

Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee
Tuesday, 9/28/21, 7 pm, at Tracy Hall and via Zoom

Attending: in Tracy Hall – Aaron Lamperti
via Zoom – Linda Gray, Suzanne Leiter, Charlie Lindner, Erich Rentz
Guests: via Zoom – Rob Gere

1. The 8/24 minutes and 9/28 agenda (with the addition of the Button Up program) were approved by consensus.

2. Updates on existing projects

A. Town parcels for solar hosting

- 20-068.200 - Dutton Hill: Linda has confirmed with Town staff that trails are not on this parcel, but still needs to identify whether any other reason for Town ownership precludes solar development.
- DPW draft RFP: further investigation on the level of environmental engineering needed for the parcel; Geoff Martin, Erich Rentz, Linda Gray, and John Langhus will discuss on 10/8.

B. Electrify Everything

- NHS welcome event on 9/11: Linda Gray, Norm Levy, and Charlie Lindner staffed an info table, had many conversations with residents
- Electrify Everything checklist: Charlie has done more research and developed separate checklists for home, vehicles, lawn care, and appliances. Charlie will post the current drafts to the NEC shared drive, and he and Linda will meet to revise and edit.

There was discussion about offering home energy counseling/navigation, agreement to revisit this in the spring (fewer virus worries, more funding available by then?).

- Solarize: Linda publicized a virtual open house hosted by Sustainable Hanover with a ReVision Energy customer, the post prompted 3 requests for solar site visits from Norwich residents; the recording of that session can be publicized; a similar session may be possible with others of our 4 vetted installers. 18 Norwich households have committed to solar in 2021.

C. Window Dressers: Linda reported that the project is proceeding well, with orders for more inserts than we can expect to build and measuring nearly completed. The next major item is to recruit additional volunteers for the Community Build in November. Erich has contacts with local employers that encourage workers to volunteer; Linda will provide info for him to share.

D. Recommendations on EV charging station at Dan & Whit's: Linda summarized analysis by Geoff Martin on usage and expenses, noted that grant-funded networking and maintenance will end in early November (after five years of operation), and asked for committee feedback on 1) whether the Town should pay \$700 for a year of continued maintenance and 2) switching to a per-kWh fee (rather than the current per-hour fee). There was agreement that a maintenance contract was not necessary and to set the fee at \$.30/kWh (which would cover expenses). Linda also noted that she and Geoff would meet soon with Dan Fraser at Dan & Whit's to explore whether the general store would be interested in operating the charging station. If there is interest and that develops, there was agreement that the station should revert to the Town if D&W later does not want to continue its operation.

3. Other business, new projects, announcements

E. Article 36 task force update: Aaron reported that they are developing a detailed action list recommendations for action before the end of the year. It's available at

[google.com/spreadsheets/d/12yOED0ZzG8AjQrRoF7LIMPZ9NYlyWOb-SPkkz1xNgPg/edit?usp=sharing](https://www.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12yOED0ZzG8AjQrRoF7LIMPZ9NYlyWOb-SPkkz1xNgPg/edit?usp=sharing) NEC members are invited to comment on the list.

E. UVTMA report: none, Norm Levy not attending.

F. Button Up: Aaron has signed Norwich up to participate in this campaign with Efficiency Vermont, www.buttonupvermont.org EVT will do a series of webinars, and residents can sign up for virtual home energy visits. Aaron will receive updates; he and Linda will work on publicizing.

4. Public comment and correspondence

Linda noted that the VT Climate Council is seeking public input, with remaining sessions being virtual. She will circulate links. At a recent conference, Rep Briglin spoke about his interest in weatherization and equipment change-outs for municipal buildings, which is encouraging.

5. Adjourned at 8:15.

The next regular meeting will be Tuesday, 10/26 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.encyvermont.com/products-technologies/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.