

**Notes of 5/11/09 Meeting  
Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee**

**Attending:** Rich Phillips, Deb Stoleroff, Ed Hutchinson, John Medose, Bob Atchinson Dan Chodorkoff, Bill Goss, Diana Batesell, Lawrence Black, Anne Miller, John Morris, & Saul Gresser

**Convene:** 6:40 PM

**Business:**

**1) Review of Agenda**, items prioritized.

**2) Current Project Follow-up/Closure: EV Community Energy**

**Mobilization Project**

Rich extended a big “thank you” from everyone on the committee to all the volunteers who made the project a success. There was a fairly lengthy discussion of project outcomes, feedback from volunteers, and possible next step. The ECCC members and volunteers visited over 45 homes in Marshfield. Plainfield volunteers reached 30, and E. Montpelier about 50. At least 6 homes in Marshfield had an annual BTU/ft<sup>2</sup> usage over 100,000. Efficiency Vermont will be following up with those homeowners above 60,000 BTU/ft<sup>2</sup> to encourage further weatherization projects. A well-insulated house should use 40,000 BTU/ft<sup>2</sup> or less. Rich will further quantify project results and publish these in the next Field Notes.

Overall, feedback was positive. Many CFLs were handed out and installed, along with hot water tank jackets, showerheads, and thermostats. The general impression from volunteers was that participating families seemed grateful for the help and information. Practical weatherization advice and links to further opportunities were offered and seemed to be greeted positively.

Some suggestions made for moving forward and/or further iterations of the program include: starting earlier in the fall; making sure installations of thermostats are clearly warranted; brainstorming alternative ways to schedule and confirm visits with participants; suggestions for upgrading appliances; and including more specific information re: ventilation issues post-weatherization.

Further: How can we take our efforts to a higher level? Discussion included the possibility of further training among local volunteers to create a working team which would be able to do basic weatherization in-house (e.g.: foam sealing basements). More discussion needed here. Also, how to reach more homeowners, especially those in most need? Rich indicated that he would be e-mailing current participants for their feedback and to ask for their word-of-mouth assistance in reaching others.

Overall, project went well and feedback to date has been positive. In celebration of good efforts all around, meeting attendees also shared apple cider, brownies, and apple cake. [Thanks to Rich for supplying the goodies!]

**3) Transportation issues discussion/next steps:**

A brainstorming session took place re: transportation issues and commuter options along the Route 2 corridor from Marshfield to Montpelier. The long and short of it: More discussion and information is needed. Surveying residence (perhaps door to door) re: interest in riding a bus was discussed and it was determined that this has largely been done already through the initial energy committee survey. Ed suggested contacting the

existing services and seeing about the possibility of hosting a free bus ride one-day event to gauge and generate interest. Dan suggested promoting a “Ride a Bus to Work” day. Decisions: Anne will look further into what buses and commuter vanpools are already up and running, their schedules and associated contact information. Bob will contact GMTA re: interest in attending an upcoming energy committee meeting with representatives from some of the other route-two towns in attendance as well. Rich will contact other town energy committees along the route-two corridor to see what others are doing and to coordinate efforts. Follow-up via e-mail and next meeting.

### **5) Local Tour of Town Residences with Renewable Energy Systems.**

Further planning re: June 20<sup>th</sup> tour of Town Residences with Renewable Energy Systems. Dan has been having difficulty reaching the Goslin’s. Deb will try. Saul agreed to contact the Maloy’s in Plainfield. Bob offered to drive a tour bus if we have one. Some form of announcement needs to be posted in this month’s Field Notes. Rich agreed to get this in and to contact Deb Herbst. Current suggested homes for June tour: Anne Miller’s, Melissa Goselin’s, Deborah Herbst’s, and Jim and Erin Maloy’s.

### **6) Use of VCEM project funds**

Brief discussion. General agreement to use \$450 earned during VCEM project for subsidizing upcoming summer and fall energy seminar series.

### **7) Summer and Fall Energy Seminar Series**

The committee further outlined a schedule for energy-related seminars for the summer and fall. The first seminar will take place in early July and will cover solar hot water systems. Laurence raised the issue of including woodstove integrated hot water systems as well; that is, solar hot water systems that also include integrating woodstove hot water assists or back-ups. General sense of the committee was that the seminar might be best served by focusing exclusively on solar systems. More discussion may be needed here.

The second seminar is scheduled for early August and will focus on grid-tied systems and related group metering issues. As an aside: Those interested are encouraged to make their opinions known to their local legislators and the governor regarding relevant bills related to town bonding authority and the recommissioning or decommissioning of Vermont Yankee.

The third, scheduled for late September will focus on weatherization issues.

A series flyer including information about the June Alternative Energy Home Tour needs to be created. This flyer also needs to include information about the location for seminars. Ideally information could be put in the next (June) (or the July) Field Notes.

Deb suggested that the school would likely be available as a location for seminars. The town hall gym is a second option.

**Meeting adjourned: 8:00 PM**

### **Draft Agenda Items For Next Meeting:**

- 1) Transportation issues continued
- 2) Summer seminars continued
- 3) Home Tour Day Logistics
- 4) Other Business/Announcements

Respectfully Submitted, Saul Gresser