

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee  
Tuesday, 8/24/21, 7 pm, at Tracy Hall and via Zoom

Attending: in Tracy Hall – Linda Gray  
via Zoom – Suzanne Leiter, Charlie Lindner, Norm Levy, Erich Rentz  
Guests: in Tracy Hall – Jack Cushman  
via Zoom – Linda Cook, Rob Gere

1. The 7/27 minutes and 8/24 agenda were approved by consensus.

2. Updates on existing projects

A. Town parcels for solar hosting

- 20-068.200 - Dutton Hill: Linda has discussed this parcel with Planning Director Rod Francis, who will pin down whether solar development is precluded on that site.
- 16-005-000 - Upper Loveland “Schmidt bog”: Norwich Solar is pursuing a solar project on an adjacent parcel; as a ridgeline parcel, it needed approval from the Planning Commission and Selectboard as a preferred site (completed). A utility distribution line cuts between the private parcel and the town parcel, which reduces the likelihood of interest in the town parcel.
- DPW draft RFP: energy coordinator Geoff Martin has discussed with Erich, with his relevant work experience, and Linda, as Norwich rep. Erich recommends including in the RFP an option for Town ownership, even though – until some fuel-switching is in place – Town operations can’t use more solar. He notes that it would not be difficult for solar developers to respond to that option and it would be useful to have proposals in hand. Other options include a solar array financed by local investors for the benefit of low-income households, and a community solar array with shares purchased by individual households. Linda and Erich will meet with Geoff to finalize RFP options.

B. Electrify Everything

- Solarize - Virtual open house; Block party: there was agreement to participate in the NHS event for new residents on 9/11, and to line up a few solar homeowners to be present and talk about their choice; Linda will follow up. She will also ask these solar homeowners about participating in a Zoom Q/A session on solar.
- Electrify Everything checklist: Charlie has developed a draft checklist (attached) for residents to help them make a plan to Electrify Everything, so that they are prepared when they need to replace a furnace, appliance, or car. He will continue filling in details and requests feedback and comments. If it’s available, we can distribute at the NHS event. Charlie will highlight the checklist in a series of listserv posts.

C. Window Dressers: Linda reported that the project is proceeding well, with orders for more inserts than we can expect to build (280 vs 150-200); measuring volunteers getting trained and ready to measure customer windows; a new volunteer ready to coordinate food during the Community Build (11/11-15); and King Arthur Baking contributing bread and cookies for those lunches.

Thetford is doing its 2<sup>nd</sup> residential Community Build in Sept; She encouraged committee members to sign up to help at this link

<https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/1196988578337814019/false#/invitation> It will help us understand the process and be better prepared for November.

3. Other business, new projects, announcements

D. Article 36 task force update: Jack Cushman, chair of the Task Force, reported – they have organized, developed a baseline (2019) for data, submitted a written report to the Selectboard, and Jack will present to the Selectboard 8/25. They expect to make recommendations for action before the end of the year. Their documents (including an in-progress action list) are at [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19jhlhaVpcRAQr\\_VvRBrN7F4-4YUXa89t](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/19jhlhaVpcRAQr_VvRBrN7F4-4YUXa89t)  
Jack requested that the committee review the TF action list at the next NEC meeting.

E. UVTMA report: Norm reported that there was no meeting, and there is a transition in staffing.

#### 4. Public comment and correspondence

For the next agenda, Linda asked that the committee review information being compiled by Geoff Martin on expenses and revenue for the EV charging station at Dan & Whit's. The initial five years for the software and maintenance contract (covered by the state grant) ends in November. The NEC can review and make a recommendation to the interim town manager; the total cost could range from \$600-1300.

#### 5. Adjourned at 8:15.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, 9/28, 7 pm, at Tracy Hall.

submitted by Linda Gray

DRAFT

*Electrify Everything Check List*

Use this check list to plan and budget for replacement of automobiles, heat and cooling, hot water, and appliances with electric or lower energy consuming devices.

- \*Estimate the replacement dates of your energy consuming devices
- \*Research what devices have the largest carbon footprints
- \*Make a plan for clean and energy saving replacements
- \*Set a goal for when your household can be net-zero

**\_\_Step one for homeowners is to have a home energy audit.**

A home energy audit will give you details about your home and prioritized recommendations. Get one for \$150 (rather than the usual \$300-500) through HEAT Squad.

Go to <http://norwichenergycommittee.weebly.com/weatherize.html> for more information on the importance of energy audits and weatherization to reducing energy use and costs. *It will increase the effectiveness and cost savings of home electrification.*

**\_\_Step 2 learn about how electrifying heating and cooling. hot water heating, can reduce your carbon emissions and save you \$ at:**

<https://www.encyclopedia.com/energy/energy-technology/energy-efficiency/heating-cooling-ventilation>

**\_\_Step 3 Review your household heating and cooling, hot water, and appliances for electrification planning and energy saving.**

*Primary home heating system*

Fuel source: Electricity Fuel oil Propane Wood Wood Pellets

Age of System  Estimated life span of system  Replacement Date

Carbon emissions impact: High Medium Low

*Secondary home heating system*

Fuel Source Electricity Fuel Oil Propane Wood Wood Pellets

Age of System Estimated lifespan of system Replacement date

Carbon emissions impact: High Medium Low

*Home Cooling*

Central/Heat Pump # of window units

Age of Central/Heat Pump Replacement date

Energy savings impact: High Medium Low

Age of window units Replacement date

Energy savings impact: High Medium Low

*Hot water*

Fuel source: Propane Fuel oil Conventional electric Hybrid electric

Age of hot water heater Replacement date

Carbon Emissions Impact: High Medium Low

Energy savings impact: High Medium Low

*Appliances*

Range/stove top/oven

Energy source: \_\_\_Electricity \_\_\_Propane

\_\_\_ Age of appliance \_\_\_Estimated lifespan \_\_\_Replacement date

Carbon Emissions Impact: \_\_\_High \_\_\_Medium \_\_\_Low

Energy savings impact: \_\_\_High \_\_\_Medium \_\_\_Low

Clothes Dryer

Energy source: \_\_\_Electricity \_\_\_Propane

\_\_\_ Age of appliance \_\_\_Estimated lifespan \_\_\_Replacement date

Carbon Emissions Impact: \_\_\_High \_\_\_Medium \_\_\_Low

Energy savings impact: \_\_\_High \_\_\_Medium \_\_\_Low

Clothes Washer

\_\_\_ Age of appliance \_\_\_Estimated lifespan \_\_\_Replacement date

Water usage: \_\_\_High \_\_\_Medium \_\_\_Low

Energy savings impact: \_\_\_High \_\_\_Medium \_\_\_Low

Refrigerator

\_\_\_ Age of appliance \_\_\_Estimated lifespan \_\_\_Replacement date

Carbon Emissions Impact: \_\_\_High \_\_\_Medium \_\_\_Low

Energy savings impact: \_\_\_High \_\_\_Medium \_\_\_Low

Freezer

\_\_\_ Age of appliance \_\_\_Estimated lifespan \_\_\_Replacement date

Energy savings impact: \_\_\_High \_\_\_Medium \_\_\_Low

Dishwasher

\_\_\_ Age of appliance \_\_\_Estimated lifespan \_\_\_Replacement date

Water usage: \_\_\_High \_\_\_Medium \_\_\_Low

Energy savings impact: \_\_\_High \_\_\_Medium \_\_\_Low

*Transportation*

Vehicle 1

Fuel Source: \_\_\_Gasoline \_\_\_Hybrid \_\_\_Plug in hybrid (PHEV) \_\_\_Electricity

Miles per gallon \_\_\_Miles driven per year

\_\_\_Age of vehicle \_\_\_Estimated Lifespan \_\_\_Replacement date

Carbon Emissions Impact: \_\_\_High \_\_\_Medium \_\_\_Low

Vehicle 2

Fuel Source: \_\_\_Gasoline \_\_\_Hybrid \_\_\_Plug in hybrid (PHEV) \_\_\_Electricity

Miles per gallon \_\_\_Miles driven per year

\_\_\_Age of vehicle \_\_\_Estimated Lifespan \_\_\_Replacement date

Carbon Emissions Impact: \_\_\_High \_\_\_Medium \_\_\_Low

Vehicle 3

Fuel Source: \_\_\_Gasoline \_\_\_Hybrid \_\_\_Plug in hybrid (PHEV) \_\_\_Electricity

Miles per gallon \_\_\_Miles driven per year

\_\_\_Age of vehicle \_\_\_Estimated Lifespan \_\_\_Replacement date

Carbon Emissions Impact: \_\_\_High \_\_\_Medium \_\_\_Low

*Lawn Care*

## Trimmers

\_\_\_Age of device \_\_\_Estimated Lifespan \_\_\_Replacement date

Fuel source: \_\_\_Gasoline \_\_\_Electric

Carbon Emissions Impact: \_\_\_High \_\_\_Medium \_\_\_Low

## Leaf Blowers

\_\_\_Age of device \_\_\_Estimated Lifespan \_\_\_Replacement date

Fuel source: \_\_\_Gasoline \_\_\_Electric

## Lawn Movers

\_\_\_Age of device \_\_\_Estimated Lifespan \_\_\_Replacement date

Fuel source: \_\_\_Gasoline \_\_\_Electric

## *Solarize*

Green Mountain Power produces electricity that is rated as having a low carbon impact. One reason for that low impact rating is Vermont is one of a very few states who treat hydropower as a clean and renewable energy. There is a significant carbon impact from the carbon released trees and plant life destroyed by flooding land for dams.

Nonetheless, GMP has a very low reliance on fossil fuels for power generation.

Investing in solar panels on your house or property, or in a community field can provide you with a clean renewable source of electric generation. It can also save you on your overall energy costs over the life of the investment.

Resilience is another consideration. As extreme weather events increase, we can expect more frequent power outages. Solar combined with solar energy storage batteries can provide a clean and reliable back up when there are outages. If you choose to, GMP has programs that reduce the cost of batteries and allows them to be used to store power and help with the efficiency of the grid.

## *Resources to assist you*

### Norwich Energy Committee

Our website <http://norwichenergycommittee.weebly.com/> has many helpful links and resources to help you research products, steps you can take, find contractors, and talk to neighbors who have taken steps you may be considering.

### Efficiency Vermont

Their website: <https://www.encyvermont.com/> has information about products, rebates, lists of contractors, and contact information to talk with their staff about energy saving steps you are considering.

### Mileage Smart VT

Their website <https://www.mileagesmartvt.org/> has information regarding significant rebates for purchasing a used hybrid, PHEV, or EV.

### Drive Electric VT

Their website <https://www.driveelectricvt.com/> has information regarding significant rebates and other resources for purchasing a PHEV or an electric vehicle.

### Green Mountain Power

Their website <https://greenmountainpower.com/rebates-programs/> describes a variety of rebates available for electric vehicles, home energy storage, and home and yard devices.