

## Eastport Energy Committee report

10 Dec. 2014

Dear Eastport City Councilors,

The Energy Committee collaborated with Thermal Efficiency: Eastport and the Affordable Heat Consortium to coordinate two new heating retrofit projects in Eastport in the last month, taking advantage of USDA Rural Development grant funds totaling \$11,214 in two homes. This morning the second heat pump was installed and now both home owners are staying warm with the most mechanically efficient heating equipment on the market, converting energy to heat at a ratio of 1:3.5. This was the sixth heat pump installed this season with coordinating support from the Eastport Energy Committee, alongside many other retrofit measures resulting from the energy audit campaign of the Spring.

As for the return on investment, the free brokerage services supported by the Eastport Energy Committee (with a market value of \$1,500) leveraged those \$11,214 for a ratio of 1:7.4. When we take into consideration the heat energy savings that will accrue to participating home owners over the next three years, the leverage look more like 1:9 (!). We must emphasize that this USDA grant program is permanent and ongoing, we are in direct contact with the program director Sean Thibeau in Presque Isle, and we could use it at a much larger scale in Eastport and beyond, and for this effort we ask for the special collaboration of the City.

Meanwhile, the grant application recently submitted to the Maine Technology Institute was turned down. This means that we will use all remaining project resources to go straight towards a for-profit heat coaching business model in which property owners reap the long-term benefits of retrofits coordinated by community-based heat coaches, who act as general contractors receiving a commission from subcontractors selected for the work.

The Energy Committee will continue to collaborate with the Affordable Heat Consortium and the City of Eastport to improve access to better heating options to Eastport residents and business owners.

Cordially yours,



Jon Calame  
Eastport Energy Committee chair