

Norwich Energy Committee
1/19/2016 meeting

Attendees: Linda Gray, Norm Levy, Sarah Reeves, Rob Sydney; Suzanne Leiter, Rob Adams, Jonathan Teller-Elsberg

Minutes

Plans for LED Bulb Exchange...

- discussion of NEC member schedule for 1/30-31 and 2/6-7. Linda will email the group for response by 1/22
- suggestion to invite Selectboard; Linda will email Town Manager with information to share with SB
- Linda is organizing copies of literature re home efficiency; additional suggestions: list of local sources for LEDs [Linda will compile], chart comparing LED/CFL/incandescent bulbs [Linda will print from web sources], a concise summary (“With these 2 bulbs you are saving \$xx, yy kilowatts, zzz lbs carbon” [Norm will collect #s])
- Norm will ask Bill Hammond at MCS to share copies of in-school communications re bulb exchange (at MCS 2/1)
- Windham-Windsor Housing Trust offers LED bulbs and home energy visit with a trained AmeriCorps member, and will coordinate with the NEC exchange
- Linda will recruit daughter to take photos

Update on EV charging station: the Town must follow a bid process for electrician services for the installation. A draft RFP has been developed and will likely be issued by the end of January. The Town also has to make final its legal agreement with Dan & Whit's for the parking spaces and solar awning; the Town Manager is drafting that. The grant requires installation by next November; we expect to complete this spring.

Discussion of Solarize 2016 and continuation with same vendors (Norwich Technologies and Solaflect). Consensus that NEC has criteria which these vendors meet; if others do, they will be considered as well.

Criteria include pricing discounts for Norwich residents with retention of RECs, commitment to campaign events, ability to make timely follow-up with potential customers, quality customer service, The local connection is also valued.

NEC web site now posts a summary on community solar options, produced by the Thetford Energy Committee. Because it is not readily understandable by the average reader, a clear comparison would be worth developing, but would take some time.

Agreement that planning for Solarize 2016 would be on the agenda for the February meeting.

State policy issues:

- the draft rules for “net-metering 2.0” are out, many comments have been submitted to the Public Service Board. One update is that the proposal that members of a community solar project must live within 10 miles of the project has been dropped.

- an anti-wind/solar rally is scheduled for the Statehouse 1/20; Linda will circulate information for contacting Sen McCormack to state our support for renewables.

Other:

- 1/20 7 pm “What Does a 100% Renewable Energy Future Look Like?” Filene Auditorium, Moore Hall, Dartmouth campus
- 1/20 Selectboard meeting to interview architects for fire/police station design concept
- 4/8-9 “Changing Climate, Changing Minds Seminar”, Dartmouth campus

Linda was asked by Norwich Times to write a 750-word article on solar options; she agreed to write as chair of the Norwich Energy Committee with an emphasis on the committee's Solarize Norwich campaign.

As chair, Linda responded to a survey from Vital Communities to gauge interest in an initiative to promote wood pellet heating. Linda responded with some questions whether this was a higher priority than heat pumps+solar; other members of the committee had the same issues.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 2/23, 7 pm