

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Thursday, 3/21, 7 pm, Tracy Hall

Attending: Susan Hardy, Rob Gere, Linda Gray, Aaron Lamperti, Suzanne Leiter
Guests: Rob Adams (Solaflect), Roger Arnold (Selectboard), Linda Cook, Troy McBride
(Norwich Solar Technologies)

Re Solarize, there was agreement to do the 2019 campaign in April-May PRIOR to a decrease in the net-meter adder as of 7/1/19 and in the federal tax credit as of 12/31/19. After discussion, outreach will include:

- a postcard mailer to all residents highlighting the two deadlines ("Now's the time"). Language can acknowledge that some recipients have already gone solar ("If you already have solar, congratulations! Please talk it up to your neighbors."); Aaron will draft.
- info tables at Dan & Whit's and the dump
- listserv posts
- info boards at D&W CITGO pole - including a large map of Norwich solar
- possibly 2 house parties inviting neighbors - 1) @ Suzanne Leiter's (Norford Lake Rd) and 2) @ Norm Levy's monthly wine tasting
- phone outreach by NEC members to current solar homeowners asking them to contact 1-2 neighbors. If each NEC member contacts 5 homeowners, and each of those contacts 2 others, the total contacts = $7 \times 5 \times 2 = 70$.

Between Solaflect and Norwich Solar Tech, all solar options are available: ground-mounted solar tracker, ground- or roof-mounted fixed solar, community (ie, off-site) solar.

Re Transportation, Susan Hardy reported that the library is getting a bike rack and bike repair station and the Rec Dept. may pursue the same for Huntley Meadow. Susan is proposing this to the owners of the Norwich Square commercial property. Through the UVTMA meetings, she learned of a new ride service for the area, V-trips; an upcoming program to rent/borrow e-bikes for a week (as an extended test ride); that Vital Communities is getting equipment to make temporary street markings as a way to test alternatives. Susan met with the Dartmouth staff person who oversees their Zagster bikes <https://www.dartmouth.edu/~fom/services/parking/bicycles.html> . The college pays \$1500/bike (per year?).

Re Town reduction of fossil fuel use, Aaron reported on a meeting with Mike Davey of Energy Efficient Investments, Inc, an energy performance contractor which can be hired to do an audit of all the Town buildings and make recommendations for energy improvements (such as integrated building controls, changes to heating/cooling, insulation, lighting, solar energy). Davey said that the majority of their projects have no tax impact, with the cash outlay equal to the energy savings. Linda Gray is discussing with Town Manager Herb Durfee when and how to collect the data needed to establish a baseline of Town fossil fuel use.

Re Weatherize, Efficiency VT has sent Linda Gray an updated summary of homeowners and their status with walk-throughs and proposals. She will follow up as needed.

Re EV charging station at Huntley Meadow, Linda is working with Herb Durfee on the details of installation, including an RFP for an electrical contractor and purchase of the charging equipment.

Re recycling as an NEC activity, there was agreement that the committee doesn't really have time for another project. Linda Cook noted that there's a possibility that a Town solid waste committee would be revived.

Updates:

- Enhanced energy planning - next mtg 4/2
- Windsor Co Sen McCormack (co-chair of the Climate Caucus) is speaking 3/22 in WRJ
- the Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable, organized by Vital Communities, is May 7, 5-8 pm; the discussion topic is transportation
- Suzanne Leiter is applying for reappointment to the NEC, Charlie Lindner is applying to the position opened by Jonathan Teller-Elsberg's resignation last fall
- Linda Gray contacted Efficiency VT about outreach to rental unit owners after reading of such a program in Montpelier; the assessor shared a list of 48 property owners who rent; what EVT can do in Norwich is still to be determined
- the organization behind the book Drawdown (100 solutions to reverse global warming <https://www.drawdown.org/>) is running an "Ecochallenge" for the month of April <https://www.drawdown.org/drawdown-ecochallenge-0> Someone with Sustainable Hanover has set up an Upper Valley team; agreement to publicize on the listserv.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, 4/23/19.

submitted by Linda Gray