

Meeting called to order at 6:31 PM

In attendance:

Staff: Marlena Valenta and Emily Klofft

Committee Members: Dan Seeley, Barclay Morris, Bob Buermann, Peter Zamore, Al Voegele, Bill Irwin, Matthew LaFluer

Guest: Michelle McCutcheon-Schour (Efficiency Vermont)

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Presentation and Conversation with Michelle McCutcheon-Schour from Efficiency Vermont

M. McCutcheon-Schour is the Community Engagement Manager for Efficiency Vermont and attended the meeting in order to give a general overview of their incentive programs, projects, and challenges and answer questions from committee members. They have incentives, low or no interest financing for efficiency projects, and assistance for residents to navigate these projects. They are also offering flood recovery assistance after flooding damage sustained earlier this year.

M. LaFluer asks about the frequency of the surveys EVT does to keep track of their impact in communities. He stresses the importance of relevant, accurate, and recent data. M. McCutcheon-Schour responds that they do a residential survey every year, they also provide yearly data to RPCs on the stats of their programs like number of projects done and energy savings. B. Irwin asks if there is data on the percentage of Vermont residents/businesses use EVT's programs. M. McCutcheon-Schour notes that while they have total number of projects done but the percentages are difficult due to difficulty of getting an accurate read on total residential units and commercial units. Older residents and homeowners are the most likely to utilize their incentives, young people and renters are less likely. These are groups m. McCutcheon-Schour is hoping to reach more in the coming year. M. Valenta notes that she can send around the report from last year so everyone can get more detailed info on uptake in our region.

P. Zamore asks how EVT is funded. M. McCutcheon-Schour explains they're funded by two streams, the Energy Efficiency Electricity Charge on everyone's energy bill throughout the state (except Burlington) which makes up the majority of their funding, and some smaller pots of money for weatherization and other initiatives. P. Zamore is glad to see their value being recognized by other organizations. B. Morris asks about the barrier of replacing heating systems preemptively due to cost. M. McCutcheon-Schour notes that EVT needs to meet a certain threshold of kWh saved per dollar. Residential projects do not tend to be very cost effective, and while they are required and happy to provide residential projects, they are required not to overspend and this limits residential programs.

A. Voegele asks about smart metering, will it be coming soon? Why isn't it being implemented? M. McCutcheon-Schour notes that smart metering has a large installation cost and requires relatively high

quality broadband, but there is a great deal of interest in smart monitoring and is being discussed at the state level. She also notes that these things tend to happen on the commercial scale first, so that will most likely come first. B. Buermann notes that he was part of a smart meter pilot but it hasn't been expanded.

B. Irwin asks about balancing increasing electric use and slow increases in clean energy generation, and notes that perhaps a person from the PSD could come and speak to this. M. Valenta agrees and suggests a line of guest speakers in the new year.

M. McCutcheon-Schour notes that EVT's energy burden report can be a really helpful source of data, especially the table that shows the reduction of energy burden specific actions can have. She also notes that workforce is one of the largest barriers to implementation of goals. They provide a lot of support in workforce development, which includes being sensitive to culture in workplaces and making that more comfortable for diverse people including women, people of color, and immigrants.

B. Morris asks about the snowball effect of needing certain upgrades before being able to implement efficient technologies. M. McCutcheon-Schour there is a discussion at the state level to create incentives for panel upgrades as this is often a huge cost barrier to residents.

Everyone thanks M. McCutcheon-Schour for her insight and attendance.

Review Draft Generation Targets

M. Valenta presents draft generation targets for 2050. She notes some of the issues with the old targets, which include an unrealistically high target for wind and lacks any target for generation. E. Klofft and M. Valenta worked on calculating new targets which included a new biodigester target and brought the wind and hydro targets to a more realistic level. They took the average generation of each type of system, the approximate number of potential sites in the region, and used those to create the targets. Solar was calculated to make up the rest of the required generation as it has made up the vast majority of development to date and will most likely continue to. B. Irwin asks about how to encourage significantly smaller development sizes. M. Valenta notes that this is something that can be added to the plan, and is something that was highly considered in these calculations. Rooftop solar is of interest, and E. Klofft mentions that rooftop solar capacity is being mapped at the state level so there might be some movement in the incentivization of rooftop or over parking lot solar.

B. Morris notes an interesting opinion article in VT Digger about a proposed two way line between Canada and Vermont that could serve as a form of storage for our energy. E. Klofft mentions an interesting presentation for the PUC about alternative storage technologies. M. Valenta will send out both the article and presentation in the follow up packet.

Approval of Minutes from October

B. Irwin motions to approve minutes, B. Morris seconds. Passes unanimously.

Adjourn

B. Irwin motions, B. Buermann seconds. Meeting adjourns at 8:11 PM.