

Norwich Energy Committee meeting Tuesday, 12/1, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

Present: committee members Linda Gray, Jamie Hess, Norm Levy, Rob Sydney, Meghan Wilson; Suzanne Leiter; Troy McBride, Norwich Technologies (until 7:15)

Minutes:

- A grant was awarded by the Vt Dept of Housing and Community Development for an electric vehicle charging station (EVCS) in the village area. A Level 2 ChargePoint dual-port charging station will 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 will enact a 20-yr easement for the two parking spaces; Norwich Technologies and Solaflect will contribute the solar installation. The Town will set the rate that EV drivers would pay (likely \$1/hr of charging); electricity produced by the solar awning will offset annual networking fees for the EVCS.

- solarize update: Troy McBride reported that 3 more households are adding solar through Norwich Technologies. This brings to 28 the total for 2015; our goal is 36. Linda will get an update from Solaflect as well. Norm will follow up with the members of the Fire District Prudential Committee to learn the reason(s) for their decision to not pursue solar.

- plans to encourage weatherization: discussion of various ways to reach households, such as list serv, the dump, GMP bill stuffers [Linda will inquire about this possibility]. Focus on using Norm's donation of 1000 LED bulbs (via charitable donation channeled through Vital Communities) for a give-away/exchange for incandescent bulbs. Some quantity of the LEDs (half?) would be directed to COVER and The Haven, some quantity (half?) would be used by the NEC as a way to talk to households about energy use.

Agreement to seek out concise, useful printed info to give with each LED -- such as HEAT Squad audit brochure, Efficiency VT info, GMP "eHome" info. Discussion of working with MCS on something like a week-long distribution and the Norwich Public Library for a Sat-Sun event. Norm and Meghan will talk further about a possible "challenge" w/ Hartford schools, or other connections developed by students. Linda will pursue printed info, and MCS and NPL contacts.

- state policy updates

...net-metering cap/changes: GMP has reached its cap under current law, is proposing for 2016 to continue any/all on-site solar under 15kW, and another 50 solar parks of 150kW; Linda has drafted a letter urging the Public Service Board to act quickly on this proposal and not limit the solar parks to just 50 and is asking other town energy committees to sign on.

...solar siting: Linda encouraged members to monitor the Solar Siting Task Force at <http://solartaskforce.vermont.gov/> It will be making recommendations to the legislature by January; a matrix of members' ideas is at http://solartaskforce.vermont.gov/sites/solarsiting/files/documents/meeting_materials/Master_matrix_111315v3.pdf

- the VECAN conference is this Saturday at the Lake Morey Resort in Fairlee

- due to holidays, agreement to not have the December fourth-Tuesday meeting, but instead target early or mid-January, depending on developments for LED bulb events.

- brief discussion of getting more active on transportation issues, to be taken up at future meetings.

Submitted by Linda Gray