

Green Energy Committee Minutes 04/09/2024

Minutes taken by Kimberly S. McGlinchey

Meeting 6:00 pm at Hill Library

Attendees: Mimi Jost, Hammond Brown, Kimberly McGlinchey

Special Presentations Strafford Community Power

1st Presentation -Standard Power (broker) guest Bob Hayden

1. Largest net-metering program - hydro and solar are project areas
2. Active participant at PUC, DOE, and NH State House.
3. 28 towns in a variety of stages of contracting.
4. ISOTOGO app presents all the New England Energy use and production.
5. New Hampshire is the lowest required amount as part of delivered electricity.
6. Buy power for 18 months - company looks 3 years out - leverage pricing; aggregate production to best value - always buying the same power just at a better time due to flexibility of purchase dates.
7. Community power allows you to save money in a fund for projects- if you added 1/10th of a cent, it can fund solar projects.
8. Wind is more efficient and less costly projects.
9. Stable rate over time.
10. Can always opt out.
11. Offer 100% renewable.
12. Electric assistance customers keep full benefits.
13. Work on local initiatives- next steps could take 4 years to get to that point.
14. No cost to the Municipal budget.
15. STEPS- write a plan→ Get approval → buy electricity
 - a. Use of community feedback to provide best package
 - b. Standard will run community outreach and information sessions
 - c. Help with meetings and hearings.
 - d. Go from MOU to true contract.

2nd Special Presentation

Andrew Hatch, Madeline Bradley- Community Power Coalition (non-profit).

1. Coalition - pooled power purchasing while the utility (Eversource) takes care of poles, wiring and billing.
2. Most seacoast towns are using- Portsmouth, Dover, Exeter, Durham
3. Local control and choices - those in the coalition have benefits of the group.
4. No cost to the community - there is little risk in buying into the program.
5. 50 towns and 2 counties use this program
6. Offer 100% renewable
7. Steps: join coalition →establish an "Electric Aggregation Committee" → launch community power.

- a. Electric aggregation committee established
- b. Create a plan and hold 2 public meetings
- c. Then bring to vote a town meeting.
- d. Handout on Community Power Coalition Checklist.
- e. CPCNH provides a website for Strafford users.
- f. Also has the project aspects as we move into that phase of production (only if wanted).

General problems

1. Net metering - solar production does not show up for reimbursement. Residential solar production is not reimbursed. Therefore, with both companies residents with solar power have to opt out - this is only until the law changes to allow vendors to see how much production is happening and credit the residents bill.
 - a. Net metering docket to PUC on Thursday - this is a discussion at state level on the issue.

Old Business

1. Member recruitment - Community Calendar / word of mouth.

New Business

1. Tuesday April 16th meeting with selectmen at 6:00 pm

Motion to adjourn by Mimi Jost and seconded by Hammond Brown
Meeting adjourned at 6:55