	\$71,170
Current Consumption	991,070	3,840	\$159,746
Percent Reduction	60.3%	31.6%	44.5%

Challenge Electric Vehicles – We continue to see great interest in this program. Recently a fire company reached out to determine eligibility for two electric trucks and a battery operated ‘jaws of life.’ A typical ‘jaws of life’ is hydraulic and utilizes a generator. This grant has opened new opportunities and innovations that had not otherwise been in consideration.

Home Performance with Energy Star – Our HPwES program has seen extraordinary growth in the first half of the budget year. We have had several meetings with Franklin Energy, our program partner, as well as a Best Practice Working Group meeting to discuss the program’s budget. Staff will report back to the Board at the January meeting but we wanted to make you aware of their significant spend to date.

Board Retreat – It has been a few years since we’ve had a Board Retreat. Similar to our meeting at the Delaware Agricultural Museum in March, we’ve worked with the Wilmington Blue Rocks in the past and our idea is to have a retreat at one of their weekday games.

Energy Services Coalition Conference – The Energy Services Coalition National Conference was held in Wilmington October 2-4. The conference was well attended with Energize Delaware as the prime sponsor. A special shout out goes to Sue, Tony, and the Delaware Chapter for organizing the conference in Wilmington. It was a heavy lift among many other priorities and they exceeded expectations.