

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee
Tuesday, 7/26/16, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

Attending: Linda Gray, Suzanne Leiter, Norm Levy

Guest: Troy McBride (Norwich Technologies), Jonathan Teller-Elsberg (Solaflect)

** Discussion of the almost-complete 2016 Solarize Norwich campaign. 22 new installations in Norwich this year, of our goal of 36. Norwich Technologies reported 45 contacts, leading to 14 site visits, w/ 10 households still reviewing proposals. Norwich Technologies is in tier 3 pricing.

The Solaflect staff person with similar details is away; Jonathan will pursue. Brief discussion of other campaign ideas, such as the "energy fair" that Waterbury LEAP organizes.

** Discussion of the new net-metering rules set to go into effect 1/1/17. There is an annual cap on the total of new n-m projects, which -- if reached, say, in September -- will act like a brick wall for solar installers. The rules also establish that n-m credits cannot pay off the monthly customer charge, the energy efficiency charge, the energy assistance program fee, or the fees if a customer is renting equipment. So, n-m customers will at the least have a monthly bill of about \$13. AND, this is applied retroactively to current n-m customers.

Current n-m customers keep the 10-yr solar adder that started with their installation, and they are not affected by new adjustors for siting or not signing over the RECs to the utility.

The rules also make community solar much harder to develop. Committee members expressed concern about these changes, and will monitor them. Norm is trying to organize a public forum/panel discussion on utilities and renewable energy.

** Discussion of the Vermont "Way To Go" challenge, 9/26 - 10/7 <http://waytogovt.org/>
Linda contacted Bill Hammond and Lindsay Putnam at Marion Cross School and they are on board with having the school participate. Part of the Challenge can involve individual businesses or groups in a "throw-down" friendly competition. Linda proposed lining up some in advance, such as Ledyard Bank v Mascoma Bank, Vt Center for Ecostudies and the Donella Meadows Institute, King Arthur Flour v ? Agreement to pursue.

** the EV charging station equipment has been delivered and is ready to be installed, now a matter of scheduling.

** Vital Communities is developing a pilot program to promote weatherization, akin to Solarize. Linda and Norm are participating, along with other town energy committees, in the planning meetings.

** The Norwich Women's Club has made a grant of \$2,200 to the NEC, to support energy efficiency for low- and moderate-income residents in the Upper Valley. Specifically, the grant will fund bulk LED bulb purchases \$900 (450 bulbs x \$2/bulb through Efficiency VT), smart electrical strips \$400 (20 x \$20), and energy audits \$900 (6 audits x \$150). Norm is organizing the details of this project.

submitted by Linda Gray, chair