

**Sudbury, MA, Energy and Sustainability Green Ribbon Committee
Meeting Minutes September 18, 2012**

OPENING:

The September 18, 2012 meeting of Sudbury's *Energy and Sustainability Green Ribbon Committee* was opened by Bill Braun at 7:35 pm in the Sylva Room of the Flynn Building.

ATTENDANCE:

Committee Members	Attending
Rami Alwan	X
William Braun – Chairman, Energy and Sustainability Green Ribbon Committee	X
Jennifer Dudgeon	
Edward Lewis	
Joe Martino	X
Michael Melnick, Co-Chairman - Sudbury PBC	X
Robert Morrison	X
Kurt Reiss	X
Mark Sevier	X
Building Inspector, Town of Sudbury	
James Kelly	X
Guests	

AGENDA:

1. Landfill Solar PPA
2. Approval of meeting minutes
3. Other business

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1. Landfill Solar PPA

The discussion of this agenda item preceded an Energy Committee presentation on the Landfill PPA status to the Board of Selectman this same evening at approximately 9:30pm in Town Hall.

A central issue raised by the Sudbury Finance Director regarding the Landfill Solar project is that of taxation. There are 3 options: Levy no taxes (current assumption in PPA with Ameresco), tax as personal property the equipment and facilities to be installed on the site at their fair and full value, or negotiate a payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT). There are a number of schemes that have been approved and implemented by other towns for the personal property tax and PILOT approaches. The Energy Committee envisions no barriers for whichever option the Town of Sudbury ultimately chooses, but the PPA rates will have to be adjusted accordingly. It was noted that no net impact will result for either Ameresco or the Town.

The Committee discussed and concluded that the Town has a reasonably good deal with Ameresco given the current state of the environment, which would likely not improve with a competitive bid process. While the current offer from Ameresco is not as favorable as terms received and put on place at several other towns, it nevertheless is believed to be fair and positive when the following factors are taken into account:

- In December 2011, the 1603 Treasury grant as an alternative to the 30% Federal investment tax credit was eliminated;
- The 100% bonus depreciation allowance was reduced to 50% in 2012 and will disappear after 2012;
- The high market prices for Massachusetts SREC's has dropped substantially, a major driver.

In addition, it had been noted previously that Ameresco has been selected by MAPC in a competitive process as its regional energy services company (ESCO) and represents a highly qualified, experienced, and reliable contractor available to the initial 14 participating towns, including Sudbury. Moreover, further investigation by Bill Braun determined that Ameresco attempts to set a uniform, fair profit rate for each of its PPA projects at any given time, taking into account the above factors.

MOTION: It was moved that the Energy Committee support proceeding with the PPA with Ameresco. The motion was unanimously approved.

Most of the remaining time was spent briefly reviewing the content of Bill's planned presentation to the Board of Selectman.

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2. Approval of meeting minutes:

Minutes from the September 4th meeting were unanimously approved.

3. Other business:

It was noted that the Solarize Mass initiative deadline for homeowners is to be extended from September 30th to October 31st.

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

- October 16th, 2012
- November 20th, 2012
- December 18th, 2012

Adjournment: The Energy Committee meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:30 pm.

Minutes submitted by: Joe Martino – 11 October 2012