

**Sudbury, MA, Energy and Sustainability Green Ribbon Committee  
Meeting Minutes December 22, 2009**

**OPENING:**

The off-cycle meeting of the Energy and Sustainability Green Ribbon Committee was opened by Chairman Bill Braun at 7:50 P.M. on December 22, 2009 at the Town of Sudbury DPW Building Conference Room.

**ATTENDANCE:**

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Attending</b>
Rami Alwan	
Jeffrey S. Beeler, Vice Chairman, Sudbury School Committee	X
William G. Braun – Chairman	X
Robert C. Haarde	X
Dean Holden	X
Edward Lewis	X
Robert Morrison	X
Mark Sevier	X
Michael E. Melnick, Co-Chairman, Sudbury Permanent Building Committee	X
<b>Building Inspector, Town of Sudbury</b>	
James Kelly	X

**Meeting Agenda:**

- The meeting was scheduled as an off cycle meeting for the specific purpose of addressing the Solar Renewal Energy Credits (SREC) that become available as part of the Solar Carve-out of the Massachusetts Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) after January 1, 2010. The expected floor value for the forthcoming S-REC auction is \$0.30 per KWH. There is pent up demand for the programs' 2010 allocation of 25 megawatts. Use of these credits would improve the return on investment of photovoltaic systems. Based upon a vendor submitted analysis, payback would be eight years. This analysis is currently being reviewed by the committee.

**Meeting Minutes:**

- Minutes from the December 10, 2009 were in the process of being completed.

**Stretch Code Adoption**

- Bill Braun reported on this issue and reported that the December 15, 2009 Public Meeting was cancelled upon directions from the BBRS. BBRS is reviewing the issue of the authority of the BBRS to grant approval of the Stretch Code by the Board of Selectmen after review of Town Counsel's review of the enabling legislation.

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**Solar Renewal Energy Credits (SREC) Discussion**

- Bob Haarde had previously distributed proposals from Borrego Solar and SolSolution. Borrego Solar has a local office in Lowell. Borrego's proposal included the schools as well as the landfill. He explained that in order to be eligible for the SREC credits either a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) must be prepared seeking Solar firms or a Letter of Intent (LOI) issued to a designated firm.

It was decided in the interest of the community that Sudbury would investigate the development of an RFQ for a potential photovoltaic project.

- Discussion ensued regarding the advantages and disadvantages of the Town engaging into a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) or owning the installation. In a sample PPA project, the installation is furnished, installed and owned and operated by the vendor for 20 years and the town purchases the electricity generated from the vendor. The value of the S-RECs and tax credits accrue to the vendor. The town would purchase the project at the end of year 20 for 20% of its initial installation values. Under the ownership process, the Town would be required to fund the initial installation and benefit from the full energy savings.

Bill Braun suggested that a representative from Borrego meet with the committee and review and discuss the advantages and disadvantages of their sample PPA or ownership issues.

Bob Haarde to contact Borrego to arrange attending a meeting as soon as possible.

**School Roof PV Systems**

- Borrego's proposal included placing PV systems on the roof of each Sudbury Public School, Lincoln Sudbury Regional High School, the DPW building as well as the Landfill site.
- Discussion ensued regarding the issues of adding additional roof loading to the existing school buildings. It was reported that the additional loading would be 5 to 7 pounds per square foot. Prior to proceeding with PV systems on building roofs, a structural analysis would be required to determine if the capacity is available.
- Mike Melnick informed the Committee that the older school roofs were designed only to the minimum Building Code requirements of 30 psf snow loading when constructed. The current building code requires 40 psf snow loading plus the additional snow loading from drifting snow.

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- Mike Melnick also informed that the Permanent Building Committee is embarking on a roof evaluation study for the Nixon and Noyes Schools roofs. These old roof systems are near the end of their useful life and the study would allow the Town to anticipate when the roofs would require replacement and plan for funding the replacements in advance.

Bob Haarde requested that the PBC evaluation also include a structural review in order to determine the capacity of the roofs to support PV systems. Mike Melnick advised that it would be added to the evaluation study.

It was noted that should PV systems be installed on the School Roofs and the roof required replacement, there would be a significant added cost to remove the PV system, replace the roofing and then re-installing the PV system.

- Due to the number of issues relating to the installation of PV systems on existing roofs, including conducting the structural review process, it was decided not to pursue the installation of PV systems on school roofs under the SREC program at this time.

**Landfill PV System**

- The Committee decided to pursue the only the installation of a PV system at the landfill site under the SREC program at this time.
- Discussions occurred regarding the issues related to installing a PV system at the landfill resulted in the following action items.
  - Committee to generate RFQ to solicit PV firms to submit proposals and qualifications for the Landfill project
  - Jeff Beeler to contact Town Manager to determine if an RFQ can be issued without funding allocated for the project.
  - Committee to coordinate with the Town of Wayland landfill to determine joint interest in the project.
  - Issues of PPA or Town Funding for the project to be addressed.
  - Point of Use issue to be addressed for Landfill site.
  - Town to earmark Town Meeting Article for PV installation at Landfill site.

**Other Issues**

- Dean Holden suggested that the Committee develop long term goals rather than being driven to respond to immediate funding opportunities. Issue to be discussed during next meeting.
- Bill Braun advised that a seminar on energy uses of capped landfills is scheduled in western Massachusetts on January 19<sup>th</sup>

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- Jeff Beeler to prepare Town Report on the activities of the Committee
- Dean Holden to develop listing of pros and cons for adopting the Stretch Energy Code.

**Next Meeting:**

- January 7, 2010 at 7:30, DPW Building Conference Room

**ADJOURNMENT:**

- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:40 P.M.

*Minutes submitted by: Mike Melnick, 28 December 2009*