
Committee for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (CEES)

Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

7:00 – 9:00pm, Town Hall - Community Room

Purpose

The December 11th CEES meeting will begin with a presentation from Jennifer Brennan, Electric Vehicle Program Manager for Efficiency Maine. Here, the Committee will learn about Efficiency Maine's programs and opportunities for future initiatives. The presentation will be followed up by updates on the Committee's work on a municipal solar farm, ongoing public education opportunities and other new business.

Agenda

Call to Order/Approval of November 13, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Heather Abbot began the meeting with a suggested motion to approve the November 13, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Toby Ahrens with the committee voting unanimously in favor.

The Committee was also introduced to its newest member, Peter Fromuth. Peter provided an overview of his personal and professional background and his excitement to work on the committee.

Presentation: Jennifer Brennan, Efficiency Maine

The Committee was given a presentation by Jennifer Brennan, Program Manager for Electric Vehicles at Efficiency Maine. Jennifer provided a thorough overview of Efficiency Maine's (EM) new and existing financial incentive programs available to the public and municipalities. Currently, EM is working toward reducing market barriers for electric vehicle (EV) alternatives. In order to do so, Jennifer outlined EM's two-pronged approach:

1. Financial Incentives/Infrastructure Investment

Utilizing the V.W settlement funds, Efficiency Maine offered two rounds of competitive RFP opportunities to municipalities to install level 2 charging stations. The grants would pay up to half of the equipment cost, or \$5,000 (whichever is less expensive). Both rounds have concluded, however, Jennifer was hopeful that additional funding could be secured to offer grant opportunities in future years.

As part of the Committee's discussion, Jennifer mentioned that the settlement funds paying for this program is only a small percentage of the total amount awarded to the State of Maine. Other State departments may have funding available for energy efficiency projects.

2. Comprehensive Public Outreach Campaign

Jennifer provided the Committee with an overview of EM's public outreach campaign, which focuses on their rebate programs for new EV lease/purchases. For individuals, EM provides a \$2,000 rebate for battery powered electric vehicles and

Materials

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Committee Members

Present

Heather Abbott, Chair
Toby Ahrens
David Ertz
Scott Sherriff
Peter Fromuth
Chuck Parker
Kurt Adams - via conference
April Humphrey, Council Liaison

Staff

Scott LaFlamme,
Economic Development Director

Public

Jennifer Brennan, Efficiency Maine



\$1,000 on plug-in hybrid models. Rebates are available on all eligible models purchased through EM-verified dealers. The Committee was very excited to hear that municipalities are eligible for \$7,500 rebates on battery powered vehicles and \$2,000 for plug-in hybrids. Toby and April volunteered to reach out to the School Department and the Water District to share information on the programs.

During the discussion, Scott LaFlamme gave an update on a master list of sites that could be targeted for EV charging stations. Using the newly adopted character code metric of one EV charging station for every 30 parking spaces, Scott comprised a spreadsheet of all surface parking lots with more than 30 spaces. Of the 50 spaces identified, only two had EV charging options.

Programming Update

Heather reported to the Committee that the upcoming event, *Reinventing Power*, is scheduled for January 7th. The event will be advertised through social media.

Toby provided an overview of the heat pump programming offered to the community on December 4th. 17 residents participated and were actively engaged in the discussion. After talking with participants, Toby learned that they had learned about the event either through social media or email. The Committee agreed to focus on social media and other free advertisement mediums for future events.

Toby also provided an update to the Committee on a recent solar site assessment facilitated by Revision Energy on the three schools due to be under construction. Harriman has provided Revision with engineering specs for all three schools to determine structural load capacity and available roof area. All involved are hopeful that there is enough solar capacity to make a power purchase agreement realistic.

Municipal Solar Site

Kurt Adams gave a brief update on his conversations with CMP regarding a draft term sheet to acquire the pole yard site on Sligo Road. While there is still work to be done, his assessment was that CMP sounded amenable to a sale with reduced indemnity requirements, which has sunk previous attempts to purchase the site. Kurt will continue to work with CMP and will report back in January.

David Ertz also provided an update on his work with Revision Energy on two municipal solar options: 1.) pursuing a local solar array on the pole yard site and an additional 5 acres from the adjoining town-owned parcel; and 2.) working with a solar developer to purchase power from a solar array in another municipality. David also reported that based on wetland delineation work completed in the early 2000's there is considerably more wet areas on the Town-owned property than previously assumed. The 5 acres in the northwest corner would not only be directly adjacent to the pole yard property but is the driest land. The development of the two parcels would generate roughly 2mw of power (1.2mw from the pole yard site and .8mw from the smaller Town parcel). Based on current energy usage, that would offset roughly 85% of the Town and School District's electricity load.

Working with Revision, the Town has also submitted the necessary documentation to CMP to determine transmission capacity at the Sligo Road site(s). The Town will learn the results in early January.



April will work with the Town Council to determine the appropriate forum for the Committee to share its findings and receive feedback.

Adjournment

Upon mutual consent, the Committee for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability adjourned at 8:35pm.

Strategic Priorities & Outcomes / Next Steps

- Toby and April will reach out to the School District and Water District to provide information on electric vehicle rebate programs
- Scott will reach out to GPCOG/METRO to learn more about electric school bus alternatives
- Scott will reach out to MDOT to suggest adding EV charging stations to both the Visitors Center at Exit 17 and Park and Ride at Exit 15.
- Kurt and David will continue with their incredible work