

FINAL

**Middlebury Energy Committee (Virtual)  
Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 9:00 am  
Town Offices (small conference room)  
(Virtual Meeting Details below)**

Attendees: Lindsay Fuentes-George, Howard Widelitz, Steve Maier, Ross Conrad, Diane Munroe, Dan Rafferty, Lisa Bernardin, Liv Herdman, Richard Hopkins

Absent: Bill Cunningham

Guests: Ben Wagner, John Barstow

John Barstow joined ~10:00am

Meeting called to order at 9:02am

Welcome to Ben Wagner – First year Middlebury College student, connected with the Energy Committee via a conversation with community organizations via the Sunday Night Environmental Group

Howard reviewed meeting agenda; no additions or changes were made

Reviewed and approved meeting minutes from October 20, 2021 meeting

- A reminder that we should try to highlight action items
- Ross moved, Dan seconded, minutes were approved with no amendments

How to utilize college resources (students) for support

- Howard attended a Sunday Night Environmental Group (group of almost 40 students!) meeting by invite of Fran Putnam
- Past participation with students has included committee membership as well as winter term and summer internships.
- Student Ben Wagner interested in the carbon emissions inventory work to track progress to town's 80% reduction goal
- Howard suggested that as we have discussions and there are action items that might be appropriate for students to take on, Howard can share with the Sunday Night Environmental Group to facilitate an ongoing and collaborative relationship.
  - Ideas can be shared with Ben as well as group leader Sophie Mueller
  - Still key questions to be answered in how we do our accounting – e.g. should all GMP electricity be counted as zero carbon or should we discount the RECs
  - Richard noted that there are also several other policy issues that should be considered
  - Regarding natural gas, we know amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> generated at point of use, but we need to also think about methane leakage at point of production as well as leakage along transmission lines. A literature review of estimates around this would be helpful.
  - Steve noted that there are other assumptions in our original estimates that could be researched.

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- Ross noted that we need to pay attention to the date of any research studies because industry / political sponsorship over time may have had an influence.
- Liv noted that we may need to be OK with ranges in our estimates. Key is that our work is consistent, reproducible, and well-documented.
- Steve also mentioned that there will very likely be projects coming out of CEAC's climate action planning process (e.g. building codes, standards around new construction, model ordinances, etc.). This work will be focused starting next year (spring into summer and beyond).

**Actions:** identify options that are appropriate student projects throughout all of our discussions  
**Process:** Diane can share ideas with Ben

### End-of-Year Report

- Lisa and Ross noted that our work with community education maybe needs to be highlighted as an area for future collaboration since we haven't been as active in this area, e.g. the work that we started with area schools
- Ross asked Lisa to have a draft paragraph about work with schools. **Action:** Goal is to have a draft to review at our December meeting
- Steve and Ross had several wording suggestions for the renewable energy section and transportation sections that were incorporated (e.g. using biogas instead of renewable natural gas)
- Richard noted we need to use the most current number for the social cost of carbon, following the VT Climate Council's determination going forward
- Steve: we need to state needed actions as factual vs. things we are just advocating for
- Dan asked about graphics charting the pathway we need to follow
  - **Action:** Richard will update and include with a paragraph
- Liv: talk about the projects that have happened and how / if they have helped us along this pathway. Could be in each section or an overall paragraph at the end.
  - Richard has been asking engineers for the numbers to help us make these calculations, but we don't have them in hand yet.
  - Ross indicated that we could note that all projects are "in-progress" at the moment if we can't do these calculations at this immediate time.
- Steve – overall in favor of being as qualitative as we can. Where we can't be in the moment we can use language indicating, for example, that the police station heat pumps, were a critical part of the roadmap to meeting the 80% reduction goal.
- Lindsay: returning the fact that much of our progress to date is linked to GMP's electricity portfolio changes, link this switch to electrification as an encouragement for individual homeowners to make similar changes
- Lindsay also noted that the Bank Window is again available for a display. **Action:** think about how we might display our annual progress here on a yearly basis for the broader community to engage with.
- Several other small wording changes made throughout

### Overview of the Funding Landscape

- Dan Rafferty has been tracking developments re. ARPA Funds, Infrastructure Bill, Build Back Better Plans, Climate Action Plans, etc.
- How is money coming to VT and how can it be used statewide and locally?
- Build Back Better has the most money dedicated to e-transportation and electrification / weatherization

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- ARPA – how this will influence the funding landscape is still to be determined. Some \$\$ is “parked” until Climate Action Plan is finalized. There is funding earmarked for weatherization going out via existing mechanisms.
- Infrastructure Bill includes EV charging infrastructure and resilient grid networks
- **Action:** can Dan share his PowerPoint for full details?

### Updates and Other News:

- Update on biodiesel-public works used B5 in some equipment and they had no problems. The next step is to go to B20.
- RECS – looked at this link Energy Mix - Green Mountain Power

At 10:35 Richard motioned to adjourn. Howard seconded. Unanimous

Adjourn