

REAC Meeting March 17, 2016

Attendees:

Kimberly

Andy

Pete Lafond

Pete D

Cathy – note taker

Denny Gallaudet – From Cumberland, a member of the Climate Action Team of Sierra Club

The team has 5 members.. Their goal is carbon reduction. Want to reduce the town's carbon foot print by 50%.

Cumberland's energy committee is similar to REAC but not as productive and has disbanded, nothing to work on

Solar Testimony done by Kimberly and Peter L

100 were in support, 2 against. Good turn out thanks to NRCM, school kids.

Next steps: Tues-Thursday will be working on a plan to pass the bill. New policy proposing that the compensation will be in dollar amount not KW so you can off set all of it. With net metering, only a small unit could be built.

Belfast has a small 120Kw project.

There is hope. Governor supports the electric vehicle infrastructure

Kimberly showed a map of the solar panels on the landfill:

Would produce 25% of all the municipal energy load

1,125,000Kw hours of energy

Will install a "3-Phase" near the road for \$10,000.

Life span of panels, warranty is 20 years. Usually they cost is paid off by then and then it's free power. Financial models still need to be completed

The 30% tax credit cannot be claimed by the town so a private entity has to do it and Falmouth buys the energy from them.

Not much maintenance, just need to mow grass.

Did CMP lobby for a new limit? No

660kW was the limit as it was what the first wind mill generated

Taking the solar system off the grid would be very difficult. battery storage a problem

Compost Collection

Decided that our next big project should be curb-side compost pick up.

Andy will talk to Nathan about the status, obstacles, and see what REAC can do.

Issue is the cost.

Casella has a system where compost is picked up weekly and the other side of the truck alternated between recycling and trash.

Once Nathan gets more data, he'll ask REAC to help out.

Other limitation is space at ecomaine.

Casella may not have any facilities for processing compost.

Kimberly said she heard residents worry about no lids on recyclables.

Andy's idea is to put the yellow trash bags directly on top the blue recycle totes.

Waiting 2 weeks may not be reasonable for recyclables as generation is high.

Bigger cans? 4,000 home est.

GrowSmart Energy Panel

Kimberly and Larry Pritchett will be presenting at 8:30 am +++

New Members?

Maybe Jed will come back.

Get high school students. **Kimberly will reach out**

Find Marcus – young man who proposed installing small groups, family-owned panels

Energy Plan Update:

Kimberly added street lights to inventory so they can convert to LEDs. Town Mgr has been pushing a bill to own, not rent them. Proposals in place, interviews coming. Time consuming to calculate energy volumes/costs from all the bills.

Need to update Town Council on revised Energy Plan before presenting to school board.

Some of the lights are 30 years old. Not efficient. CMPs charges for use of their street lights.

Bids reflect financing, swap out, maintenance

Bag Ordinance

Goes into effect in a few weeks

Feedback

Sent letters to big 6 stores. No response. Other than Dunkin Donuts, and Kim discussed eliminating styrene. Shaws is ready. Walmart has never done this in Maine. Goodwill wanted to get rid of all bags, but is ready to implement fee.

Bag Giveaway before Ordinance starts

200 bags to give out.

Forecaster

Article will go out next week. General discussion about the ordinance

Outreach/Education ideas

Other

Take a tour of school wood boiler. Maybe instead of the monthly meeting

Denny spoke about Cumberland's energy usage. Challenge is number of cars used. Want to add electronic charging stations. Natural gas pipeline runs down Tuttle Rd to town municipalities and schools.