

Norwich Energy Committee
12/17/14 meeting minutes
Next meeting Tues 1/27/15, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

Attending: Linda Gray, Jamie Hess, Norm Levy, Rob Sydney, Meghan Wilson

Weatherize campaign

- intensive campaign following UV Solarize model with HEAT Squad is not possible this winter, due to HEAT Squad budget loss
- Committee to pursue "regular" grassroots effort via Farmers Market, dump on Sat with mild weather, MCS after school
- use current funding to print additional signs (Norm to investigate Dartmouth library option)
- other ideas: ask D&W about a designated spot on bulletin board for NEC info (Linda), ask MCS staff about involvement of 6th graders (Linda), investigate getting an energy-related curriculum from VT Energy Education Program <http://veep.org/> (Meghan)

NEC members to explore/evaluate Cooler Smarter materials from Union of Concern Scientists:
http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/what_you_can_do/practical-steps-for-low-carbon-living.html

Update on preliminary solar proposal for 3rd-party-financed project on Dept. of Public Works property: outline presented to Selectboard 12/10, initial contacts made with a few Norwich businesses, further details to be pursued in January.

Solarize 2015 campaign

- agreement to seek to work with Norwich Technologies and Solaflect again
- use Jan. meeting to discuss plans/timetable with them
- pursue lining up current Norwich solar users for short case studies (why they decided to go solar, how it's worked for them)
- figure out how to do solar open house(s) to draw attendees
- discuss details of off-site options, identify NEC role

Report from VECAN conference:

- Meghan attended workshops on Act 148 (requiring more recycling/composting, to keep stuff out of landfills) and net-zero houses
- Linda got updates on Public Service Dept. work and a carbon pollution tax proposal; relevant links...

*4-p report on review of a mandatory Renewable Portfolio Standard

http://publicservice.vermont.gov/sites/psd/files/Pubs_Plans_Reports/Legislative_Reports/PSD%20RPS%20study%2012.15.2014.pdf

*the Total Energy Study, analyzing how to reach the VT 2050 energy goals

http://publicservice.vermont.gov/publications/total_energy_study

*review of net-metering in VT, which will be the subject of PSD workshops in 2015, with legis proposals in 2016

http://publicservice.vermont.gov/sites/psd/files/Topics/Renewable_Energy/Net_Metering/Act%2099%20NM%20Study%20FINAL.pdf

*carbon pollution tax proposal

<http://www.energyindependentvt.org/>

Other:

- VECAN presenter suggestion: email Gov Shumlin to urge him to select as new member of Public Service Board someone with an understanding of the renewable energy market and its potential impact on the utility grid. <http://governor.vermont.gov/contact-us>
- reminder to new members to submit their applications, so they can be officially appointed by the Selectboard

Linda Gray, chair