

## **Sustainable Energy Committee Minutes – March 1, 2013**

**Juliani Room – Town Hall, 7:45 a.m.**

### **Committee Members Present:**

Ellen Korpi, Chair  
Scott Bender  
Richard Joyce  
Jessica Langerman  
Suzanne Littlefield  
Barbara Searle  
Steve Tolley

Molly Fairchild, Sustainable Energy Coordinator

**Guests:** Ann Rappaport, Advisory Committee Liaison  
Laura Olton, resident, consulting on RGGI initiative

**Citizen's Speak** - Paul Hayre, Vice President, Renewable Energy, Savcor (Solar Company) and Resident expressed interest in facilitating process for effective residential solar installation program.

## **Old Business**

### **Minutes Approved: February 1, 2013**

Katy Gibson, Scott Bender and Ann Rappaport spoke in appreciation of Molly Fairchild's years of work on sustainability first as a volunteer and for the past two-and-a-half years as the Sustainable Energy Coordinator for the SEC. The part-time staff position, that was established along with the Committee, as proposed by the Green Ribbon Study Committee and approved by Town Meeting 2010, is being terminated.

### **Municipal Carbon Footprint**

There has been an estimated 15% reduction in emissions, over the past five years, from fiscal year FY07 baseline year to FY12. Half the reduction was due to the transition to cleaner and renewable sources of fuel through both the conversion from fuel oil to natural gas heat at the Middle School and new High School in FY12, and the Town's Municipal purchase of 5% renewable energy from Spruce Mountain Wind, as part of the general improvement in New England's electric grid. However some of the gains have been off-set by a 20% increase in emissions from the municipal fleet vehicles.

Decreased energy use contributed to the other half of the municipal reduction in emissions (7%), but this was due to the combined effect of improvements in heating efficiency and building insulation, and the reduced energy demand of milder winters, so that the effective municipal emissions reduction would probably be less than 8%.

## Town-wide Carbon Footprint

The Town-wide carbon footprint was developed following the standards established by the U.S. Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions version 1.0, October 2012. The protocol provides a tiered system for decision making on how to estimate emissions, with the first choice being actual data, as is available from the utilities for electric and natural gas data. When actual data is not available, as is the case for residential and commercial fuel oil use, a model is developed based on existing statistics. Transportation emissions are also modeled based on traffic study data from within the Town, and national averages of annual vehicle emissions from current vehicles on the road. Town-wide emissions are estimated to have decreased 11% from the baseline year of 2007 to 2012. Some of this can be attributed to the improvement in emissions from vehicles, the transition to natural gas heat which is 30% cleaner, and the 11% improvement in the emissions produced to generate each kWh of electricity. However, heating degree data suggest that the effect of the milder winter in 2012, is responsible for at least a third of the reduction, making the actual decrease less than 8%.

Regulations such as the RGGI standards for the electric grid, CAFÉ standards for automotive company emissions, building codes and adoption of the Stretch Energy Code have supported these gains. The increased availability of natural gas through new technologies has also supported this transition to cleaner fuels for heat and the generation of electricity, however the environmental impact of these new methods is still being evaluated.

**Energy Manager's Report** This month's report has been sent to the Committee by email and is attached.

**Power to \$ave** campaign.

**Product Design** (Energy Assessments): Currently, MLP provides more than 90 audits each year and Nationalgrid about 150. Audit Design:

- Goal of 400 residential audits
- Audit requires 2- 2-½ hours
- 2 Different audits:
  - Nationalgrid Audit (Mass Save) for natural gas heat customers
    - shower head, thermostats, aerators on faucets
  - MLP provides free audit for all other residents (Fuel oil, electric or propane heat)
    - 10 light bulbs
- Light board will redirect funds from the appliance rebate program.
- Will use the MLP customer service number as entry point, for all audits
- Metrics for assessing reductions are being developed
- NG has network of contractors to connect of contracts. ENE is developing a program to mirror this.

### Next Steps:

- Soft launch on March 13th
- Coalition partners meeting at Library March 14<sup>th</sup>
  - All environmental groups in town, information session for al
- Library 4x5 bulletin Board display in back lobby
- Hard Launch April 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Town Meeting, second night , April 2 – pass out cards
- Schools:
  - in all newsletters;
  - card in elementary backpacks for all schools;
  - Individual outreach to PTO
- Letter to the editor for Townsman
- Houses of Faith: Will reach out to ones who are active
- Garden club meetings (5)
- Wellesley Club
- Banner:
  - scale of world image the same as letters, for clear reading.
  - Reduce words.
- Cards - Printing 20,000 cards – will finalize by next week.
- Wellesleypowertosave.com
- Sandwich boards (4-5), due to push back on lawn signs.
- SustainableWellesley, Saturdays at RDF

**Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).** We have learned that the wisdom of getting so many sponsors is that in order to add an amendment, signatures must be obtained from all sponsors. No amendments were added. Senator Keenan is committed to make sure it gets to his committee and then to the house and floor. No one knows actual time-line through House and Senate – late spring to next winter. The Committee thanks Laura Olton for her work and expertise in helping with the development of the RGGI legislation.

**Transportation Advisory Group** is working with the Metro-west Regional Transit Authority to submit an application, next week, for JARC (Job Access Reverse Commute) Funding to establish fixed-route bus service, that will improve the interconnectivity between the existing transit systems of the MWRTA and the MBTA green line D-line at the Woodland and the MBTA commuter rail, and facilitate more effective use of public transit services in the region.

**Next SEC Meeting: Thursday April 4, 2013**