

Energy Task Force (ETF)

The charge of the Task Force will be to explore and evaluate renewable energy to supplement or replace conventional energy to benefit town facilities, infrastructure and operations; to evaluate renewable and conventional energy applications, options and costs with a goal to reduce the town's energy consumption and costs; to identify attractive and feasible projects; to advise and assist the town in development and implementation of a local action plan for climate change; and to report to the Town Manager, for presentation to the Select Board, your findings and recommendations for funding and implementation.

Minutes of the meeting of March 14, 2008

Members present: Andrea Chasen, John Hoagland, Dean Kavanagh, Dick Kmetz, Jerry Nolet and Roger Wojcik

Members Absent: Paul Santaniello

In the Gallery: No one

Andrea Chasen was introduced to the group as the newest member of the Task Force. Her considerable relevant background and enthusiasm for "green" work is very welcome!

Old Business:

Status of the work to define a demo solar powered security lighting system for Glenbrook.

Jeff Clearwater of Village Power Design presented and reviewed in detail his proposal for installing a 9.8kw solar/PV system on the roof of Glenbrook Middle School or the High School and provided specific information for options for larger systems. Some of the specific points of the discussion:

Rule of thumb - expect to spend about \$8/watt of installed capacity.

All solar/PV systems up to 500kw in size are now automatically rebated by the MTC, with the rebate dollars available about 60 days after inspection of the newly installed facility.

Jeff's proposal includes all engineering and technical support for installation. An ongoing technical assistance contract is not needed.

Village Power Design has experience with the specific hardware proposed.

A CO2 benefit (i.e. saleable credits) comes with the product.

Equipment warranties for the system are from 10-25 years.

A 10 minute PowerPoint presentation on solar/PV arrays is available on the subject.

A performance contract, which is a buy-now-pay-later arrangement, could be developed for this system.

If a fixed (versus floating) mounting system is needed they may be an added cost.

The installed array is sealed in tempered glass and safe from an electrical perspective.

Next steps:

Do due diligence on the contract.

Select the building on which to install the array, and then get Thom Martens to provide Jeff Clearwater with roof loading information for that building.

Study purchase versus performance contract funding options. Check with Jim Christo at MTC.

Secure risk money for engineering time by Village Power.

New Business:

Task Force members were provided with a copy of their revised charge from the Town Manager. (See above.) The principle change is the addition of a request to advise and assist the town in the development and implementation of a local action plan for climate change. This local action plan is part of ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and a part of the town's future work.

Roger Wojcik pointed out that there is a newly created blog for green issues & Longmeadow.... <http://greenlongmeadowgreen.blogspot.com/> if anyone would like to write for it, post, or send pictures, let Becky Townsend know! "The more the merrier!" This blog site is an opportunity to publish information about our Energy Task Force work and obtain reader feedback on and input to the town's Green program.

Minutes submitted by Roger Wojcik.