

Climate and Energy Committee Meeting
Dec 8, 2023 4:30 pm

Present: , Liz Weir, Rowland Davis, Linda Wellings, Richard Donnelly, Judy Raven,

Zoom: Karen Baron , Arthur Friedman,

Absent: Chloe Nathan, Samara Ashooh

Community Member: Jim Wick

- 1) Call to order
- 2) **Approval of agenda**
- 3) Approval of minutes
- 4) There were no public comments
- 5) Member updates / comments / event notifications
 - MERP grant update: the contractor has been selected for the energy audits of the town offices and fire station. Ann Janda (Chittenden Regional Planning Commission CCRPC) will schedule this with the town. Rowland will let Ann know that several members of the committee would like to be there for the audit.
 - Champlain Housing Trust would like to put in a solar array at a site they are developing (perhaps at Harbor Place). A neighbor asked the SB about the town's role. The town's 2016 solar siting ordinance is out of date and not solar friendly (see <https://www.shelburnevt.org/DocumentCenter/View/1976/Solar-Ordinance>). Judy proposed that we recommend revisions to the select board. She will contact the CCRPC for suggestions.
 - Linda and Chloe have discussed ways to engage with Shelburne Community School (SCS) students. Chloe has the names of teachers who attended the Barre Youth Energy Summit. Linda will contact the teachers and ask how we can help them.
 - Liz suggested that the CVU Outreach Club might be a good window dressers resource.
 - Rowland emailed climate leaders asking that the new proposed housing legislation include statewide energy standards and enforcement.
- 6) FPF postings (Karen and Linda)
 - Karen will post our first discussion piece on Saturday, and we'll gauge the response.
 - The economics of heat pumps is very nuanced, and probably better addressed in a different format.
- 7) Municipal benchmarking (Richard)
 - Richard is collecting the needed data. He has square footage of the buildings and their energy usage. He needs to meet with users or visit the sites to collect additional data such as occupancy rates, number of computers, etc.
 - He's working with Town Manager Matt Lawless to set up an energy star webpage to allow people to see where we stand and monitor progress. The MERP data will be added to it.
 - The Energy Star algorithm is updated every 3-4 years for various types of public buildings – libraries, town offices, etc. Buildings are awarded the energy star designation if their score is above the baseline.

- 8) La Platte hydro (Richard)
- The 2006 town plan identifies the Laplatte River as having hydro potential. (Specifically, <https://www.shelburnevt.org/DocumentCenter/View/307/Village-Plan-very-large-file> p.42 says *Historically, the Lower Falls Village was settled because of the availability of hydro-power (in the old sense) at the Shelburne Falls. The group liked the idea of pursuing modern hydro power possibilities at the Falls.*) Is this feasible? What are the technology options for dam-less conversion that's mindful of fish, aesthetics, etc.?
 - Richard volunteered to find an expert with whom to discuss the discovery process – is it feasible, practical, and viable?
 - There would be federal involvement and oversight if the town were to move forward. Rivers are highly regulated.
- 9) Municipal solar (Rowland)
- Town Manager Matt Lawless contacted Rowland about the possibility of setting up a municipal solar array on the town-owned land between the athletic club and waste water plant on Harbor Road.
 - Rowland will contact Jeff Forward and Chris Granda, consultants in municipal solar for their thoughts and report back.
 - Note: The 2019 Town Plan lists optimal solar sites – we're not sure what criteria were used when making the list. This site is not on that list.
- 10) Heat pump event (40 min)
- Questionnaire
 - Knowing we won't get a representative sample, what is our rationale?
 - Raising awareness of the committee
 - Promoting the event
 - By asking people to rank what's important to them and then how their system measures up, we get them thinking
 - To help us tailor our work
 - Liz, Art, and Karen will meet, develop our survey plan and timeline, and send it out!
 - Everyone will get "regular" people to fill it out – it's below...)
 - Event planning – tasks & teams
 - Richard will talk to Efficiency VT about what time of day, day of week works best.
 - Richard will reach out to vendors.
 - We'll meet in 2 weeks for further planning.
- 11) Other business / next meeting – **date & agenda**
- Jan 26: Event planning
 - Feb 9
- 12) Adjourn

Shelburne Heating and Cooling Survey

The Shelburne Climate and Energy Committee is interested in how Shelburne residents heat and cool their homes. One of our goals is to help residents understand and reduce the climate impact of heating and cooling their home. This short 5-minute survey will provide us with a snapshot of how we do so today and help us plan future projects in this area. We'd appreciate your household filling it out. Completed surveys will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 gift certificate from [ENTER LOCAL COMPANY HERE] – one entry per household.

Your answers to this survey will remain confidential. If you have any questions, please reach out to [WHO]

1. What type of heating system(s) do you use to heat your home? Check one primary heating system, and put checks in the secondary column for any additional systems you use:

Heating source	Primary (Only choose 1)	Other (Check all additional heating sources you use)
Hot water boiler with radiators		
Whole house hot air furnace		
Fireplace		
Wood stove		
Radiant heat		
Mini-split (ductless) heat pumps		
Centrally-ducted heat pumps		
Electric baseboard heating		
Space heaters that are not electric heat pumps.		
Other (specify)		

2. What type(s) of fuel do you use to heat your home? Check one type as your primary fuel type, and put checks in the secondary column for any additional fuel types you use:

Type of Fuel	Primary (Only choose 1)	Other (Check all additional fuel types you use)
Oil		
Propane		
Natural Gas		
Electricity		
Wood / pellets		
Kerosene		

Other (specify)		
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3. (If you don't have a secondary heat source, skip to question 5.) Why do you use your secondary heat source? Check all that apply
- To heat specific rooms in my house
 - To heat my house when I'm away
 - During power outages
 - To help on cold days
 - Other: _____

4. How do you cool your home? Check one primary cooling method, and put checks in the secondary column for any additional methods you use:

Cooling method	Primary (Only choose 1)	Other (Check all additional cooling methods you use)
Window mounted AC		
Whole house AC		
Heat pumps		
Fans		
No cooling		
Other (specify)		

5. Rank your satisfaction with your current heating and cooling systems:

	Extremely satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neutral	Somewhat dissatisfied	Extremely dissatisfied
Heating System					
Cooling System					

Tell us more:

6. How important are the following factors to you in a heating/cooling system:

	Extremely important	Somewhat important	Neutral	Somewhat unimportant	Not at all important
Adequacy of heating/cooling					
Cost					
Environmental impact					

Tell us more:

7. How would do you assess your current system on these factors?

	Great	Good	So-So	Poor	Terrible
Heating system					
Adequacy of heating/cooling					
Cost					
Environmental impact					
Cooling system					
Adequacy of heating/cooling					
Cost					
Environmental impact					

Tell us more:

8. Are you interested in learning more about cost-effective environmentally-friendly heat / cooling options?

Yes No Maybe

9. Do you own or rent your home?

Own Rent Other: _____

10. If you are using heat pumps,

a) How well does it heat on cold days:

- I haven't had a problem
- I need a backup when the temperature falls below _____ degrees
- I only use them for cooling, not for heat

b) Has it saved you money?

Yes No I don't know

c) Are you willing to share your experiences at a workshop?

Yes No Maybe

If you'd like to be entered in the drawing, please provide your contact information below. All information will be kept confidential.

Name:

Address:

Email:

May we reach out to you with information from the Climate and Energy Committee about future events, volunteering opportunities and general climate information?

Yes No

Is there anything else you'd like to tell us?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to [\[WHO\]](#)