

Committee for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (CEES)

Committee Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2023
6:00pm – 7:30pm
Community Room/GoToMeeting

Committee Members Present

- Peter Fromuth David Ertz Scott Sherriff Celine Kuhn
 Stephanie Watson Vacancy Bill Dunn Danielle Hood Megan Hellstedt
 Anna Siegel (SL) Heather Abbott (TC) Meddy Smith (Staff)

Public in Attendance:

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER , 9, MEETING MINUTES

Motion to approve minutes made by Bill and seconded by Celine, passing unanimously without changes.

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Implementation

Meddy and Megan reported on the progress of the Climate Action Plan. The group discussed intentions for implementation, including adding separate callouts for internal collaboration and ‘striving to be a regional collaborator’. The former intention focuses on making sure roles across town departments and committees are clarified upon Plan launch and creating more distributed ownership of action implementation. The latter centered around sharing and learning from progress, public-private partnerships, and communicating successes.

Another intention for implementation is tracking and reporting on progress. Meddy noted that metrics will be associated with each goal of the plan that will be tracked and reported on. Metrics will be ideally easy to track on an annual basis. Stephanie noted that it would be valuable to align with the metrics selected for Maine climate dashboard.

The group also discussed the recommendation to Council for the existing CEES group to amend its charter to focus on plan implementation. Megan indicated that the Climate Plan has a lot of actions that would fall to this group and more members may be needed to share the workload. The group would like to see the actions (and assigned primary and secondary roles) before making conclusions about how many members to propose adding. It was noted that continuity with YCAT membership may be valuable if CEES expands. Celine noted that if expanding members it would be valuable to revisit the onboarding process so new members can better integrate – this can be worked on once the charter is confirmed.

Action Item(s): Members to reflect on how they would like to see CEES adapt to Plan implementation role. Meddy to bring list of metrics for CEES review in January.

ONGOING PROJECT/POLICY UPDATES & OTHER BUSINESS

Efficiency Yarmouth



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Meddy gave an update on the changes to Efficiency Maine's heat pump rebates. While these changes may impact EMT funds available, they do not necessitate a change to the Efficiency Yarmouth program, and may even be a better deal for qualifying low-income residents. Meddy reported that there has been one successful rebate processing and one rebate is currently reserved. Peter noted that additional outreach should be done and the group discussed ideas such as refreshing the Town social media posts, confirming that the info went out in the YCAN newsletter, adding info to YCS resources pages, getting an ad in the Forecaster. The most effective means of outreach may be getting a notice in the School principles newsletters and looking to send out a town-wide mailer.

The program was initiated in Spring of 2023 and funds should aim to be distributed by April of 2024.

Action Item(s): Peter to write content for promotion, Meddy to send to Dr. Dolloff for newsletter and schedule Town social media and the subgroup to meet to discuss a mailer.

Sligo Road Solar

David Ertz gave an update on the effort to create a solar array at Town property on Sligo Road. The project team is waiting on EDPR to submit the application for interconnection.

Action Item(s): David will provide updates to the group in the next meeting.

School Research

Meddy asked for volunteers to support development of an action blueprint for the action related to school and town facility climate upgrades. The Blueprint will lay out proposed steps for accomplishing this action and funding sources. Danielle agreed to support this project after the new year and Stephanie offered support as well.

Action Item(s): Meddy and Megan to follow up with Danielle and Stephanie to move this ahead in early January.

EV Chargers

Scott LaFlamme reported that the successful grant from Efficiency Maine for 4 EV chargers is being implemented. The Town Office location will replace the existing chargers (that have been turned off for safety) likely next week. The Log Cabin location requires more infrastructure work and timing is undetermined.

The Autel charging stations will be networked, and CEES should create a recommendation for how to set up the rate structure. Scott noted that the rates will be flexible so there can be changes made real time, for example to make the stations free for specific events or introduce an idling fee depending on how the stations are being used. There are several possibilities for rate structure:

- Flat fee for use with no time restriction
- Flat fee per hour
- Cost per kWh

He recommends that the rates include an additional admin fee that will cover credit card processing fees needed for the network capabilities. He also suggested the group can consider starting with an Idle Fee to discourage users

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from taking up spaces for long periods of time. He noted that while the awarded grant covers subscription to the network software for 5 years, there will be some capital cost required over time for resubscribing and making repairs/upgrades. Depending on what fees are implemented, any profits can be set aside for associated costs.

Bill noted that prices at these chargers should be equal to what people pay to charge their EV at home, and we can look to standard offer and match it plus the admin and/or idling fee. It was noted that it would be inopportune to launch the new chargers free of charge and then introduce pricing, so we should aim to set the rate structure ASAP. Next steps include a more formal recommendation and Scott to get in touch with Council to determine the decision making process to move ahead.

Action Item(s): Meddy confirm timeline with Scott and follow up with CEES for next steps.

The group indicated their approval for combining meetings with YCAT in January (date pending) to review the draft plan and discuss implementation.

ADJOURN

The Committee adjourned upon mutual consent at 7:50 pm