

**Regional Energy Committee - Meeting Notes**  
**June 2, 2010**  
**NRPC Office - 7-9pm**

**Attendees**

Guy Palardy, Alburgh  
Bob Buerman, South Hero  
Suzanna Brown, Georgia  
Barclay Morris, Grand Isle  
Roger Lindala, Bakersfield  
Andrea Beaderstadt, Alburgh  
Deb Perry, NRPC

**Welcome and Introductions**

**Update on Energy Audit Program**

- NRPC has received 7 nominations from Grand Isle and 18 nominations from Franklin County. A summary chart was provided to committee members.
- NRPC released a Request for Qualifications and received five proposals. One was three days late and was not considered. Another was reviewed and not selected due to the quality of the sample report provided. The three contractors that were selected to perform audits were Ashton Thermal, Montpelier Construction and TCorp.
  - The NRPC is currently drafting contracts. The contract will include which buildings is assigned to each firm. The firms will also be provided with the forms completed by the municipalities about each building.
  - Audits are expected to begin within two weeks. The representative assigned by the town for each building will be contacted to set up a time for the audit.
- Efficiency Vermont has begun the process of conducting lighting walkthroughs in buildings with the greatest potential. These recommendations will be provided to the auditors and included in the final report that is provided to the municipality.
- The cost of audits came in lower than expected and NRPC expects to be able to fund audits for additional buildings in both Franklin and Grand Isle Counties. The Committee discussed how we can solicit additional nominations. Deb will write an article for the regional newsletter and local newspapers about the program and the buildings that have been selected.
- Energy committee members should continue promoting the audit program and send potential buildings to Deb.

**Schedule for updating Regional Energy Chapter**

- Deb distributed copies of the energy chapter of the regional plan.
- Committee members made the following suggestions for revisions:
  - the plan should discuss the existence and roles of regional and local energy committees
  - the goals and policies should be revised to provide more guidance for the policy/project review committee
  - the plan should highlight innovative ways to conserve energy
- Deb will send committee members examples of other regional plan energy chapters
- The regional energy fair will provide a forum for getting public input
- NRPC should consider ways to involve children as a way to get public involvement. This might include childcare at the energy fair or a program in schools
- NRPC should consider hosting a discussion panel with representatives from communities that have gone through energy development projects
- NRPC could host a cable TV program to educate the public

- A rough timeline for updating the chapter would be public input in fall 2010, data updates in spring 2011, and finished chapter by summer 2011.
- The plan could be revised to include indicators that would allow the RPC to track our success in achieving energy conservation and renewable energy generation
- The current plan has information about electric generation and about heating fuel consumption but lacks good information about electrical consumption. Some of this data may become available as smart grid technology and smart meters get deployed.
- The plan should include an analysis of current housing stock and how this effects energy programs

### **Planning Regional Energy Conference**

- The NRPC has grant funds to coordinate a regional energy fair or conference, tentatively scheduled for the fall of 2010
- Original concept was to do an event similar to one hosted annually by NVDA. This is a big event that includes a tradeshow and exhibits and a full day of workshops on a Saturday in the spring, hosted at Lyndon State.
- Another option is to partner with another event, such as the Home Show, in order to reach an audience that might not usually show up for an energy conference
  - one potential downside is that the Home Show charges and admission and this event may not help us get in touch with lower income residents or seniors
  - the Home Show already includes a lot of energy vendors, however the vendors are scattered about. We could potentially sponsor an “energy block” at the event
  - energy vendors may not be reaching their target audience at the Home Show as there are many competing interests
- The regional energy fair could include a tour of local renewable energy systems
- NRPC could help bring a notable speaker to the area
- The event might attract more people if there were events for children
- NRPC could partner with other non-profit organizations that are offering heating or weatherization assistance
- In addition to the larger event, the NRPC should also consider helping to organize smaller local events. This might include developing a “workshop in a box” that towns could host or providing a display that could go to farmers markets, town meetings, etc. Doing a series of smaller events could help to publicize the larger event.
- NRPC staff are available to help coordinate public outreach efforts, but will need to rely on experts be the workshop presenters, speakers, etc.

### **Updates Re: Energy Efficiency in Transportation**

- A portion of the energy grants are going to promote energy efficiency in transportation. The energy committee will be updated periodically about these projects. Currently, the NRPC is working on the following:
  - Safe Routes to Schools: The Safe Routes to Schools Program is a national program that seeks to encourage students to walk or bike to school. This includes building the necessary sidewalks and bike paths, having promotional events, and ensuring public safety using signs, crossing guards, traffic control, etc. The NRPC has funds to expand this program in the region and is currently seeking interested schools. So far St. Albans Town Education Center and St. Albans City Elementary have expressed interest. Energy committee members should talk to Deb if they know of other schools that might be interested.
  - Way to Go Commuter Challenge: Way to Go is a week-long event that promotes alternative forms of commuting to work. This year the event was the week of May 17<sup>th</sup>. The NRPC in close cooperation with GMTA and state partners helped to promote the event in the region. This included newspaper articles and ads, offering prizes, filming a cable TV program, and printing promotional bags. There are funds to continue these promotions for the next 3 years.

- A suggestion was made that this effort should be more inclusive of Georgia, where many residents read the Milton newspaper and have Milton zip codes.
- In future years, the NRPC should consider reaching out to the HR roundtable coordinated by the WIB.
- Park and Ride Assessments: NRPC has funding to evaluate potential locations for Park and Ride lots. This can include both formal and informal lots. If any municipalities have ideas for lots that should be assessed, please contact Deb.

### **Topics for Future Meetings**

- The next meeting will be in late summer. Deb will send out a request for available dates. The agenda will include an update on energy audits, review of background sections of renewable energy report, and further discussion of renewable energy fair.

### **Other Announcements**

- The Central Vermont Community Action Council is offering a weatherization “skillshop” for do-it-yourselfers who want to learn about to improve the efficiency of their home. The workshop will be offered in St. Albans on October 2<sup>nd</sup> and will cost \$150. More information is available at [www.weatherizationskillshop.com](http://www.weatherizationskillshop.com)