

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 10/25, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

Attending: Linda Gray, Suzanne Leiter, Norm Levy, Rob Sydney

Guests: Bill Bender (Solaflect Energy), Bill Chidsey (visiting from Newport)

- guest Bill Bender presented a summary of current battery storage options, and expectations for future trends. He noted that, in general, batteries are not at the tipping point of purely making financial sense as a homeowner investment for a location like New England. They are, though, in other areas of the world and of the US; we in New England can expect to benefit from improvements targeted to these other markets.

In the context of NEC actions, there was agreement that there was no immediate need for the committee to host a presentation on the topic. Linda will convey to Becca White, SunCommon, who first raised the possibility; but invite her to NEC November meeting.

- discussion of outreach possibilities for the upcoming Weatherize Upper Valley campaign for which Norwich will be teaming up with Thetford, Hartford and Hartland:

- * banner for the Green, NEC sandwich board, list serv postings, NEC web site

- * tabling at the dump (starting late March), at Dan & Whit's if possible, at MCS

- * events: Montshire team kick-off, Town Meeting, Norwich Women's Club coffees, @ Norwich Sq Cafe, D&W parking lot (like Solarize events)

- * town bulletin boards: Tracy Hall inside, sidewalk opposite Tracy Hall, D&W, Ledyard Bank foyer, MCS lobby, library

- * info sites: Norwich Farms, library, town clerk office, D&W counters, Fogg's

- * info networks: local farms (to their CSA members), MCS (to parents), PTO (to parents)

- * display area at library entry - UPDATE: this is reserved for NEC for the month of January

- * NEC targeted lists of residents who have gotten audits and signed up for efficiency info

- * volunteers: Steve Usle (works with Prudent Living), residents who did efficiency work and gave presentations in March 2014; others interested in energy issues

- * new Community Energy Dashboard from the Energy Action Network

Meeting on 11/3, 5 pm, Montshire, with the other towns in the Weatherize team; all 4 NEC members present can attend.

- Updates:

- * Electric Vehicle Charging Station at D&W is now installed and activated.

- * Linda has been working with Director of Planning Phil Dechert on updating the energy chapter of the Town Plan. Linda proposes stronger action by the Town to ensure that new construction is energy-efficient. Given that the Town issues only building permits, not certificates of occupancy, perhaps the best mechanism is requiring (free) consultation with Efficiency VT. Also, Linda wants the Planning Commission to consider whether there are appropriate sites to be designated as "preferred sites" as per the new state net-metering rules. Right now, such sites are identifiable by having willing landowners; what other criteria would the Planning Commission recommend/require?

- * Norm summarized a meeting with Efficiency Vermont staff to develop a process by which local partners could access LED bulbs, either for free distribution to low-income Vermonters, or at a discount for "public engagement."

- * the VECAN conference is Saturday, 12/3, at the Lake Morey Resort -- recommended for information and networking.

Next meeting is Tuesday, 11/22, 7 pm.

submitted by Linda Gray