

Norwich Energy Committee meeting Tuesday, 10/27, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

Present: committee members Linda Gray, Jamie Hess, Norm Levy, Rob Sydney (7:25), Meghan Wilson; Suzanne Leiter; Steve Usle, Prudent Living

Minutes:

- short presentation by Steve Usle, Prudent Living, re energy-efficient home building. Key financial analysis is that a Prudent Living net-zero home costs about 10% more than a home built to current energy code (addl interest on this cost = \$21,400), and homeowner will save an estimated \$248,000 in reduced energy spending over 30 years. Prudent Living focuses on new construction; has an 8-house project under development off Chandler Road in Wilder.

- solarize updates: 21 households in Norwich have gone solar in 2015; Norwich ranks 4th in the state for # of net-metered solar installations -- they are all residential-size, so other towns have more total panels installed. Linda (as another interested customer, not NEC chair) will contact Norwich Technology's short list of others interested in their local solar park, in hopes of getting commitments for the minimum needed for the project to get started. Norm made a presentation to the Norwich Business Council about solar; he is seeking to line up someone from a Vt business that has already, as a follow-up speaker better able to highlight its benefits. Norm, Linda, and Norwich Technologies made a presentation to the Fire District (parallel, separate municipality that provides water service to village area) on options for hosting a solar project on their parcel along Route 5.

- A grant application for an electric vehicle charging station (EVCS) in village area will be submitted to the Vt Dept of Housing and Community Development by 10/31. If the grant is awarded, a Level 2 Chargepoint dual-port charging station would be installed along the south side of the Dan & Whit's parking lot and a solar awning installed along the south side of the Dan & Whit's building. The Town and Dan & Whit's would agree to a 20-yr easement for the two parking spaces; Norwich Technologies and Solaflect would contribute the solar installation. The Town would set the rate that EV drivers would pay (likely \$1/hr of charging); electricity produced by the solar awning would offset annual networking fees for the EVCS. Notice of grant awards should come at the end of November.

- Weatherization: the NEC used 2014-15 grant money for a town-wide postcard mailing in September urging residents to schedule a home energy audit with HEAT Squad before the cost rose (from \$100 to \$150). HEAT Squad staff report that 9 households cited the postcard when they contacted HEAT Squad (2nd-highest, after word of mouth). Discussion of follow-up, using as a timely "hook" the 11/16 presentation at Sharon Academy on GMP's "eHome" program <http://products.greenmountainpower.com/>. Discussion of phoning and in-person contacts, with outreach at the dump suggested. Linda will pursue a dump outreach for Sat 11/7.

- state policy updates:

VT Comprehensive Energy Plan -- comments can be made through 11/9

at [http://publicservice.vermont.gov/publications/energy\\_plan/2015\\_plan](http://publicservice.vermont.gov/publications/energy_plan/2015_plan)

Solar Siting Task Force -- worth keeping track of at <http://solartaskforce.vermont.gov/>

TRORC regional energy plan -- recent presentation available at <http://www.trorc.org/programs/energy/regional-energy-plan/>

- other

Norm is investigating an LED/incandescent bulb exchange: obtain a discounted quantity of good LED bulbs and give them to residents who "retire" and turn in an incandescent bulb. Norm is checking sources and prices, and would like to promote a bulb exchange both in Norwich and through COVER.

Via email Sarah Reeves shared information about public input re future plans for Lebanon Airport operations. Sarah would like to encourage more energy-efficient transportation.

Next NEC meeting = regular schedule would be Tuesday, 11/24, 7 pm. This is 2 days prior to Thanksgiving; perhaps a different date would be preferred.

Submitted by Linda Gray