

**Sudbury, MA, Energy and Sustainability Green Ribbon Committee  
Meeting Minutes May 17, 2011**

**OPENING:**

The May 17th, 2011 meeting of Sudbury’s *Energy and Sustainability Green Ribbon Committee* was opened by Chairman Bill Braun at 7:35 p.m. in the DPW Building conference room.

**ATTENDANCE:**

<b>Committee Members</b>	<b>Attending</b>
Rami Alwan	X
William G. Braun – Chairman, Energy and Sustainability Green Ribbon Committee	X
Jennifer Dudgeon	X
Dean Holden	X
Edward Lewis	X
Robert Morrison	X
Mark Sevier	
Michael E. Melnick, Co-Chairman, Sudbury Permanent Building Committee	X
<b>Building Inspector, Town of Sudbury</b>	
James Kelly	X
<b>Guests</b>	
Jim Walker - Director of Solar PV Grid Projects at <i>Ameresco</i>	X
Caroline Luis – Sudbury Patch	X

**Agenda:**

1. Membership follow-up
2. Ameresco PPA Presentation – Jim Walker
3. Green Community projects – additional use of funds
4. MAPC participation
5. Approval of meeting minutes
6. Other business?

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**1. Membership follow-up**

Chairman Bill Braun requested nominations for Chairman for the upcoming year. The committee nominated and unanimously voted for Bill to remain Chairman.

**ACTION:**

Bill to gather all energy committee applications that have been submitted to the town to allow the committee to review for critical skill sets leading to an appointment recommendation to the Selectmen.

**2. Ameresco PPA Presentation**

Jim Walker - Director of Solar PV Grid Projects at *Ameresco* was a guest speaker at our meeting.

*Ameresco*, a public company, is the largest independent energy services company in North America with over 700 employees including 170+ Professional Engineers and Certified Energy Managers.

They are based in Framingham and have extensive experience with municipal PPA projects in MA and other states. *Ameresco* was the first firm in Massachusetts to develop and implement a municipal Power Purchase Agreement by partnering with the city of Newburyport.

They are Mass Division of Capital Asset Management (DCAM) certified up to \$75 million on an individual project, \$400M aggregate, and they have received excellent DCAM ratings on past projects, 98/100 for Newburyport and 100/100 for Brockton Area Transit.

Their typical PPA project involves *Ameresco* designing, permitting, financing, owning and operating the solar PV systems and selling 100% of the electricity generated to the hosting municipality at a significant discount.

This allows the municipality to receive long term electricity savings with a stable pricing structure with no design, engineering, capital or ownership / maintenance costs.

The municipality may also receive property tax payments on the array depending upon the local regulations.

*Ameresco* self finances the projects, this reduces risk of obtaining financing, and their deployment plan covers the entire project from executing the PPA agreement to start-up and operating the solar array.

Typical construction lapse is approximately 7 – 12 months.

An integral component of *Ameresco*'s PPA includes a solar PV Educational Curriculum which is developed for the municipalities schools.

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Jim was very informative helping the committee to better understand some of the concerns and or long lead items in a landfill solar array project.

Long lead items can include:

- Grid interconnection evaluation and permitting
- DEP post closure use permitting

Some areas of concern to keep in mind include:

- Evolving regulations from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regarding stand alone solar arrays possibly being regulated and treated like a utility - perhaps rendering them ineligible for net-metering credit
- Net metering eligibility and capacity cap (currently installed projects and those with interconnect applications already submitted represent approximately 51% of the net-metering capacity cap)
- MA DPU permitting / regulatory considerations

Jim's experience working with solar on landfills / brown-fields suggests that specific parameters / comprehensive array design including water run-off management is needed for the DEP permit application, he emphasized the need for close proximity 3-phase grid tie in, and suggested avoiding rights of way wherever possible. Jim also mentioned that he has had good experience utilizing renewable energy equipment that has been approved by the *California Energy Commission*.

The committee asked Jim's opinion of thin-film roof mounted PV systems and he said that thin film is not without its challenges in cost and efficiency, and must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, but can be a viable option in many circumstances. He has a good opinion of thin film roofing products from *Uni-Solar* and light weight roof mounted products from *Solyndra*<sup>R</sup>

The Energy Committee wishes to thank Jim Walker for his time providing a very informative presentation along with his expertise and patience during a lengthy question and answer period.

**3. Green Community status and projects update:**

The Q2 - *Green Community Grant Progress and Financial Quarterly Report* was submitted to the DOER. The next report is due in early July.

**Green Community Grant Projects update:**

- Tabled until next meeting due to time constraints

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**4. MAPC participation**

- Tabled until next meeting due to time constraints

**5. Review and approval of meeting minutes**

Minutes from the April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting were unanimously approved.

**6. Other Business**

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

- May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011
- June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011
- July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011
- August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**Adjournment:**

- The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45p.m.

*Minutes submitted by: Edward Lewis, May 20, 2011*