

Middlebury Renewable Energy Policy Proposal – Final Draft Approved by the Energy Committee 4/18/18

Whereas, Middlebury's town plan calls for promoting the development and use of local and renewable energy sources, and for reviewing town procurement policy to ensure energy efficiency and conservation are key purchasing criteria;

Whereas; Middlebury has been moving toward a system of planned expenditures rather than waiting for crisis situations such as equipment failures or breakdowns;

Whereas, the best time to replace fossil fuel powered appliances and equipment (e.g. boilers, street lights, vehicles, etc.) with appliances that run on renewable forms of energy is after they have reached the end of their anticipated life expectancy and usefulness;

Whereas; once a new fossil fuel powered appliance is installed it makes little sense to remove and replace it before the end of its useful life and this locks the town into greater fossil fuel use over time and this slows our transition to renewable energy alternatives;

Whereas electric energy produced by Green Mountain Power is currently approximately 60% renewable and the percentage of renewable energy in the mix will be increasing over time:

Therefore; the following proposal is being offered for consideration by the Middlebury Energy Committee:

1. Whenever a Middlebury Department Head obtains and submits vendor quotes to purchase an appliance/vehicle that will be powered by fossil fuels or fossil fuel sourced power, they will also ~~be required by the Select Board to~~ obtain and submit vendor quote(s) for a comparable appliance/vehicle that can be powered by more renewable energy sources such as electricity, biodiesel, or biomass such as wood chips or pellets.
2. Department Heads will also ~~be required to~~ request that all vendors submitting a proposal ~~also~~ supply the town with either a life-cycle analysis or an estimate of operation and maintenance costs of using their appliance over an extended period of time (e.g. 20 years) using current fuel prices and a standard average number of operating hours per day. (e.g. heating system runs an average of 6 hours every day, or street lights are on for an average of 10 hours every night), and normal recommended maintenance schedules.
3. This information (initial cost, delivery and installation, cost of energy, cost of maintenance, life-cycle analysis) would then provide the Middlebury Select Board with the information needed to fully evaluate both the short and long-term economic benefits of converting the town's fossil fuel infrastructure to renewably powered alternatives at the time when purchasing decisions are being made and will allow the town to convert to renewable energy alternatives when it makes sense to do so. If this information is not provided, the Department head will provide the Select Board with an explanation why such information is not applicable.
4. The Select Board should also consider a purchasing policy statement directing that when long-term costs and benefits of alternatives are within 10 percent, that a preference be given to alternatives that use more renewable energy sources.