

Sustainable Energy Committee - Minutes
Conference Room G - Town Hall
Friday, September 9, 2011
7:45 am – 9:00 am

Committee Members Present:

Suzy Littlefield, Chair
Richard Joyce
Christopher Ketchen
Scott Bender
Beth DeSombre
Ellen Korpi
Molly Fairchild, Sustainable Energy Coordinator

Absent: Robert Cooper

Meeting called to order at 7:45 am

Citizen's Speak –none

Sustainable EXPO & Tour

Mr. Bender provided an update on the plans for the EXPO and Tour to be held at the Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Saturday, September 24th 10-2. The Bike tour is part of the Moving Planet celebration, there will be 14 stops – some homes some schools. The tour starts at 11am from the MLP, following a photo-op of all the riders and participants. Town Hall is also an alternate start. The Police have been communicated with, there is legal sign-off for riders, and a quick-start handout to sign up for VREP and pledge to reduce emissions by 10% is also being made. Riders will have a map with the route plan, including some trails the route is approximately a 6-mile loop.

Voluntary Renewable Energy Program (VREP) sign-up at EXPO

The MLP will have a table for VREP sign-up, and will also be able to look-up current level of participation and encourage residents to increase the VREP Level (10%, 25%, 50% or up to 100%).

Publicity: More details will be added on the website regarding location and time getting word out through the colleges, schools and the Sustainability Liaisons for the Houses of Worship, and the League of Women Voters. Announcements will be made at School and Town meetings next week, communicate with Patch and Townsman.

Solar updates

Mr. Joyce reported that the inspector process has taken longer than expected.

WHS so that doesn't cause delays. Going well glass case for display screen link on line so can look from any computer. Both the Architects - SMMA and Turner Construction, have been great to work with. Joe McDonough, the new Director of Facilities for the Schools, has also been so helpful. So the WHS panels will be installed by December of this year, and will be certified with the Department of Energy so we will be able to auction the solar RECs.

The MLP had hoped to have the Old panels available for the EXPO, but will not be able to remove them until Sept 29th, when school is not in session. They will be on display at the MLP as a ground-mounted educational resource.

Mr. Joyce reported on the hope to provide WMS solar, if the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative RGGI funds from Wellesley go 20% to administration and 80% to National Grid – requested that go back to MLP towns passed the committee with unanimous support – being voted on by full legislature in the next month. If these funds come through, the MLP would consider using the funds for solar panels at WMS. April vacation of 2012 would be ideal for the installation of Solar for the WMS, if things go forward. Mr. Joyce reported that it was very helpful having the support of all departments, schools, Selectmen's office, etc in evaluating the buildings for solar installations.

Solar Municipal and non-profit projects

Mr. Ketchen reported that we have gone forward with the Library and Fire Department applications for 18 kW solar installations by DCS, with a monitor display for the building. Thanks to some pro bono work for the structural engineering analysis of the roofs.

Ms Fairchild reported that two of the Houses of Worship - The Village Church and Wellesley Friends Meeting, are continuing the work to get approval for the installation of solar panels, through the program offered to non-profit organizations.

Massachusetts Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)

Mr. Joyce reported that our Solar RECs are resold at auction – currently, we buy class 1 RECs at about \$31 and sell RECs at \$55. So it is good to have a portfolio of RECs from different sources. All the REC's for the Voluntary Renewable Energy Program (VREP) are not being sold.

New Electric Vehicle Charging Station

Mr. Bender commented on the new charging station at Whole Foods. If the electricity is produced from Natural Gas it is equivalent to about 70 mpg, and takes about 2 hours to charge.

Power-down at Library.

Mr. Ketchen reported that a preliminary power-down was done at the library at the end of the day, using the real-time monitoring system available to us with the Grounded –Power Program. Thanks also to the knowledge and assistance of Janice Coduri, and Michael Groh, and Joe Murray, about the building systems and the use of the building. Next we will do a 5am power-up at the library, to collect more information. Need more data from electrician. Then we will prepare for a power-down with staff participation. There is real potential for improvement in electric use, from what is being learned.

EPA- Green Power Communities. Ms Korpi reported on The Green Power Communities Program of the EPA. Although we were too late to meet the deadline at the end of August 2011, we are learning more about the program to consider participating. There are 31 Green Power Communities – with the designated percentage of power from new renewable sources. We will meet with Anthony Amato of the EPA later today. In order to reach the level of 3% electricity from renewable sources we would need to get the word out for greater participation in VREP – a person to person campaign. The MLP has already established sources for purchasing power from renewable sources.

Mr. Joyce noted the significant contribution that could be made by one of the large commercial accounts, at just 10%. He would also ask the MLP board to fund a campaign. Mr. Joyce also reminded us that when Cathy Macdonald did a direct mailing about the VREP, resulting in about 500 more residents signing-up.

Mr. Bender noted that this supports our Town- wide goal for 10% emissions reduction and according to the Opinion dynamics survey, from a few years ago, it is achievable.

Ms. Fairchild commented that visibility is important, so we should consider a decal for store windows or cars that play off of the SustainableWellesley Logo, but for VREP participants.

Ms. DeSombre emphasized that having a deadline and a goal – can move this forward, and that Wellesley College students could help with the campaign– want to come up with a creative approach – paid \$10 / hour.

Voluntary Renewable Energy Program (VREP)

Mr. Joyce reported on the MLP Boards plans to reduce the VREP kWh charge from 5-cents to 4-cents, and continue to true up the actual cost at the end of the year, but it is still to be voted on by the Board.

Grounded power –

Ms Littlefield noted that it will be interesting to see at WMS, the effect of removing the personal appliances, such as the dorm-style refrigerators that were estimate to use \$49 worth of electricity per year, based on the energy audit that was performed a year ago.

Mr. Joyce reported that Paul Chriswell of the Light Board made a strong speech in favor of continuing the Grounded Power program.

Ms Fairchild noted that the screens needed to be updated with fresh look and information.

Climate Speakers

Mr. Bender reported that SustainableWellesley member, Quentin Prideaux's recent talk about Climate Science at the Rotary Club, was very well received. Ms. DeSombre reported that a faculty member at Wellesley College has a great talk on the misconceptions about climate science, which we should consider for a Town event.

Next Meeting: September 23rd, 2011.

Meeting adjourned: 9:00 a.m.