



Energy Committee

Town of Hinesburg
10632 Route 116 Hinesburg VT 05461
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Meeting Date: Thursday August 3rd, 2023 – 7-9PM

Location: Town Hall, 3rd Floor or Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81944391939?pwd=TUZYNnRwRXNsaTJmZlArN1VndVJYQT09>

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Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/kdPzbHttUb>

Agenda:

1. **Call to Order**
2. **Additions to agenda:** added update re landfill solar project (to 5 below)
3. **Review past meeting minutes-** minor edits (add program links) **approved**
4. **Public Comment**
5. **Town Energy Baseline and Tracking**
 - a. General: 3 sectors Electricity (Use & Generation; GMP&VEC), Thermal (heating), Transportation (gallons/\$, miles traveled, asset types)
 - b. municipal buildings include: Town Hall, Fire Department, Police Department, Town Garage, should reach out to schools too as major public institutions (maybe library as well?)- precedent includes Montpelier's NetZero Action Plan (schools ended up being priority tasks), build relationships
 - c. First step is to get accounts from town, elementary and highschool too if interested, we could then think about how to host and share data- e.g. quarterly use by each building plus highlights of impacts of implementation actions
 - d. Use→ BTUS but not particularly legible to broader community so ensure costs and rates included always as well
 - e. Next Steps: Talk to Heather (action item for Chuck)
 - f. **Shelburne Falls/Lagoon Rd- credit accounting**
 - i. Mike will talk to Heather (including spreadsheet source?); put VEC in touch with possible folks who might take excess credits this year (Lantmans?)

- ii. Next Steps meeting with Norwich, revise allocations to max benefits to all parties involved, Josh will look into PUC rulings re limitations (multiple parties per account allowed (vs size limit)
- iii. Action Item: small blurbs on each generation project (location, type&scale, manager/partners, demand served,)-
- iv. Future: how can we track these better and more clearly? Part of Baseline & Tracking effort

g. Landfill Solar Project: still looking for offtaker so considering modified community solar program... would like to take a look at offering documents. We support landfill as preferred site, good faith ask to Peter to prioritize those who were signed up in future projects, would love to have a site visit during construction and could organize something with broader community re education and outreach, but logistics/admin was passed on and worry about mixed messaging to folks.

6. Grant Programs (next steps and form recommendations)

- a. [Municipal Energy Resilience Program](#)
 - i. Community Mini-grants (brainstorm \$4k mini-grant ideas- equipment excluded)
 - 1. lots of ideas depends on what Hinesburg needs/wants, we have some time lets dig into energy plan and come up with something? Also hear loud and clear need to support residential weatherization and navigation re incentives so could think about energy fair, energy office hours w/ demos, WindowDressers, or the like
 - ii. Municipal Building Energy Assessment Applications (makes eligible for \$500k implementation grants and municipal energy loan program)- Todd applied for Town Hall, discussed that we would like to maximize eligibility to SEMP program (extremely low interest loan for other projects that received level II assessment regardless of if funded by implementation funds) and talk to Todd about applying for other buildings (Sam)
- b. [Vermont Community EV Chargers](#) (additional opportunities [here](#))
 - i. Town Hall/Park&Ride, Elementary School, Town Forest, Lantmans, Library, who might be interested?
 - ii. sent to Economic Development committee?
- c. Consider drafting proposal to Selectboard on applications/actions (akin to a workplan?):
 - i. Level II Assessments all town owned buildings
 - ii. EVSE charging
 - iii. what else?
 - 1. review actions in energy plan, review replacement schedules, capital investment plans, etc

7. Residential Weatherization Resources/Programs

- a. Susan Miner joined committee to discuss her proposal: Hinesburg for Humanity:

- i. Committee deeply appreciates championing of residential weatherization (see below), want to make sure we help residents navigate existing resources and programs (there are many) and then work to address gaps/barriers

- 1. pulled up housing data (age of housing stock)- ACS

Built:	2019-2010	2009-2000	1990-1990	1989-1980	1979-1970	1969-1960	1959-1950	1949-1940	1939 or earlier
%houses	3.5%	12.4%	20.5%	22.2%	17.3%	4.4%	3.3%	0%	16.5%

- ii. Suggested possible next steps could include joint meeting with housing committee, habitat for humanity, and CCRPC or others for support to focus service/asks
 - iii. Chuck provided outline of Zero Energy Now program, Sam provided summary of other existing income-based incentives and programs: WindowDressers, CVOEO (Community Action Agencies), Efficiency Vermont standard programs plus flood recovery stack, DU specific programs, models from other Town Energy Committees include revolving loan funds/community trusts to cover upfront costs/gap with incentives/rebates/reimbursement, etc
 - iv. see need for workshops/office hours from tax incentives, to programs, to access 1:1 walkthroughs
 - v. note connections to conversation re Residential Buildings Energy Standards (current study launched Energy Futures Group), also connect to Passive House folks (e.g. Middlesex Energy Committee)

- b. Needs Assessment

8. Next Meeting

9. Adjourn
