

Sustainable Energy Committee Minutes – April 27, 2012

Conference Room G - Town Hall

Committee Members Present:

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

Citizens' Speak: no one present

Minutes: 3/16/2012 approved with revisions

Wellesley Renewable Energy Campaign:

Mr. Joyce reported on the recent meeting with Wellesley College, and the continued outreach to some of the large commercial users.

Ms. Korpi presented a summary of the campaign. We have exceeded our goal of increasing participation by 50% to 900 participants, now with 1034 participants, we have a 70% increase in participation, including 27 commercial customers. More than half of participants are purchasing 25-100% renewable power. A working group is being established to continue to reach out to commercial customers, led by Ellen Korpi. Molly Fairchild offered to also help with commercial outreach. Some merchants have offered to explore ways to help promote Wellesley Renewable Energy. The EPA will provide an official certificate (that can be framed and displayed) to any commercial customer who achieves the Green Power Partner designation.

Mr. Joyce reported that the EPA may be able to begin to measure the Town-wide renewable energy usage this July. To achieve the EPA- Green Power Community designation, we will need to have 3% of our town-wide electric use be from renewable power, or about 8.01 million kWh of green electricity, based on kWh use in 2011. We are almost there with about 8 million. However, with the new high school, the opening of the Waterstone commercial and residential project in Lower Falls, and the natural fall off from customers withdrawing from the program, a substantial cushion will be necessary. The plan is to gain that cushion from recruiting at least one more large user.

Ms. Fairchild reported that with the opening of the Wellesley Farmers 'Market next Thursday, there will be space at the managers table for Sustainable Wellesley and Renewable Energy materials, and on May 17th 2-6pm, we will have a table to present information about the Renewable Energy Program and Sustainable Wellesley initiatives.

Green Schools update

Ms. Littlefield shared that the Wellesley Middle School and High School Green Teams have been designated for the 2012 Green Difference Award, and are invited to the statehouse next Friday the 4th to receive the award.

Municipal Energy Use:

Mr. Ketchen reported that the fourth update of the Energy Reports for town buildings went out this week to the Town departments and Facilities Maintenance. When we focus on one building, as we are with the Library currently, the most progress is made. Starting July 1, the Centralized Facilities Maintenance Department will start to manage the energy use for all town and School buildings.

Summary of Progress on Town-wide 10% Emissions Reduction Goal

Ms. Fairchild summarized progress on the Town-wide 10% Emissions Reduction Goal, from the 2007 baseline year to 2013. Through 2011, we have reduced emissions by about 8%, and so are on track to achieve our goal, but with the assist of a mild winter this year, we need to identify initiatives that will be effective in helping us reach the 10% reduction goal. The comparison year will be based on our energy use starting in January of 2013, which is just 9 months away. Ms. Fairchild shared a framework for the scope of initiatives we need to consider to reach this goal. The Committee agreed that our next meeting will be a brainstorming session, to discuss effective initiatives for us to reach our emission reduction goal.

Ms. DeSombre recommended that we extend the meeting time to allow for this session.

Mr. Bender recommended that we also share lessons learned from the Renewable Energy Campaign. Katy Gibson has started an outline for all to use.

Meeting Adjourned 8:30 am

Next Meeting: TBD