



SEI Board Meeting MINUTES

April 8, 2026 | 8:30-10 a.m.

CCEDC, Exton, PA 19341

- **Welcome and Introductions.** Update us on you and your business. Any business needs? (Kevin Wong, Board Chair - 20 minutes)

The following members and guests were in attendance:

First Name	Last Name	Account Name
Wade	Brosius	Dynatech Controls Inc
Sherry	Cockerham	Chester County Economic Development Foundation (CCEDF)
Rachael	Griffith	Chester County Planning Commission
Skelly	Holmbeck	Water Resources Association of the Delaware River Basin (WRADRB)
Tijo	Joseph	Warren Energy Engineering, LLC
Steve	Krug	Krug Architects and CHP-Funder.com
Jim	Lauckner	Chester County Economic Development Foundation (CCEDF)
Rick	Moseley	PowerGreen Capital
Jim	Robinson	DES Global, LLC
Stephanie	Smith	Chester County Workforce Development Board
James	Warta	Mercury Fiber
Kevin	Wong	Emergent Energy Solutions, LLC

Next steps

- Rick and Elisabeta: Make phone calls to companies (starting with ADE/multi-counties list) to encourage participation in the National Regional Energy Policy Action Team, with a focus on company budgets and younger members as career development opportunities.
- Rick: When making outreach calls, offer companies the opportunity to be highlighted/featured by CCDC/SEI (provide company write-up for website/social media).
- Jim L. and Skelly Holmbeck: Continue brainstorming and provide updates on the workforce development project in cooperation with this group and Chester County Economic Development Council.
- Jim L.: Send out invites for the Clean Energy Grant/EOS workshop session and process forms for new participants.
- Jim L.: Provide up to \$1,000 support for three more engineers taking their CEM in May (total of five supported).
- Jim L.: Follow up with Jim Clark regarding participation or co-sponsorship of the late May event (German Society geothermal system presentation), and determine next steps for SEI involvement.

- Sherry: Connect any interested parties to Marianne for apprenticeship program exploration and support.
 - Jim L.: Await and follow up on the pending Smart Energy Initiative grant application decision (expected in May). We have since found out that SEI will get a Labor and Industry Next Gen grant but we need to answer some budget related questions first.
- **Action Team reports (5 – 8 minutes each)** (Moderated by Kevin Wong)
 - Programming (Tijo Joseph, Chair)

14th Annual Energy Briefing report-out – February 5, 2026

- Fifty individuals from 41 companies were in attendance. Fifteen attendees reported it was their first time attending an SEI event. Thirty-two participants are employed in Chester County. Bucks County, Centre County, Dauphin County, Delaware County, Lancaster County, Montgomery County, Northampton County and Philadelphia County employers were also represented. There were attendees from employers in the states of Virginia, New Jersey and Florida.
- Respondents of our post-event survey rated the event 4.4 out of possible 5 points.
- For future events we received the following feedback:

I think the content we offer is relevant. If anything, a little more on the state of the electricity markets as it is constantly changing

C-Pace for Chester County developers and building owners. Invite development CEOs from Philadelphia to discuss.

New construction - alternative energy components; examples of total systems.

Would be helpful as the next Phase of Act 129 comes into play to get an update of the breadth of applicability on PECO rebate system. Some following of happenings to meet micro-center needs and how energy supply is impacted/stabilized. Issues with Heat Pumps/mini-splits and the colder part of winter; systems to cover the deficits....

Technology solutions for commercial building energy efficiency and conservation.

- National and Regional Energy Policy Action Team (Kevin Wong)
 - Committee will share policy knowledge with our group to support the continued expansion of our member energy companies.
- Membership Action Team (Jim Lauckner)
 - Two members are being asked to make calls to past SEI participants to increase membership / participation. Email jlauckner@ccedcpa.com.
- Marketing Committee chair needed (Kevin Wong)
 - Initiative highlighting one SEI participating energy company per month.



The Marketing Committee has launched their initiative to highlight energy companies in our region on SEI's social media and website with a goal of one company per month.

Members who would like to submit a publication style, 800-word write up about the company, its products, services and its value proposition may email jlauckner@ccedcpa.com for consideration. The intended outcome will entail a boost to brand awareness, regional authority and increase AI / Google searchability for the profiled company.

- Youth (STEM Innovation staff or Jim)
Career Exploration Summer Camps ages 14-17 yrs (scholarships available)
<https://steminnovationpa.org/summer-career-academies/>:
 - **Innovation Journey (July 13-17)** This camp will include a podcast studio session, a tour of QVC, and a social media marketing workshop.
 - **Pro Path: Sports Careers (July 20-24)** Participants will attend a Wilmington Blue Rocks game, visit 97.5 The Fanatic, and take part in a workshop led by a sports agency.
 - **Medical Excursions (July 27-31)** This experience will feature tours of New Bolton Veterinary Medical Center, Chester County Hospital, and Immaculata University.

Email Leigh Criag lcraig@ccedcpa.com or Kyle Atherholt katherholt@ccedcpa.com.

- What's So Cool About Manufacturing® Awards Ceremony April 23. The Expo of manufacturers begins at 6:30 p.m. Nine manufacturers and schools will compete this year. Tickets are free, but registration is required.
 - <https://maccdcpa.org/event/april-23-2025-whats-so-cool-about-manufacturing-video-awards-ceremony/> Events Director, Tracey Oberholtzer toberholtzer@ccedcpa.com.

The 11th Annual What's So Cool About Manufacturing? Video Awards Ceremony took place April 23 with Penn State University, Great Valley as our host. The event kicked off with an expo of 10 manufacturing companies and educational institutions, and we had 12 sponsoring companies. There were 35 students, 43 parents, 18 manufacturers, 18 general attendees, 16 educators and 8 CCEDC staff in attendance. Our emcee for the evening was Drew Anderson, Meteorologist-FOX29 News. See the winning schools and manufacturers at this link <https://www.whatssocool.org/contests/chester-delaware/>.

- Has your student participated in Girls Exploring Tomorrow's Technology (GETT) in the past? 🍌 We'd love to reconnect. Please take a moment to fill out our GETT alumni survey and help us stay connected with the amazing community that has made GETT possible over the years. ★ Take the Short Survey Here:



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HJG5YFL>. Email Sara Malloy
smalloy@ccedcpa.com.

- **Clean Energy Grant update.** (Jim Lauckner).

We have already helped companies with: Growth strategy. Succession planning. Improved onboarding processes. HR programming. EOS training.

New training program planned for May 12 at CCEDC – EOS training: ***Get A Grip On Your Business: Six Keys to Getting What You Want From Your Entrepreneurial Company.*** This workshop is a hands-on EOS® session using a proven system to help entrepreneurs and leadership teams get clear, get aligned, and get results. Registration will open soon and is free to Clean Energy participants https://get_a_grip_on_your_business_5-12-26.eventbrite.com.

- Sustainability, and Overview of SEI Grant Application (Jim Lauckner)

- HireONE Initiative update. (Bethany Emery, Program Manager bemery@ccedcpa.com)
Connect with Bethany at the email address below for more information about HireONE and how it can help with your company's workforce needs.

Good of the Group details:

Rachel Griffith from Chester County Planning Commission updated the group on their climate action plan and solar projects, including a bulk bid for solar installations across four suburban counties around Philadelphia. The discussion also covered Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's (DVRPC) Phase 2 implementation of a regional energy center, which will expand Philadelphia's Built to Last program to the suburbs and support counties and municipalities in energy conservation and solar deployment.

Energy Programs in NY and PA

The discussion focused on energy programs in New York and Pennsylvania. In New York, a new \$2 billion funding bucket for efficiency programs over the next 5 years was approved, though implementation is currently slow. In Pennsylvania, Phase 4 of Act 129 is ending in May, with Phase 5 starting in June, leading to a busy period with several large CHP and solar projects lined up for completion. The new Act 129 program is still under review with the BUC, and there are ongoing rate case discussions affecting net metering credits, particularly for solar exports which will be reduced from per unit to quarterly credits under new proposals.

Pennsylvania Energy Policy Discussion

The discussion focused on energy policy and renewable initiatives in Pennsylvania. Hire reported significant increases in ERA results and discussed concerns about the governor's lengthening plan, expressing skepticism about its implementation. The conversation covered community solar and geothermal energy, with Hire expressing preference for geothermal due to power density advantages over solar. The discussion also touched on NetCor incentives and caps, and



concluded with a brief overview of AI initiatives in power control systems, noting challenges in implementing AI solutions for prescriptive rather than just descriptive analysis.

Energy Sector Challenges Discussion

Jim Robinson discussed challenges in the energy sector, including rising energy costs affecting manufacturing facilities and mill closures in the southeast and Ohio due to increasing energy costs outpacing inflation. He highlighted constraints in the natural gas market, with prices remaining stable between \$4-5 per million BTU, and noted that LNG export capacity is expected to double by 2030. Jim also shared his background as a consultant with the Economic Development Council, where he manages partnerships in energy, manufacturing, healthcare, and agriculture sectors, and mentioned that Bethany would be joining later to discuss Hire Platt.

Energy Projects and Planning Updates

The group discussed updates on ongoing projects, including master planning that involves geothermal energy planning and spatial planning, as well as the development of the next climate action plan due for adoption by June of next year. He noted changes in mid-level management at state departments and highlighted the increased activity in combined heat and power (CHP) systems, particularly driven by data centers. The potential for advanced nuclear technology was also mentioned, referencing recent approvals and efforts to streamline permitting processes, and mentioned an upcoming Industrial Technology Conference in Houston focusing on nuclear integration.

Modular Nuclear and Clean Energy

The discussion focused on modular nuclear power technology, with participants estimating it could be in the marketplace within two years if proven reliable through China's deployment. Rick Mosley introduced his dual role, explaining that Power Green Capital is pivoting from C-PACE financing to focus on energy efficiency projects including HVAC replacements, battery storage, and geothermal solutions. He also described his startup company Conet, which is developing a 40-megawatt distributed power plant in central New York that will produce carbon-free power while purifying CO2 into beverage-grade quality and generating PFAS-free water.

Carbon Capture Technology Discussion

The discussion focused on carbon capture technologies, particularly the use of pure oxygen combustion to produce CO2 and water as byproducts. The participants explained how using oxygen separation upfront is more efficient than scrubbing CO2 at the backend, though it requires significant power to drive the air separation unit. They also discussed a new turbine design partnership with a startup company that intentionally produces CO2 to create dual revenue streams, though it may not be as efficient for power production alone. The conversation concluded with a brief discussion about leveraging experienced engineers' expertise in various energy technologies for their current projects.

Energy Technology Implementation Challenges

The group discussed energy technology implementation challenges, particularly around nuclear power and carbon capture technologies. Jim Hire shared insights from his work with school



districts, noting that while incentives are decreasing, there's a positive shift toward more careful budgeting and evaluation of energy investments. Skelly Holmbeck mentioned Ontario's plans to commission four small modular reactors and shared updates about renewable natural gas projects in Chester County. The conversation ended with a summary of SEI's February energy briefing, which attracted 50 participants from 41 companies across multiple counties and received high satisfaction ratings.

Round-Up: News, Events & Resources:

Rise PA For Manufacturers but can be a benefit to energy companies.

<https://www.pa.gov/agencies/dep/programs-and-services/energy-programs-office/rise-pa.html>. (Jim Lauckner)

C-PACE Pennsylvania <https://pennsylvaniacpace.org/>

C-PACE news by county <https://www.pacpacecounties.org/>

The Sustainable Energy Fund <https://thesef.org/our-programs/>

Other News and events:

CCEDC News and Events <https://ccedcpa.com/news-events/>

SEI News and Events <https://smartenergypa.org/>

Remember [Hire One / Refer One](#) when you have candidates that you did not hire, but deserve a look by your network. Now managed by Bethanie Emery bemery@ccedcpa.com.

Connect with your local CareerLink to post your jobs and more.

<https://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/jponline/> and the Chester County branch is <https://www.pacareerlinkchesco.org/>

SkillUP™ PA offers more than 6,000 job training modules and more than 130 industry-recognized credentials. Learn how to access the tool <https://www.pacareerlink.pa.gov/jponline/SkillUpPA>.

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/SmartEnergyPA>

LinkedIn - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/smart-energy-initiative-of-southeastern-pennsylvania>

Website - <https://smartenergypa.org/>

