

**Notes of 4/13/09 Meeting
Marshfield Energy and Climate Change Committee**

Attending: Ed Hutchinson, Dan Chodorkoff, John Morris, Rich Phillips, Anne Miller, Lawrence Black, Bob Atchinson, & Saul Gresser

Convene: 6:30 PM

Business:

1) Review of Agenda, items prioritized.

2) Current Project: EV Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project Update

Initial project coming to a close by 20th of April. Discussion centered around the following: completion of remaining visits and volunteer needs; increased number of visits in key areas: five on Maple Hill, three on Hollister Hill; six in Marshfield Village; possibility of extending project using remaining materials supplied by EV. Reminder to ask for Kwh/yr from remaining homes.

Committee reviewed current statistics from completed visits.

EV plans to follow through with selected homes with high BTU/sq. ft.; homeowners who indicated willingness will receive calls and suggestions for further weatherization assistance. Questions raised re: context of some of the numbers in relation to household size, general temperature of home, and exposed surface area, among other factors.

Additional discussion re: publicizing the energy gains made from initial visits. Suggestion to do so for the June issue of Field Notes. Rich will pursue.

Further: project feedback to date has been largely positive. Participants seem happy with results and feel that the program has been helpful.

It was agreed to continue with the visits beyond the EV deadline assuming that we are able to keep the products that we have received thus far from EV. All volunteer pairs should return products to Rich for re-inventory. Volunteers need to be publicly thanked. Rich will send out an e-mail announcing the closing of current round of visits as well as an invitation to the volunteers to attend a small “thank you” gathering. Field notes announcement should also go out by next Wednesday.

3) Local Generation Sub-committee report

Dan gave a brief report. Saul, Dan and Michael Horowitz have been meeting to put together an application to the Vermont Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF) for a technical assistance grant. Preliminary plan calls for the creation of a solar PV system to power electric at Twinfield School. The request is for \$5000 to assist with the design phase of project development. A 5% match in funds needs to be raised locally. The sub-committee is currently gathering data and making necessary contacts with the school board and selectboards. The committee intends to integrate the development and operation of the project into the school’s educational programming to the fullest extent possible. Preliminary conversations have begun with Owen Bradley about the project and connections as well to UVM student mentors at Twinfield. The committee hopes to have the grant request ready for CEDF in time for the June funding round.

The idea of including solar hot water in the project design was discussed.

Aside, the latest legislative initiative regarding municipal bonding authority related to local generation projects was also mentioned. Committee members were encouraged to contact the legislature to spur action on this legislation.

Next meeting of the sub-committee is scheduled for 3:00, Monday, April 20th at Dan’s.

4) Transportation subcommittee update/discussion/next steps: Tabled ‘til May meeting.

5) Incentive programs and local seminars

Discussion focused on what the committee could do to further public awareness about state and federal incentive programs available for home renewable energy installation projects. Many ideas discussed, including hands on workshops to teach how to build independent low cost systems. Solar hot water systems were discussed the most, due to the considerable savings such systems provide and the quickest return on investment available.

The committee decided to explore developing a schedule of workshops/seminars, each focused on a unique system and the incentives available for that system. Ideas included monthly seminars from June through September, or perhaps spacing 3-4 seminars across the calendar year. Further discussion is needed. Plan to firm up schedule at next meeting.

6) Local Tours of Town Residences with Renewable Energy Systems.

Last year's home tour was a success. Committee decided to do a new tour this summer. Tentative date was chosen: June 20th, Saturday. Suggested homes include: Dan Chodorkoff's, Anne Miller's, Mark Goselin's and Deborah Schwartz's. Rich will contact Deborah and Dan will contact Mark to see if 20th works.

7) Summer Off?

Brief discussion. Committee agreed to keep meeting throughout the summer.

8) Other Business/ Announcements:

a) Rich reported on attending a school energy efficiency workshop last week for municipal maintenance personnel. He believes there is a huge opportunity for electrical savings at the school related to power peaks and rate factors. He will explore this further.

b) The town should hear back from the ANR around June 15th re: the updated energy grant request for 12K in weatherization funds. Will keep all posted.

c) Bob announced that May 9th is National Train Day. The workweek prior, May 4-8th, the Vermont Agency of Transportation is sponsoring "Way To Go Week," exploring alternative means of transport. For more information or to register, go to the VT Agency of Transportation website.

d) Dan mentioned "Trade in Your Mower" events being hosted by the 10% Challenge Group. Folks are encouraged to trade in gas machines for new electric mowers. More information about the planned events and dates can be found at the Burlington Free Press website.

Draft Agenda Items For Next Meeting:

- 1) Transportation issues: next steps
- 2) Current project follow-up/closure
- 3) Schedule for summer seminars
- 4) Finalize home tour day and participants
- 5) Other Business/Announcements

Meeting adjourned: 8:00 PM

Respectfully Submitted, Saul Gresser