

Energy Initiatives Advisory Committee
Strategic planning meeting minutes (*approved 12/1/16*)
Tuesday, October 18, 7:30 pm
Town Building—Selectmen's Meeting Room

Attendees:

Energy Committee—Anne Harris, Bill Huss, Tom Sciacca, Ellen Tohn,
Associate Members--Mike Staiti, John Harper
Ben Keefe—Public Buildings Director
Wendy Levy—National Grid
Doug Sacra—Maple Hill Architects

Ben Keefe briefed group on ESCO, streetlight and solar projects, all goals set at 2012 strategic planning meeting. John Harper noted that all three of these large projects were done through MAPC group procurements.

Bill Huss led discussion of issues for the Committee to consider as they select initiatives to focus on. The following were determined by the group:

- Town and Committee are short handed
- Issuing our own RFP for any project will be a challenge; utilize MAPC procurements where offered
- Consider middle and lower income residents in particular
- Educate
- Initiatives should have a big carbon reduction
- Time frame should not be too long
- Visibility
- Projects should be a model for other towns
- Develop opportunities to use Green Communities grant request in spring 2017

Ellen Tohn led a brainstorming exercise in which initiatives were discussed and grouped on flip charts with 4 broad headings: Municipal Building projects, Residential initiatives, Municipal levers and Transportation. After discussion each attendee put stickers next to their favored projects. The tally is below:

Top Priorities

1. Community solar on town or commercial property, or contract with developer(12). **Mike, Doug, Wendy are interested in assisting.**
2. Community electricity aggregation; renewable energy as base offering, only if lower price (8).
3. Reducing school bus emissions with lower emission vehicles, incentives to ride buses (8).

4. Town Building energy efficiency improvements via ESCO, grant, or both (7).
5. Electric vehicles: shared use, zip car (6)
6. Efficiency programs for residents; incentives like utility rebates for low HERS ratings, permit discounts for efficiency(4). **Mike and Doug would be interested in this.**
7. Purchase electric vehicles through MAPC group RFP (4).
8. Round 2 of Solarize (4).

Other Ideas Discussed

- Battery storage—approach Eversource for a demo
- Anaerobic digestion at schools
- Gas leaks education or reporting system
- Low flow toilet group buy; pre-order is a certain number of people sign up

ARH 11/2/16