

Minutes

Easton Energy & Environment Task Force

Regular meeting, Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Remote meeting via zoom, 7:30 p.m.

Attending: Cathy Alfandre, Heidi Armster, Jeff Borofsky, Katie Callahan, Lise Fleurette, Robert Morganti

Also attending: Ed Nagy, Emily Marshall

Cathy convened the meeting at 7:37

Minutes

Briefly discussed. Katie motioned to approve; Lise seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Solar data

Production for November was 0; December was 93% of expectation for Phase I; January is currently looking good; Cathy reported that overall for 2021 the production was very good, esp considering the system was down for 6 weeks at the end of 21

For Phase I, Green Bank has a weather normalized number; Skyview doesn't do this for Phase II; (93% for Phase I vs. 64% for Phase II)

Cathy and Bobby have a meeting next week with Scott Petruzzelli (the new Director of Finance and Operations) and the new assistant, who helps manage the solar data for the spreadsheet; will share info from spreadsheets

Bobby added that we have not had a non-cost savings month since July 2019

Cathy reached out to the Green Bank to inquire about the contract to ask what happens when the system is down; she discovered 1 month where we were billed and has inquired for clarification (supposed to pay only when the system generates power)

EV Readiness team/next steps

Katie: spoke to Westport police Chief Foti Koskinas; they have had over 1000 requests for information about their EV program from other police organizations around the country and even internationally; Katie then spoke with Chief Doyle to help coordinate a date for Westport to come and talk to the Easton police department; Katie asked to attend the meeting; she also reached out to Ed and Jenna at Public Works to alert them; as of this meeting, no date has been set, but things are moving forward to get the 2 parties together (Katie also mentioned that Easton's police cars are repaired and tuned in Westport, at their facility); Katie reported that Koskinas said the savings with EV were incredible, and that they have a Tesla as well

Katie met with someone in Bridgeport who is interested in electric school buses.

Cathy is following up with LiveGreen (Daphne Dixon's group) about the EV Readiness program.

Recycling grant timeline/next steps

Cathy reminded the group that the subcommittee will meet soon to come up with a plan and timeline for implementation for the grant

Discussed:

- doing early publicity to make town residents aware of the stickers
- ideas for wording and graphics of the stickers
- the message(s) we want to convey in articles
 - cost savings to the town when recycling issues are fixed
 - keep message simple and highlight the most important problems to fix
 - deal with common recycling myths (wish-cycling)

Ed shared main points from monthly meetings with recycling partners (Oakridge and other facilities, waste haulers, Public Works and Town Managers from around CT); their conversations center on costs, where the markets are going, what current problems exist and the Bottle Bill most recently

He shared information on recycling costs to local area towns; reported on important topics:

- Items under 2" are not recyclable (includes bottle caps)
- Glass: Ed confirmed that it's mostly ground up and transported (issues: little to no use for recycled glass and contamination);
- Paper and cardboard recycling up due to Covid-related online sales (packaging)
- How recycling is failing to perform as once hoped

CT Energy Network zoom meeting recap

Recap of the meeting: mostly about goals for 2022, Path to 100 (100% renewable energy for CT); requests for sharing information on social media to increase our audience (networking, social media tools and strategies); requests for task forces to share actions they are doing to expand reach and cooperate with local towns, share information

Other points:

- Dedicated point person in local government helpful to have
- Resources on informative links, slides, solar, EV all on the site (updated)
- Path to 100 book provides support and information for initiatives

Other items 2022/ideas

Email from Wilton Go Green briefly discussed: Wilton has plans to create a comprehensive list of places to recycle and/or donate items for reuse; attached a copy of a guide for New Haven County as an example; briefly discussed sharing and/or using this for our town site

Task Force list of ideas/priorities for 2022:

1. EV readiness
2. Solar: increase awareness and interest

3. Recycling: inform, correct myths, do better
4. Waste Stream reduction (through recycling and composting initiatives)
5. Education of public and schools
6. Composting outreach

Discussion followed about a new Barlow student who would like to attend our meetings; she might be able to write informational articles to submit to The Courier. Will circle back at next month's meeting.

Bobby made a motion to adjourn; Heidi seconded. Cathy adjourned the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Armster, EEETF, Secretary
2/14/22