



## Improving Access to Building Energy Data

### *The EEB Hub Leads the Way with Utilities and Regulators*

Utilities and regulators play an essential role in helping building owners better understand their building energy use, which is a critical first step in making energy decisions.

The EEB Hub has engaged PECO- the largest electric and natural gas utility in Pennsylvania - and other utilities in discussions on who to facilitate building owner access to their building energy use data. A series of meetings was initiated with PECO to discuss their willingness to provide automatic downloads of portfolio manager data to building owners. Currently, building owners have to transfer their monthly utility bills into the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's free portfolio manager software in order to understand how their buildings are using energy. Some utilities have begun transferring this data directly for building owners and providing them with more frequent data so that they can more closely track how their buildings perform, which greatly helps inform any potential energy efficiency or retrofit investment. PECO became much more responsive to the request from the EEB Hub after they learned the Hub would convene state utility regulators from the Mid-Atlantic region to discuss common protocols for data access and transparency for building owners.

On March 22, 2012, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) Chairman Robert Powelson and the EEB Hub co-hosted a first-ever regional discussion on strategies to facilitate building owner access to their energy use data. The event brought together Public Utility Commissioners and their staff from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and Washington D.C., and regional energy efficiency building stakeholders, such as Mayor Michael Nutter, PA State Representative Chris Ross (R-Chester), and the CEOs of Liberty Property Trust and Brandywine Realty Trust.



*EEB Hub Executive Director Hank Foley, Mayor Michael Nutter and PIDC President John Grady at the PUC discussion*

During the event, an expert panel of public and private stakeholders explored the challenges and opportunities for building owners and technology companies related to access to whole building energy use information. Cliff Majersik, President of the Institute for Market Transformation, provided an overview of efforts across the country to provide building owners with easier access to whole building data. PECO's Vice President and General Counsel Romy Diaz reviewed their current energy efficiency initiatives, and committed the utility to working with the Hub on energy data issues. Jerry Sweeney, CEO of Brandywine Realty Trust noted, "You can't manage what you can't measure," as a way to highlight how much improved energy data access could contribute to accelerating the market for retrofit in Greater Philadelphia. The event raised the profile of these issues at a time when PA utility

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regulators are seeking ideas to drive the market for energy efficiency investments and are considering reauthorization of Act 129, the Commonwealth's primary energy conservation and energy efficiency law.

***Green Button***

At the PUC roundtable, Colin McCormick of the U.S. Department of Energy announced the launch of the Green Button initiative, which is aimed at providing electricity customers easy-to-understand information from their utility or electricity provider so that they can make more informed energy decisions. Green Button is an industry-led effort that will ultimately provide information to nearly 12 million households in 2012. PECO is participating in the program, a great indication of their willingness to provide customers with access to their energy usage information.

***Next Steps***

The EEB Hub has been tasked with creating and coordinating a working group for Mid-Atlantic utility commissioners that will explore the best strategies for uniform data access and implementation by utilities so that a uniform market can be created for owners and vendors.