

# Energy Collaborative Analysis Initiative Leadership Committee

Meeting Summary – January 30, 2007

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Twenty-one people attended the first Energy Collaborative Analysis Initiative (ECAI) Leadership Committee meeting on January 30, 2007, in Washington, D.C. A list of attendees can be found at

[http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/collab\\_analysis/docs/2007/013007\\_lc\\_attendees.doc](http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/collab_analysis/docs/2007/013007_lc_attendees.doc)

(A full list of members and additional information on the Leadership Committee can be found at [http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/collab\\_analysis/leader\\_comm.html](http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/collab_analysis/leader_comm.html) )

Darrell Beschen of Planning, Budget, and Analysis (PBA) at DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE); and Ron Benioff, facilitator from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), provided a meeting overview and summary of current activities. Their presentation, which also outlines committee roles and responsibilities, can be accessed at

[http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/collab\\_analysis/docs/2007/013007\\_lc\\_pres.ppt](http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/collab_analysis/docs/2007/013007_lc_pres.ppt)

## **1. Agenda item: Second ECAI workshop**

The primary topic for the meeting was the next ECAI workshop, slated for late June 2007. A budget of \$25K has been allocated for a meeting involving about 60-70 participants, which includes costs for logistics as well as planning. The group also would like to ensure that everyone is involved in promoting the workshop through their various communications avenues, reinforcing its collaborative nature.

Six high-priority analysis topics were chosen, based on committee members' votes. The selection process included topics addressed at the 2006 workshop that have shown the most activity, as well as new topics identified by the group. Chosen topics for the next workshop include:

- Improve behavioral factors in market/choice models and tools (from 2006)
- Improve impact evaluation tools: economics, environment, and security (from 2006)
- Better representation of regional technical characterizations and transmission improvements in energy models (from 2006)
- Integration of energy and environmental scenarios
- Improved understanding and analysis tools to evaluate risk and uncertainty
- Improved methods for development and use of technology learning curves

The group also discussed a proposed agenda for the next meeting, which was revised based on discussion and input from committee members. The proposed structure can be accessed at

[http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/collab\\_analysis/docs/2007/013007\\_2workshop\\_plan.doc](http://www.nrel.gov/analysis/collab_analysis/docs/2007/013007_2workshop_plan.doc)

**Discussion surrounding the workshop *structure* included the following points:**

- a) These topics need to reinforce implementation rather than prioritizing analysis needs.
- b) There needs to be more time per topic. Circulating the presentation in advance often is not enough; perhaps the group should offer a white paper. This could help establish priorities by creating a thread of discussion around paper.
- c) If more time is allotted, workshop participants should discuss topic-specific activities at the end of Day One and the beginning of Day Two.
- d) Could we have three sessions at one time? This might provide more information to share if there were parallel sessions. Is there a way that everyone can participate in all topics?
- e) At the end of the first day, there is only 45 minutes to discuss results – we need to ensure the session is structured.
- f) How do we decide what topic session people should be in? There is a mix of players with varied interests – we also need to ensure that we continue keeping people informed on their topics following the workshop.
- g) We need to ensure that the team working on the topic agrees on what are the most compelling questions that need to be addressed before the workshop.
- h) Instead of a normal topic presentation, would we benefit from a real-time exercise? We could demonstrate real-time with feedback actively from group, possibly providing a more satisfying outcome
- i) Big question: How does the “collaborative” part of the initiative work and how do we get good at it?

**Discussion surrounding the workshop *topics* included the following points:**

- j) Some initial topic suggestions include risk, portfolio analysis, financial engineering, learning curves (how do economies of learning change over time), and experience curves (supply is often the focus and we ignore demand side – we need to treat both sides equally)
- k) What are the basic data needs for analysis? We need to identify the source of data and ensure that it’s crosscutting.
- l) How do we present analysis to decision makers? We need to more effectively represent what we find out; if the essence of our work is shared, then better decisions can be made. But what exactly do they need?
- m) If we get people more involved in the workshop, are they going to be learning more about what is involved in the analysis process?
- n) Things evolved closely from workshop – we need to identify a champion in our collaborative within each topic.
- o) An important topic is the carbon-driven energy market – how do renewable resources factor into it? We need to understand the cost and reduction issues.
- p) We need to broaden our view to utilities.
- q) Data needs to be a separate topic, i.e., how do we handle something like a core data book for buildings? Currently, we need to search where the data is, determine statistical techniques to mind data, and load in a free-form database. Is there a better way to do it?
- r) Topics that were voted on:

- i) B. Improve Deployment
- ii) D. Better Representation
- iii) E. Improve Impact Evaluation Tools
- iv) G. Enhance Biofuel Resource
- v) H. Improve Behavioral Factors
- vi) I. Impact of Carbon-Driven
- vii) J. Analysis to Support Decisions
- viii) K. Integrated Energy and Environmental
- ix) L. Maintain Accounts
- x) M. Policy Analysis
- xi) N. Integrate analysis of Costs and Development
- xii) O. Risk
- xiii) P. Portfolio Analysis
- xiv) Q. Financial Engineering
- xv) R. Learning Curves
- xvi) S. Effective means

**(See above for final list of six topics.)**

The discussion regarding workshop invitees included suggestions for federal government representatives, including homeland security, state public health agencies, etc. Consultants who make a living in the energy field were also recommended, but the question was raised regarding financial support for attending.

The question also was raised regarding industry and when it will be appropriate to start including them. What about utilities? Will the workshop venue need to expand to include industry? And can we include people at different levels, but perhaps they wouldn't need to aggressively participate.

Also, are there federal regulations regarding who can be invited?

## **2. Agenda item: Topics for future Web forums**

The committee agreed that chosen topics should encourage presentations that are appropriate for internal and/or external discussion. The format will continue similar to the first one, with three speakers presenting and ample time for a facilitated discussion.

The committee should send any ideas for the Web forums to Gail Mosey at [gail\\_mosey@nrel.gov](mailto:gail_mosey@nrel.gov).

## **3. Agenda item: Analysis activity updates**

Updates were not discussed due to time constraints – will be on agenda for next Leadership Committee meeting.

#### **4. Agenda item: ECAI communication activities**

Any input or feedback regarding the ECAI Web site and newsletter can be sent to Gail Mosey at [gail\\_mosey@nrel.gov](mailto:gail_mosey@nrel.gov).

#### **Next steps**

Planning Committee to proceed with workshop planning and plans for next Web forum. Group will report on progress at the next meeting.