

**Sudbury, MA, Energy and Sustainability Green Ribbon Committee  
Meeting Minutes November 12, 2009**

**OPENING:**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Energy and Sustainability Green Ribbon Committee was opened by Chairman Bill Braun at 7:30 P.M. on November 12, 2009 at the Town of Sudbury DPW Building Conference Room.

**ATTENDANCE:**

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Attending</b>
Rami Alwan	X
Jeffrey S. Beeler, Vice-Chairman of 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
<b>Others in Attendance</b>	
James Kelly, Building Inspector, Town of Sudbury	X
Jody Kablack, Planning Director, Town of Sudbury	X
Joanne Bissetta, Green Communities Coordinator, MA DOER	X
Felipe Schwarz, Green Communities Assistance, VHB	X
Alyssa Sandoval, Green Communities Assistance, VHB	X

**Green Communities Planning Assistant:**

The meeting began with introductions of committee members and Green Communities (heretofore GreCom) planning assistants (VHB & MA DOER), and moved directly into presentation slides describing GreCom criteria including a review of Sudbury’s status, as far as committee members were aware.

Started review of presentation materials:

GreCom is a hub for energy issues; all 5 criteria must be met to be a GreCom:

Question: Where is the money coming from, and will it get pulled after people get going down this road? (Dean / Bill)

Answer: Funds are set aside from RGGI auctions (\$10M/yr), Actual outlay of funds to be flexible to be able to accommodate different energy related projects from conservation to solar. (Joanne)

Question: How does a community get certified as a GreCom? (Bill)

Answer: VHB will assist with action or work plan on 5 criteria, and submit plan along with GreCom application to State (Felipe / Joanne)

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Felipe resumed discussion of presentation slides with a summary of VHB assistance (slides 6 & 7), which is 'strategic guidance', not producing documents or actions for GreCom. VHB to provide up to 100 hrs of services, facilitate understanding of different GreCom criteria and metrics, and development of action plan. VHB is not authorized to complete actual steps required to meet criteria.

Slide 8 discussed the advantages of being a GreCom – save energy / money, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, recognition / sustainability leader, and access to grants.

Felipe continued with a review of Sudbury's circumstance in relation to the criteria:

Criteria #1: As-of-Right Siting. Sudbury has an existing by-law that addresses as-of-right siting for R&D & manufacturing. Felipe suggested that Sudbury should consider where renewable energy generation sites might go, and while it isn't necessary to have generation locations, an explanation of why none are possible will be necessary. There was a suggestion that generation might go in the manufacturing / R&D / commercial zones. Felipe believed that no changes in Sudbury's bylaws would be necessary to meet this criterion.

Criteria #2: Expedited permitting. Jody described that all permitting is completed within 120 days, unless there is a desire / need for extension from either party to complete necessary components, which is usually mutual agreeable. It was thought that the existing by-law may meet this criteria, in that the selectmen cannot deny permits.

Criteria #3: Energy Baseline & reduction plan. Data collection started back in 2005, and is on-going. "Level 1", i.e., preliminary, energy audits were recently completed for a significant number of town buildings. The question came up as to when the baseline would start (for the 20% reduction plan), in light of the on-going efforts of the town and school department's past efforts on reducing consumption / costs. Committee members recommended either using a baseline from several years ago (to avoid penalizing the town based on previous efficiency efforts), or using a 'benchmark' system, as opposed to a % reduction system. Joann reported that other towns asked the same question and face the same issue; she will raise the question of satisfying the criterion via benchmarks, but that the statute mandates the 20% reduction. Joann mentioned that renewable energy installations could count toward the 20% goal. The question was raised as to whether the schools could / should be included, and the answer was that if the buildings were in Sudbury, they are included (specifically related to LSRHS).

Action item: Energy information will be sent to VHB by Jim Kelly

Criteria #4: Purchase of Efficient Vehicles. VHB requested a vehicle inventory as a starting point. Joann described that emergency response vehicles are exempt, as long as they are used in that role, but if they are 'handed-down', they must then comply with the efficient vehicle criteria. It was noted that the mileage thresholds allowed many different types of vehicles (not all hybrids). It was also mentioned that leased vehicles aren't considered, nor are personal vehicles used for town vehicles.

VHB will provide a vehicle inventory data input form to Jim

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Criteria #5: Minimize life-cycle cost in energy construction. Felipe described the need for using the ‘Stretch’ code, but Jim noted that the ‘Stretch’ code is not required, and life-cycle costing could be used instead. The committee has already arranged to meet with the Board of Selectman on Nov 17 to discuss the Stretch code adoption. There was a lengthy discussion about how that meeting might go, and what would be required to adopt the Stretch code, but no one in the room had a definitive answer. Jim has been informally polling builders about the Stretch code, and they apparently aren’t familiar with it, and are also not excited about it, but seem to realize it’s coming. Jim expressed interest in the life-cycle cost approach. Committee members advised that adopting Stretch Code will be the simplest path to satisfy Criterion #5 and that life cycle cost analysis will be complicated. Joann mentioned that there would be training available for building officials and builders. Felipe mentioned that the typical resistance to the Stretch code was for up-front costs, and for renovations. While the Stretch code seems like a no-brainer from an energy efficiency standpoint, Bill wanted to know if there were any ‘gotchas’ with the Stretch code (especially renovations) that should be known before being brought before the selectmen. Aside from an anecdotal mention of a conversation with a builder who thought adoption of the Stretch code would add 30% to the cost a renovation, no one knew of ‘gotchas’, and it was generally thought that with the pending adoption of IECC 2009, Stretch code efficiency criteria were coming one way or another. Bill suggested that VHB could provide cost / efficiency / life cycle information for a 4,000 SF new house, and 1,200 SF renovation / addition.

Felipe discussed schedule, and mentioned that VHB is on board for an estimated 90 days. VHB’s goal would be to have a draft ‘action plan’ in January, with goal for February completion.

Bill mentioned that the next 90 days tend to be harder to get things done, for the holidays, other committee activities, budget preparation, etc. Bill then summarized the apparent favorable position of Sudbury in relation to the 5 criteria...

Felipe, Alyssa, and Joann asked if there were any questions before their departure. Bill requested templates / policies from VHB on GreCom criteria. Felipe, Alyssa, and Joann departed at 10 pm.

**Other business:**

Stretch Code discussion at Selectman’s Meeting:

Jim asked who was going to the Selectman’s meeting to discuss Stretch code. Bill and Jim were scheduled, Rami and Dean offered to go, Ed and Mark were also able to attend.

To clarify the committee’s position, Bill moved that the Green Ribbon Committee would recommend adoption of the Stretch Code to the Selectmen, and it passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes on website:

Jody requested meeting minutes of Jim, which had yet to be posted on the website. Past minutes were all approved for posting with their most recent state of comments / revisions.

Fairbanks project:

Bob had put together EECEBG package for review / comments from the group, and was waiting to hear from Mike Melnick, otherwise ready to go to Jim / Maureen for submission by town

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officials. Good work, Bob. Note: Mike responded with information for Appendix F and G, which were incorporated in the document emailed to the committee prior to the meeting. Post meeting note: Jim has requested documentation from the historical commission approving the project as per the solicitation's requirements. Once that's received, the grant will be ready for execution by the Town Manager and submission to DOER.

Noyes Solar:

Clean energy choice fund / project is going for bid, through Mary, who knows the deadline is by the end of the month.

High Performance Buildings Grant:

Rami is working on it, will request help as needed.

Energy Baseline (GreCom):

Jim asked what he should send. Bob suggested sending the more detailed version with monthly breakout. Bill proposed using a 3-yr average, since the process is somewhat undefined at this point. It was mentioned that the state will need to distribute \$8M by June '10, so getting in early with a reasonable approach will probably work.

Streetlights:

Jim was to meet Friday to discuss. 9 month payback to relamp streetlights. Jim noted that the re-lamping with high pressure sodium would change the color / quality of lighting and suggested committee members go look at the more yellow looking lights to get an idea of what it will look like (the town currently has a mixture of types). Rami expressed concern that the high pressure sodium technology is on it's way out. It was mentioned that it will probably make sense to relamp the town again in 4-5 yrs, with the advent of LEDs (which are currently cost prohibitive).

Transfer Station Solar:

Jim mentioned that Wayland residents had gotten a proposal for solar at the transfer station. Jim thought the Sudbury and Wayland energy committees should convene to discuss options.

Presentation Co-sponsor:

Dean asked if the committee wanted to be listed as a co-sponsor with Sustainable Sudbury on the upcoming energy / efficiency presentation (Paul Eldrenkamp?). The committee agreed.

Next Meeting:

- December 10, 2009 at 7:30, DPW Building Conference Room

ADJOURNMENT:

- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:30 P.M.

*Minutes submitted by: Mark Sevier, 14 November 2009*