



ESSEX ENERGY COMMITTEE

Covering Town and Village energy needs since 2008

AGENDA:

Wednesday, March 23, 2022 @7:00pm

Municipal Offices, 81 Main Street, Essex Junction, Vermont

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://drm.zoom.us/j/5676278864?pwd=aGt6aWwvWDY0eEovS3NqQmU5S0ZyUT09>

Password: H8gew5

Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +13126266799,5676278864# or +16468769923,5676278864#

ADMINISTRATIVE

- A. Draft Minutes from 02/09/2022
- B. Future of Committee Vis-à-vis Town / Village (Irene)

SUBSTANTIVE

- 1. Working Group Outline / Task Examples (Phil) – see attachment
- 2. Request from Town Planning Commission re: Review of New Regulations (Will)
- 3. Rotary Club Effort re: EWSD and Municipal Solar Projects (Will)
- 4. News from Statehouse (Natalee)
- 5. GWSA Rural Resilience / Adaption Subcommittee Focus Group (03/23) (Will)
- 6. Post-Survey Session for Energy Committees (Multiple)
- 7. Other Business / Date of Next Meeting

Working Groups:

Standing Working Groups: Examples of possible tasks

Weatherization/ heating/cooling Working Group:

1. Residential weatherization
 - a. Continue to work with EVT, VGS, and CVOEO to keep us informed of weatherization incentive programs for low and moderate income VTers. Use this information to update weatherization guide accordingly and to prepare committee for upcoming Button up events
 - b. Continue to measure progress in residential weatherization in Essex by obtaining yearly data from EVT, VGS, and CVOEO
 - c. Determine what ARPA funds are being delivered to EVT for future different weatherization programs
 - d. Plan and organize and plan upcoming weatherization events in Essex (with Ann Janda's assistance)
 - e. Investigate Underhill's pre-audit program and how successful it has been
 - f. Re-examine the age of Essex's housing stock (see Excel spread sheet) to see how useful it may be in identifying homes that most likely require additional weatherization
 - g. Support Ann Janda's efforts in persuading the state to institute an enforceable residential and commercial building energy standard that is regulated by a state inspection and permitting department
2. Municipal building weatherization
 - a. Work with Tom Yandow to continue to retrofit existing municipal buildings
 - b. Understand and assist Tom in identifying potential ARPA-funded weatherization projects
3. Cold climate heat pumps, other heat pumps including heat pump hot water heaters
 - a. Identify the latest incentives offered by EVT and VGS for heat pumps
 - b. Include heat pump promotion in our weatherization events (Button up, etc.)
 - c. Keep up with the latest technology regarding new model heat pumps and what energy savings they offer
 - d. Examine to see if the number of contractors servicing heat pumps is adequate in the Essex region
4. Attend and summarize noteworthy webinars/seminars concerning weatherization/heat pumps
5. Summarize weatherization projects proposed in the state's Climate Action Plan
6. Keep abreast of the state legislative bills supporting weatherization and heat pumps and voice our committee's support for these bills by communication with the legislators involved.
7. Remain vigilant regarding new federal grants for weatherization projects in Essex. Be prepared to organize and write a grant proposal if an opportunity arises.

Transportation Working Group:

1. EV's
 - a. Keep track of all new incentives, including tax breaks, for new EVs (monitor the Drive Electric site)
 - b. Plan and organize EV events (best if done in conjunction with partners) and be prepared to discuss incentives and other benefits with the public
 - c. Be knowledgeable about EV charging ports (types, etc.) so can describe to the public
 - d. Examine what additional EVs could be added/substituted to the town's vehicle fleet
 - e. Survey and assess whether there are sufficient auto mechanics in or around Essex that can service EVs (now and in the future)
2. EV charging stations
 - a. Work with local groups to promote EV charging stations throughout Essex, including those in multi-unit housing developments
3. Be familiar with the revised Transportation Innovation Act and what programs it proposes/how these programs might affect our region
4. Investigate areas where smart housing has happened or is planned and discuss infrastructure of these plans with the appropriate city planners, etc.
5. Remain informed about E-bikes, including E-bike loan programs
6. Be familiar with the current status of bike lanes and pedestrian walkways in Essex
 - a. Interact with Trails Committee
7. Keep tabs on the current 5 corner by-pass proposed by the Essex Junction Planning Commission
8. See items 4, 5, 6, and 7 under 'Weatherization' for relevant seminars, Climate Action Plan proposals, legislative bill support, and potential grant opportunities involving transportation.

Renewable Energy Working Group:

1. Identify obstacles to solar array construction and development for community use in Essex
2. Review pros and cons of different community solar models, including the proposed community solar project in Peacham, VT
3. Identify obstacles to wind turbine development in Essex
4. Plan and organize outreach events and work with commercial partners in organizing and participating in the event.
5. Continue working with Will on establishing a net metering agreement for municipal buildings in Essex
6. Invite Ethan from the South Burlington Energy Committee to discuss the creation of a revolving loan fund utilizing savings derived from a municipal solar project
7. Continue to explore solar development near the Essex dump site
8. See items 4, 5, 6, and 7 under 'Weatherization' for relevant seminars, Climate Action Plan proposals, legislative bill support, and potential grant opportunities involving renewable energy projects.

Special/Temporary Working Groups:

Example:

1. Energy Coordinator working group
 - a. Work with committee to define the appropriate energy coordinator qualities that would best suit Essex
 - b. Explore energy coordinator positions in other Vermont towns
 - c. Draft a job description for the Essex position and present to the general committee; revise as necessary
 - d. Discuss how to present the need for an energy coordinator to the Selectboard

Undoubtedly, there will be other temporary groups that will be needed to examine various short term issues that may be outside the realm of the 3 standing committees. However, having these standing committees with wide-reaching functions eliminates the need for multiple, helter skelter “a la carte” working groups.