

SEI Working Groups

November 10, 2025 4-6:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

The following SEI members were present (alpha order last name)

Wade	Brosius	Dynatech Controls Inc	wbrosius@dynatechcontrols.com
Sherry	Cockerham	SEI	scockerham@ccedcpa.com
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Michael	Cromer	IMC Construction	mcromer@imcconstruction.com
Shannon	Crooker	Generation 180	shannon.crooker@generation180.org
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Elaine	Feldman		eff102@earthlink.net
Michael	Grigalonis	Chester County Economic Development Foundation (CCEDF)	mgrigalonis@ccedcpa.com
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Tijo	Joseph	Warren Energy Engineering, LLC	tijo@warren-energy.com
Mark	King	CLEAResult	markking94@hotmail.com
Steve	Krug	Krug Architects and CHP-Funder.com	astevenskrug@gmail.com
Jim	Lauckner	SEI	jlauckner@ccedcpa.com
Eric	Light	Precision Air Heating & Cooling	elight@precisionairhc.com
Rick	Moseley	PowerGreen Capital	rmoseley@powergreencapital.com
James	Robinson	DES Global, LLC	jrobinson@desglobal.com
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Gary	Smith	CCEDC	gsmith@ccedcpa.com
Paul	Spiegel	Practical Energy Solutions, a Division of Spotts, Stevens and McCoy	paul.spiegel@ssmgroup.com
Tom	Timmins	Ecosave Inc.	ttimmins@ecosaveinc.com
Kevin	Wong	Emergent Energy Solutions, LLC	kai@emergentesolutions.com

Quick recap

The meeting began with introductions and updates from various energy industry members, including companies focused on renewable energy, energy procurement, and building codes. The group discussed industry challenges such as workforce retirement and technical specifications, while also covering updates on funding opportunities and policy changes affecting energy efficiency and geothermal initiatives. The conversation ended with discussions on making geothermal energy more accessible

through reduced government involvement and exploring various energy technologies, while also considering ways to increase SEI's policy influence.

Next steps

- Eric: Meet with Jim before leaving to discuss participation in the SEI Clean Jobs Grant training program
- Sherry: Compile and summarize notes from all breakout groups within the next couple of days to create a strategy document for the next 12 months
- Mark and Paul: Present the draft County Energy Strategy to the SEI board for review and feedback
- Jim: Connect Crystron Technologies with East Penn and other battery manufacturers for introductions regarding their non-lithium battery technology
- SEI Board: Consider partnering with Chester County Chamber on policy and lobbying efforts related to energy issues
- All attendees: Submit Clean Energy Grant sign-up forms to Jim if interested in participating in the workforce training program
- Kevin: Follow up with Shannon regarding Tier 2 RECs monetization for schools
- SEI Leadership: Explore partnership with Team PA to facilitate stakeholder input process using their software platform for the County Energy Strategy
- Kevin Wong wrote to SEI Members: “To better serve our community, we are looking to grow our leadership team to support SEI with expanding its impact and furthering its mission. With your support, we need help with the following areas. If you are driven by our mission, and have interest in supporting, please reach out.”
 - Marketing and Outreach Lead
 - Branding Lead
 - Membership growth Lead
 - Innovation Lead
 - National and Regional Energy Policy Lead”

Summary

Energy Industry Updates and Challenges

The meeting focused on introductions and updates from various members of the energy industry. Gary Smith, CEO of SEI, discussed the organization's mission to help businesses become more proficient and effective. Steve Krug mentioned the new building code in Pennsylvania, which will increase insulation requirements. Jack DiEnna spoke about the challenges facing the ground source heat pump industry in

the wake of the "big, beautiful bill." The conversation ended with a call for new participation in the group from Board Chair, Kevin Kai Wong.

HVAC Industry Growth and Challenges

The meeting introduced several participants from HVAC and energy efficiency companies. The discussion touched on industry challenges, including the "silver tsunami" of retiring workers and issues with project management and technical specifications, with several companies reporting growth and new hires, though concerns were raised about upcoming legislation affecting tax credits and building incentives.

SEI Clean Jobs Funding Updates

The meeting discussed updates on the SEI Clean Jobs program, and RISEPA <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/programs-and-services/energy-programs-office/rise-pa> funding, and Pennsylvania Department of Commerce initiatives. SEI announced the availability of funding for energy-related companies in Pennsylvania to develop training programs and recruiting plans. The group was divided into subgroups focusing on energy efficiency, generation/solar, and geothermal, with each subgroup tasked to discuss policy, funding, and pain points. The conversation ended with plans to reconvene at 5:20 PM to review the subgroup discussions and prepare a summary for the next 12 months.

Philadelphia Economic Development Strategy

The Economic Development Council is developing a strategy for the Philadelphia metro area to address slipping economic performance compared to other regions. The group discussed the need to establish SEI as a voice for energy issues, focusing on identifying energy needs and trends. They also discussed plans for an annual energy briefing in February and encouraged members to contribute ideas for marketing, branding, and membership growth.

Geothermal Energy Challenges and Opportunities

The group discussed the challenges and complexities surrounding geothermal energy systems, particularly focusing on third-party ownership and its implications for homeowners and developers. They highlighted the rising costs of equipment and drilling, which have made geothermal systems less affordable for the average consumer without government incentives. The conversation also touched on potential markets for geothermal systems, including new developments, schools, and pre-K to 12 institutions, as well as the importance of educating consumers about the benefits of geothermal energy.

Geothermal Industry Challenges and Solutions

The discussion focused on the challenges and complexities of the geothermal drilling industry, including high costs, overly complicated technology, and a lack of trained personnel. Participants emphasized the need for more efficient systems, reduced equipment costs, and increased training to address the industry's workforce shortage. They also discussed the potential benefits of energy-as-a-service models and the importance of maintaining flexibility in the industry rather than relying on permanent solutions.

The conversation highlighted the need for industry-wide improvements and highlighted the potential for government support, such as tax credits, to drive innovation and growth.

Energy Efficiency Policy Updates

The energy efficiency team discussed policy changes and capacity prices in PGM auctions, which are driving increased interest in energy efficiency initiatives. They highlighted the need for future presentations and focus areas, with the goal of compiling information for the board. The team also mentioned ongoing work in Delaware related to green energy grants and bureaucratic challenges encountered.

Energy Prices and Data Center Policies

The meeting covered updates on energy prices, data center policies, and state-level initiatives. Record-breaking prices for the 2024-2025 delivery year were discussed, with expectations for further increases in the 27-28 period. Governors from multiple states met to address the impact of rising rates on ratepayers and recommended candidates for PJM's Board of Managers, though their selections were not chosen. Various states are implementing different approaches to manage data center growth, including tariffs and fast-track approval plans. Federal funding for residential assistance programs appears secure, though recommendations for a 40% budget cut in 2026 are in progress. The meeting also touched on changes to energy efficiency incentives in Pennsylvania and the potential for data centers to contribute to energy efficiency efforts.

Geothermal Energy Access and Policy

The meeting focused on making geothermal energy more accessible by reducing government involvement and encouraging third-party ownership of geothermal loop fields. Participants discussed the need for standardized drilling regulations and training facilities to support the geothermal industry's growth. The group also explored various energy technologies, including CHP, nuclear, and solar, while noting the upcoming sunset of the solar ITC. Additionally, they considered ways to increase SEI's policy influence, potentially by partnering with the Chester County Chamber of Commerce and discussed an ongoing energy strategy development process for the county.