

**Sudbury, MA, Energy and Sustainability Green Ribbon Committee
Meeting Minutes March 3, 2011**

OPENING:

The March 3rd, 2011 meeting of Sudbury’s *Energy and Sustainability Green Ribbon Committee* was opened by Chairman Bill Braun at 7:30 p.m. in the DPW Building conference room.

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members	Attending
Rami Alwan	
Jeffrey S. Beeler, Vice Chairman, Sudbury School Committee	
William G. Braun – Chairman, Energy and Sustainability Green Ribbon Committee	X
Jennifer Dudgeon	
Dean Holden	X
Edward Lewis	X
Robert Morrison	X
Mark Sevier	X
Michael E. Melnick, Co-Chairman, Sudbury Permanent Building Committee	
Building Inspector, Town of Sudbury	
James Kelly	X
Guests	
Kurt Reiss – Sudbury Resident	X

Agenda:

1. Landfill solar update & next steps
2. MAPC update
3. Solarize MA
4. Green Community projects status
5. Noyes Project Update
6. EECBG update
7. Review and approval of meeting minutes
8. Other Business

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1. Landfill solar update & next steps

Bill Braun, Jim Kelly and town officials met with Mass DEP representatives to discuss potential use of Sudbury's closed and capped landfill for renewable energy purposes. Specifically the purpose of this meeting was to determine the process for and feasibility of obtaining a *Post Closure Use Permit* for a large scale solar array situated on the landfill.

The meeting was positive and productive with the Mass DEP supporting Sudbury's desire to reduce municipal energy costs and carbon footprint and increase the states' installed base of solar arrays in an environmentally friendly manner.

DEP requirements for the *Post Closure Use Permit* include sample test borings and percolation tests of the landfill cap, and a high level design concept / plan for the solar array.

For the solar array both non-penetrating rack mounted polysilicon panels and surface mount nanocrystalline thin film photovoltaics were discussed. Both provide strong alternatives and the committee believes industry best practices, cost, warranty and PPA vendor experience will factor significantly into the ultimate choice.

The committee believes it would be beneficial for the town to obtain the *Post Closure Use Permit* to mitigate risk and allow town officials an enhanced negotiating position for a more cost beneficial PPA contract.

ACTIONS:

MA DEP has some very helpful reference material regarding renewable energy installations on capped landfills on their website - the Energy Committee has been tasked to review to better understand the process and procedures.

Bill to circulate public information obtained from Lancaster to better understand lessons learned from their work / evaluations on a similar project.

Bill & Jim to investigate town information currently available that would help meet the DEP reporting requirements.

2. MAPC update

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) has announced the launch of three new energy-related technical assistance programs.

These include:

- regional procurement of an Energy Services Company (ESCO)
- regional procurement of a renewable energy preliminary site analysis firm
- regional energy manager/circuit rider

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The Committee feels this could be beneficial to the Town's Energy mission and there is no cost to participate in the program. The town would be responsible for the cost of any services they may wish to purchase under the regional contracts. These would be purchased thru the town's standard budgeting and procurement processes.

Jennifer Dudgeon drafted applications for Sudbury's participation in the MAPC technical assistance programs. These were reviewed at the meeting and will be submitted with slight edits. This does not commit Sudbury to any action, however it will allow us to utilize the program resources for any applicable programs we choose.

The initial program area the committee expects to utilize would be for a Fatal Flaw Analysis of the potential solar array at the landfill. As the committee understands it this would involve having an industry expert conduct a high level concept review of a large scale solar array at the landfill. This does not replace the need for a comprehensive engineering feasibility / design study of the project, however it would use the experience of an industry expert to determine if any more obvious (to an experienced professional) issues are a concern. This would be done at no cost or commitment to the town.

3. Solarize MA

Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) in partnership with the Green Communities Division has invited Sudbury to participate in the *Solarize Mass* pilot program.

The goal of the *Solarize Mass* program is to reduce the costs of PV for residential customers thru volume pricing. The program will issue a competitive RFP to select installers who bid the installation costs based on a tiered structure that would provide lower costs with increased number of customers participating. Interested residents would sign up for a free solar assessment. The solar installer selected in the RFP will conduct the solar assessments and by a set date each participant will decide whether or not they wanted to proceed with a PV system installation.

The program this is modeled after (*Solarize Portland*) resulted in more than 100 installations with participants realizing savings in installed costs exceeding 20% compared to costs for non-*Solarize Portland* installations.

Dean Holden has volunteered to head up this effort for Sudbury and to utilize his contacts in both *Sustainable Sudbury* and the Energy Committee to publicize this important program.

4. Green Community projects status

The application process for Sudbury to become one of Massachusetts first Green Communities was a significant project involving the Energy Committee and several town employees. Significant work has been done since Sudbury achieved Green Community status – however the

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committee has a concern that we do not have a single point of contact for green community status and deliverables going forward.

ACTION:

Ed Lewis will be the committees central contact point for Green Community issues and will organize a high level timeline with current / future deliverables and reporting requirements and will update the committee on a regular basis.

5. Noyes Project Update

Energy efficiency and building renovation projects (roof replacement and insulation, window replacement, boiler replacement and improved controls) for the Noyes school have been approved by the *Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Green Repair Program* for approximately a third of the cost funding assistance. Debt exclusion funds have been approved at Sudbury town meeting and special election.

An MSBA required project manager has been hired and design plans are underway. Twenty-five percent progress submissions were reviewed by the Permanent Building Committee at its February 17th meeting.

Mark Sevier provided thin film PV roofing information for the PBC to review.

ACTION:

Jennifer to investigate Energy Star requirements to determine Noyes post-project applicability

6. EECBG update

The town / PBC awarded contracts for the Fairbank Solar project to *Ostrow Electric Co* for the PV side and to *LittleFoot Energy* for the solar thermal side.

Solar PV panels have been procured and are insured and stored on-site at the vendor with installation targeted directly after roof completion.

A coordination meeting for contractors, the design engineer and town representatives was held at the Fairbank Community Center on February 22. Contractor submittals were reviewed and discussed. The solar storage tank capacity was increased to 760 gallons as per the recommendation of NE Solar Hot Water/Littlefoot Energy and approved. An external heat exchanger and associated pump was substituted for the in-tank coils as recommended and approved. The tank location in the mechanical room was identified; the mechanical room installation will begin within two weeks.

Preliminary schedule calls for an April 1st start date for the roof repair / replacement / insulation.

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7. Review and approval of meeting minutes

Minutes from the January 27th meeting were unanimously approved.

8. Other Business

Dean Holden reported that a Girl Scout looking for a community service project approached *Sustainable Sudbury* for ideas and has decided to conduct a community outreach educational program on Massachusetts' Anti-idling laws. The Energy Committee supports this effort.

Communications Sub-Group activities:

- 1) Energy Committee progress report was printed in the Sudbury Town Crier February 17th edition.

Link to the web edition follows:

<http://www.wickedlocal.com/sudbury/features/x169903118/Energy-and-sustainability-committee-s-progress-report#axzz1FjxjQKq>

Targeted projects for the Communications Sub-Group:

- 1) Ongoing communications required by Green Communities Act
- 2) *Solarize Mass* program education and information.

Scheduled Energy Committee Meetings: (DPW Building Conference room - 7:30 p.m.)

- March 29th, 2011
- April 26th, 2011
- May 17th, 2011
- June 21st, 2011

Adjournment:

- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:25p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Edward Lewis, March 5, 2011