

Hartford Energy Commission minutes
December 15, 2022

Present in person: Molly Smith Dunn (2025), Lynn Bohi (2024); UNH carbon clinic students Matt Oriente, Sam Gobeil, Tommy Tran and supervisor Jason Staples, Dana Clawson, staff

Present virtually: Esme Cole (2025), Ashton Todd (2023): Laura Simon and Remington Nevin, guests

Molly called the meeting to order at 5:03pm by taking attendance.

Agenda items to change: The REV program for tonight is postponed, add coordinator report

Public Comment was requested: none

UNH Carbon Clinic report: The group looked at fiscal years 2021 and 2022. They focused on Town owned buildings including wastewater treatment plants. Topics covered were propane and oil, water treatment, Town vehicles, purchased energy, and commuting.

Emissions were 2400.62 (2021) and 2474.42 (2022). This is equivalent to 6.2 M car miles, 2.7M tons of coal, or over 100,000 gallons of propane. Heating fuels were approximately 2/3 of the total, water treatment ¼ and Town vehicles less than 1/3. The WRJ water treatment plant was the worst building, with Quechee waste water treatment plant close behind. Comparing Hartford and Lebanon, Hartford has fewer buildings and green house gasses and Hartford has half the transportation emissions of Lebanon.

They recommended converting to heat pumps, idling mitigation, reassess lighting, and care in new infrastructure. Also look at the contract with Green Mountain power because currently all Hartford RECs go to GMP. Additionally, buy RECs, telecommute, and do carbon offsets by buying credits. This will reduce carbon by 54%.

Question: how to reduce wastewater? It is difficult. Perhaps look into grey water systems. Also educate the public about what to put down the sink. Suggest low flow shower heads and toilets. This might be a HEC Herald article.

HEC would like to take a tour of the plant.

Jason added that most landfills produce methane. A capped landfill can produce 3,000 MTE of methane. UNH campus has piped the gas to the grid to heat buildings. Lebanon's methane is burned off in the open air. It is difficult to get good information about Hartford's landfill, such as when it was opened and when it was capped.

The students were thanked for all the work they did and information they shared.

Solarize campaign: At the special meeting last week, HEC decided to sponsor this. Molly will head it for now until Laura becomes a member and then Laura will be the leader. The plan is to collect installers, have a kickoff event that includes solar information and a general energy fair. People will sign up at the fair. They will be reminded there is a 30% tax rebate. As part of promoting energy efficiency, Jonathan

Davis from REV will attend. It is possible Lebanon will join Hartford. The committee is meeting tonight and will talk about it. The Keep Cool campaign may attend. Vital Communities has connections with Dartmouth students and Vermont Law and Graduate School has students who can help. The organization meeting will be in early January. LISTEN has said HEC can hold the event at the LISTEN meal serving site.

Window Dressers: There are 250 inserts that people signed up this year, but were postponed. WD would like to know if HEC is interested in helping with a build in January on the weekends. HEC agreed to attend the build, but not to organize any of it.

Wilder One: HEC discussed this at the special meeting last week. HEC will send a letter stating we would prefer that the land have a second use, and that we would like the energy to stay in Hartford.

Coordinator report:

- Dana completed a vehicle inventory and sent it to the clean cities group.
- He staffed the Planning Commission meeting about Wilder One
- He reported to the Selectboard about the solar systems on Town land and the benefits of them
- He followed up with Window Dressers.
- At a meeting with Trailblazers he found our Hartford and Hartland class will be a green class in August and September at HACTC, is mostly paid for, and consists of four weeks of classes and three weeks of internships.
- Vermont Adult Learning will hold a two week training in order for the eight attendees to receive an EPA certificate about heat pumps.
- He toured the house that HACTC building trades class is working on. The class builds one house over a two year period and sells it to the public. They discussed energy saving measures that can be incorporated. And he suggested the house be EV charging ready and possibly solar ready.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Bohi, Clerk