

Hollis Energy Committee Minutes
8- 19- 09 (9:30 AM) Town Hall Community Room
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Members Present: Karen Cramton, Chris Heiter, Troy Brown and Cathy Hoffman
Also Present: Venu Rao and David Gilmour (Project PROGRESS)
Jill Simonetti, Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) and Corey Johnson, University of New Hampshire

The Hollis Energy Committee (HEC) and members of Project PROGRESS met with Jill Simonetti of the Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) and Corey Johnson a student at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) who is interning this summer with Clean Air Cool Planet. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the Energy Action Plan Report that the HEC has been working on under the direction of the NRPC. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 AM on Wednesday August 19th in the Hollis Town Hall Community Room

J. Simonetti gave a brief summary of the history of the project. At the March 2007 Annual Town Meeting Hollis voters passed the New Hampshire Climate Change Resolution petition warrant article, which, in addition to supporting national efforts to address climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the development of sustainable energy technologies, recommended that the Board of Selectmen establish a volunteer energy committee to work on local initiatives. The HEC was formed in 2009 and is currently working in conjunction with Project PROGRESS (**PRO**ject **GR**een **E**nergy for our **S**chool**S**). The two groups, with assistance from the NRPC, are investigating potential energy savings for the school and Town facilities.

J. Simonetti and C. Johnson presented the report. The first steps in the process were to complete the inventory and data entry using the Small Town Carbon Calculator (STOCC) and the Portfolio Manager tools. C. Johnson noted that the inventory includes energy usage and costs for vehicles, buildings and streetlights for both the Town and the schools. The results provide a good baseline of costs, usage and CO₂ emissions. This inventory should be repeated after one year of implementation of the energy initiatives. The new data when compared to the baseline data would provide an indicator of how well the initiatives are working.

The results of the inventory show that the Town and school buildings have the highest cost, energy usage and CO₂ emissions. V. Rao questioned how Hollis compares to other New Hampshire towns. C. Johnson responded that only five or six towns have completed inventories. There is not enough data, at this time, to determine an average. The goal of the inventory is to develop an attainable action plan for the Town. An example of an attainable goal would be to decrease CO₂ emissions by 1% in 2010. J. Simonetti commented that the Town's goals should be also be linked to the State's plan. The NH Climate Action Plan calls for a statewide energy reduction of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, with a short-term goal of 20% reduction below 1990 levels by 2025. The Town of Milford has established a goal to reduce levels 15% below 2008 levels by 2015

T. Brown questioned what the results would look like if the schools were removed from the inventory. C. Johnson responded that with the removal of the schools, the percentages change dramatically. Building and vehicle use represent 48% and 46% respectively of the energy costs. Streetlights account for the other 6%. Of the Town buildings, the Police Station has the highest total energy costs. The Town Hall and Fire Station were the second and third highest. The Town Clerk's office has the highest cost per square foot, but the total cost is relatively low.

From the results of the inventory, J. Simonetti made the following recommendations:

- Target the most visible building for energy savings. This will raise public awareness.

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- Involve students in the process. This will also raise awareness and provide educational opportunities.
- Utilize staff to identify efficiency improvements and to recommission equipment that would result in immediate energy cost savings
- Conduct professional audits of facilities that have not shown improvement after walk through audits and implementation of affordable energy saving measures.
- Complete a STOCC inventory for 2009 to compare with baseline data.

J. Simonetti stated that there are several funding opportunities that could be explored. She noted that the NRPC has applied for an EPA grant to assist local energy committees in writing grant applications.

Funding opportunities include:

Energy Efficiency & Community Block Grants: <http://www.nh.gov/oep/recovery/eecbg.htm>

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund
<http://www.puc.state.nh.us/Sustainable%20Energy/GHGERF.htm>

New England Grassroots Environmental Fund: <http://grassrootsfund.org/>

J. Simonetti stated that she would also update the report, and provide committee members with the Hollis data excluding the schools. She will also email members the links to the New Hampshire Climate Action Plan and the STOCC.

Small Town Carbon Calculator
http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for_communities/stocc.php

NH Climate Action Plan:
http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/air/tsb/tps/climate/action_plan/nh_climate_action_plan.htm

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted
Cathy Hoffman
Assistant Town Administrator