Meeting of the Norwich Energy Committee
Tuesday, 10/27/26, 7 pm, via Zoom
Attending: Mary Albert, Rob Gere, Linda Gray, Aaron Lamperti, Brad Wible (until 8:10); and Harry Falconer, Shared Energy Coordinator (until 7:50)

1. The 9/22 minutes and the 10/27 agenda were approved by consensus.

2. Harry Falconer - update on municipal GHG inventory and other A36 proposals for SB: Harry shared the key points of the update and analysis of municipal energy usage data, which was primarily compiled by his colleague, Ari Lattanzi. Harry is now writing it up for the Town Manager and Selectboard. The basic conclusion: municipal GHG emissions have not been reduced, they are 334 metric tons (compare to 311 tons documented in the A36 Task Force report); emissions from trucks and vehicles remain 2 times those from buildings. Harry noted that the conversion of Tracy Hall from oil boilers to propane did not change emissions, because propane is less energy-dense than fuel oil (1.5 times as much propane must be burned to produce the same heating as fuel oil). The data show that total Btus/heating degree days used in Tracy Hall has increased by 7%; he is trying to identify why. Recommendations might include new controls and different set points. Electricity use at Tracy Hall is down 40% since 2019; he is trying to identify why (although electricity is not a driver of municipal GHG emissions). For the Public Safety building, oil use is flat, but electricity use is up 5 times; he is trying to identify why. Vehicles, trucks, and other moving equipment are the most consequential to emissions. Some of the data indicate that there might be a lot of vehicle idling; Harry will investigate.

Recommendations might include weatherization and controls at Tracy Hall, a review of heat pump use at Public Safety, anti-idling tech, a transition of light-duty vehicles to hybrids or EVs. Harry will review recommendations for those that might be incorporated into the town budget that is developed this fall. Discussion whether it's possible to compare Norwich emissions to other towns (yes, if they've also done an emissions inventory), whether doing an annual emissions update is feasible (yes), and documenting the methodology.

Before leaving the meeting, Harry gave a short report on other SEC work: coordinating with school staff about installation of EV charging for employees at Marion Cross School.

3. Future Events/Outreach: NEC/Sustainable Hanover virtual workshop on 11/12/26 - "retrofitting houses for energy efficiency and carbon reduction": Mary reported that this will include 2 homeowners from Hanover, and 1 (Aaron) from Norwich. She will do several listserv posts, will circulate to contacts in the other SEC towns; the NEC homepage features it now.

4. "Smart driving" webinar: Mary reported that the content seems very basic and not very impactful overall. There was agreement to not pursue it further.

5. Net metering changes: Mary noted that the Public Utility Commission has opened a rulemaking process on net-metering, and might reduce the net-meter rate retroactively. A workshop was held 10/2; a 2nd is scheduled for 11/16. To be to be added to the service list for this rulemaking, email PUC.Clerk@vermont.gov with your contact information, referencing Case #26-1786-RULE. Linda noted that she is part of an informal group monitoring the PUC proceeding, that it would likely take a year or more, that there aren't specific proposals to comment on yet.

6. WindowDressers: Linda reported that the 2026 Build made about 250 inserts (222 new, 24 rewraps) and had 106 volunteers. The local coordinators from Sustainable Hanover and the Lyme Energy Committee want to continue in 2027; there was agreement for Norwich to continue as well.

7. Energy Plan Working Group: Rob and Brad had no updates, there have been no meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for 11/3 evening.

8. Tracy Hall Energy Upgrades: Aaron had no updates; he emailed Selectboard chair Kimo Griggs for an update, but had no answer.

9. Shared Energy Coordinator report: see above.

10. Committee organization: Mary reported that she has a lead; winter will be better timing to ask, she will follow up then.

11. Other Business: Linda learned of a neighbor-to-neighbor solar initiative, Hillsborough (NH) Area Renewable Energy Initiative https://www.harei.org/ and suggested that we explore further.

12. Public comments, correspondence and announcements: none

13. Adjourned at 8:17. The fourth Tuesday in November is 11/24.

Submitted by Linda Gray