

Charge for the Energy Committee

Town of Norwich

1. Introduction

The Norwich Energy Committee works with residents, businesses and the Town to reduce energy consumption, improve the efficiency of energy used, promote renewable energy generation, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

2. Statement of Purpose

The Norwich Energy Committee advises the Planning Commission on energy-related matters that pertain to the Town Plan and the Selectboard and Town Manager on energy-related matters that affect Town policy.

The Committee identifies opportunities and makes recommendations to the appropriate Town officials and committees regarding energy conservation and efficiency, nonfossil energy sources and pollution reduction that address the environmental and fiscal benefits to the Town's government, residents and businesses.

The Committee educates the citizens and property owners of the Town about energy conservation, alternative energy sources and other energy sustainability measures, and to increase public awareness of energy issues and build public support for energy efficiency and sustainable energy policies. It devises and implements programs in support of those measures with the assistance of other volunteers.

3. Membership

The Committee shall consist of at least five members, who shall be Norwich residents or property owners, appointed by the Selectboard to staggered three-year terms. Members serve without compensation. The members should bring to the Committee diverse interests and expertise.

The Committee shall choose from its membership a chair and other positions as appropriate. The Committee may establish subcommittees and draw on outside expertise to assist in carrying out its work; it may recruit and direct an indefinite number of volunteers to implement its programs.

4. Meetings

The Committee's meetings shall be held at a regular time and place when possible. The time and place of each meeting and draft minutes shall be made available and posted in compliance with Vermont's Open Meeting Law with support from the Town Manager's Office. A voting quorum shall be three members. Motions should carry with a minimum of three votes from a majority of the members present.

5. Public Participation and Involvement

Public participation and involvement in the Committee's work is a high priority and the Committee is invited to support the Selectboard in presenting ideas and receiving feedback through public forums and educational sessions pertaining to energy policy.

6. Programs

The Committee will provide input to the Selectboard's strategic plan process, both for municipal and community matters pertaining to energy sustainability. The Committee may assist in implementation of strategic plans pertaining to energy and sustainability. The Committee may develop and implement plans for community outreach.

The Committee may coordinate with federal, state, and regional entities to share ideas and participate in programs relating to energy and sustainability.

The Committee may make expenditures, obtain grant money and donations in support of its programs; these will be deposited in a Town account with the approval of the Town Manager and consistent with the Town's financial and purchasing policies.

7. Conflict of Interest

The Town's Conflict of Interest Policy shall apply to members of this Committee.

8. Reporting

The Committee will report to the Selectboard on its activities at least once a year by 30 September.

Approved by the Norwich Selectboard February 11, 2015.