

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee Tuesday, 4/28/20, 7 pm, via Zoom

Attending: Linda Gray, Susan Hardy, Aaron Lamperti, Norm Levy, Charlie Lindner  
Guests: Doc Bagley, Strafford Energy Comm. (7:30-8:20), Linda Cook, Rob Gere (Selectboard), Erich Rentz, Eva Rosenbloom (until 7:35)

GHG inventory for Town:

Eva Rosenbloom has almost completed the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory on municipal operations that she is doing for her masters degree. She provided a preview of her work, including a brief outline of the official protocols for doing a GHG inventory, and what "Scopes" 1, 2, and 3 cover (1= direct emissions, 2= indirect through purchase of electricity, 3= indirect through other purchases, waste processing, employee travel, employee commuting, and other). She is using FY 2018 as the base year for the Inventory. Her calculation of total emissions is slightly higher than the calculation done by Aaron Lamperti, but they are overall similar; the biggest emissions are from Town vehicles; a big Scope 3 item might be the contract for municipal waste. Regarding the 2019 Town mandate on fossil fuel reduction, she suggested that using GHG emissions rather than fossil fuel would provide more flexibility and that a steady 5% per year reduction is less realistic than reduction in "chunks." Her analysis proposes a 25% reduction by 2025, 50% by 2030, and 100% by 2040. The 2025 goal would be a reduction of 85 MT; 75 MT reduction could be achieved by the Tracy Hall project and switching all police vehicles to hybrids; a 10 MT reduction would still need to be identified. She noted that Town emissions are heavily weighted in mobile combustion, which is difficult to reduce until the technology is available. She will complete this inventory, including a reduction strategy, in another 3 weeks. There was consensus for Eva to share her final report at the May meeting, and a suggestion that she also present to the Selectboard.

Window Dressers:

Doc Bagley from the Strafford Energy Committee described the work they did with the Thetford Energy Committee on the Window Dressers workshop held in January. They made about 250 interior window inserts to reduce home air leakage, working with the Window Dressers organization <https://windowdressers.org/>. Their work is on hold during the pandemic; it's possible that all 2020 workshops will be canceled. Doc described the volunteer and space needs for the project: coordinators for outreach, volunteers (they had 125 total), measuring teams, and food; 6 days for a workshop and lunch space. Their experience is that 50 frames/day can be made; Window Dressers recommends that a town target making 75-100 windows.

There was committee consensus to pursue a Window Dressers workshop when they resume, and to contact SEVCA to get a count of the # of Norwich residents who now

receive LIHEAP assistance for heating, and of Norwich residents who are eligible for free weatherization. Possible project volunteers include the climate action group at the Congregational Church (already interested in this project), the Norwich Lions, local employers who support employee volunteerism; possible workshop locations include the Congregational Church parish hall, and the Root District schoolhouse.

#### Updates:

- NEC members and terms -- Linda Gray reported that Susan Hardy's term is ending and Rob Gere has resigned, producing 2 committee positions to be filled. Susan and Erich Rentz are applying for appointment by the Selectboard. Linda proposed that we elect chair and vice-chair after those positions have been filled, and encouraged members to step forward if they are interested.
- Eat Low & Local -- Linda Gray reported that there have been ~20 respondents to this campaign, noting that outreach has been limited to list serv posts. The promotion will wrap up at the end of the month.
- E-bike loan program -- Linda Gray reported that Norwich was scheduled to run a loan program for 3 e-bikes from mid-April to mid-May, but it is suspended during the pandemic. The other town energy committees involved with the Upper Valley e-bike "fleet" (Hanover, Hartford, Hartland, Thetford, and Plainfield/Cornish) may be able to conduct their loans depending on the resumption of regular activities. Susan Hardy reported on an initiative that Vital Communities will do in May to encourage cycling and testing your commuter route while there's so much less traffic.
- Intermunicipal Regional Energy Coordinator -- Linda Gray reported on a planning meeting that she and Planning Director Rod Francis took part in. For this 7-town position, TRORC has proposed a job description with 1) tasks that will apply to all towns and 2) tasks that are town-specific. Discussion of appropriate tasks raised these ideas: transportation (bike paths) across town borders; coordinating across towns to promote economies of scale (based on economies of participation); accessing capital or grants; for Norwich, further GHG Scope 3 analysis; for Norwich, identifying low-income households for future energy initiatives.
- NWC grant -- After discussion of various ideas, there was consensus for submitting a proposal for the purchase of 4 e-bike conversion kits + batteries (about \$500 each), each of which could be the focus of an e-bike workshop. Norm Levy will write up the grant proposal by the 5/8 deadline; Aaron Lamperti will give Norm specific references for the kits; Linda Gray will check with Local Motion on whether the completed bikes could become part of the loan program fleet.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, 5//26.  
submitted by Linda Gray