

**CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION MEETING NOTES, JUNE 17, 2015
(APPROVED AT MEETING OF OCTOBER 22, 2015)**

Members present: Candace Wheeler, Tom Kiely, Linda Brayton, Bob Myers, John Moskal, Linda Stout-Saunders.
Staff: Matt Coogan. **Guests:** Debra and Brian Darby. **Public:** Kevin Geisel; Joe George.

The meeting was called to order by Wheeler at 7:39pm at Pond Road City Hall Annex, 2nd floor conference room. The minutes for the 04/23/15 meeting were unanimously approved. Meeting minutes for the January 24, 2012, as determined by Wheeler, had not been previously approved. These were re-circulated to the Members earlier and have now been unanimously approved.

Guest Presentation: Debra Darby presented an outline concerning the support of organic waste diversion for the City as part of our overall initiative for a green infrastructure. This technology is commonly known as composting and/or Anaerobic Digestion (AD). Darby met with the Mayor previously who suggested that she make a presentation to the CEC. In summary:

The State Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued a ban on commercial organic waste disposal to landfill effective 10/1/14 for generators of one ton or more per week which generally affects commercial food processors, institutional/commercial/industrial business, schools, and hospitals. The State's overall goal is to divert half a million tons of organic waste annually. Darby suggested that the City/CEC hold a "Zero Waste" event to educate the community, both business and residents, on organics diversions and composting and the benefits of diverting food and organic materials from conventional disposal methods such as landfill and incineration. This includes food and compostable food service ware items; and develop a pilot residential compost collection program for organic waste disposal. Darby has also approached the UU Church with this idea. She recommends siting of an AD facility and suggests possible sites at Kondelin Road near Hiltz and at the City's wastewater treatment plant currently managed by Veolia. Grants and incentives are available for feasibility studies and implementation of AD from the DEP and Mass. Clean Energy Commission which locally the Cities of Manchester and Hamilton have taken advantage of. The City of Lawrence is building out AD capacity at their waste water treatment plant.

Environmental benefits: diverting organics trapped in landfill that produce polluting methane gas and leachates; soil improvement and use of organic compost; air and waterway pollution mitigation (sequesters carbon dioxide).

Economical/Sustainability Benefits: Reduction of City's waste management costs; production of marketable organic products; creation of jobs and new business opportunities. A combined heat and power project may also be a possibility which could result in energy savings. Darby will be attending a Bio-cycle Conference in Danvers, October 21, 2015.

CEC Member Commentary: Brayton/Myers inquired as to how Neptune's Harvest is disposing of fish waste. Veolia was mentioned; Moskal believes Veolia's by-product is too small for any real use of AD. Moskal suggested review of the City's Hiltz contract and assessment as to whether the volume of organic waste generated in the City is sufficient to justify AD. Union labor was further mentioned as a potential issue. Kiely mentioned Birckend Farms and Black Earth in Ipswich as processors of organic waste. Wheeler pointed out that the City of Hamilton's program is using equipment supplied by the Mass. DEP and that the City of Manchester has now gone to bi-weekly collection of garbage implying cost-saving impact of a separate organic waste collection (which is voluntary). Coogan/Brayton believe the City schools may already be recycling organic waste and that Darby should follow up with Rose Lopiccolo at the DPW. Darby will also contact Patty Amaral who is with the newly formed Gloucester Clean City Commissions. Dogtown was discussed as a possible site but Moskal mentioned that infrastructure may be an issue. Saunders suggests we look into the process for obtaining grants; Kiely motioned to further discuss this opportunity; Wheeler agreed that after follow-up we shall have Darby return to provide a more in-depth presentation. Kickoff of a pilot project will be looked into.

Public Comment: Kevin Geisel is a City resident and also a home energy auditor for Next Step Living (NSL). He recently performed a home audit for CEC Member Myers who suggested Geisel might be interested in attending a CEC meeting to share some mutual knowledge. Geisel gave a brief overview of NSL services, its interaction with Mass Save programs, and Good Morning Gloucester. Wheeler mentioned the memorandum of understanding

Gloucester had been discussing with NSL and that the City opted not to pursue a formal collaboration at this time. Myers was extremely impressed and satisfied with NSL's energy audit of his two homes.

CEC Member News and Comments: Brayton raised the issue of natural gas leaks and that this is a State-wide concern. (This topic was part of the January 2012 CEC Meeting under the topic of HEET "Home Energy Efficiency Team".) In summary, the Utility (National Grid in our area) is responsible for repair/replacement of "hot spots" i.e., those presenting an imminent danger. There are examples of unattended leaks that resulted in catastrophic events: the blown homes on Eastern Ave. in Gloucester and a site last year in San Bruno, CA. Moskal pointed out that overall the gas leaks are considered negligible and that the Ratepayer is contributing to the cost for repairs/leaks in their Utility Distribution Charge, again negligible (he pointed out that forcing repair of minor leaks could result in a higher cost passed on to the Ratepayers). Although the escaping gas (methane) is a Greenhouse Gas, it dissipates quicker than, as example, CO2 and that NOx is low. Moskal suggested we question the Utility as to what they are doing in Gloucester. Who actually pays for the service to do a study to find leaks will be investigated further by Brayton. (Subsequent to the meeting it was determined that HEET has already mapped 147 Massachusetts cities, including Gloucester where they have identified 39 spots. This map can be accessed at: <http://www.heetma.org/squeaky-leak/natural-gas-leaks-maps>.) Brayton questioned whether the Gloucester DPW has been investigating gas leaks which was not known. She also questioned the effect of gas leaks on those that have medical issues such as asthma. Moskal does not believe so since Nitrous Oxide is low.

Staff and Member Reports/Updates/Discussions

1. Municipal Solar Projects: Follow up discussion to the Meister Solar Feasibility Study presented in May 2015. Discussion primarily concerning community solar which allows electricity customers to purchase panels from a solar array remote from their home and receive electricity bill credits in proportion to their ownership stake (at times referred to as virtual metering). Options for the City are as detailed from our previous meeting May 28, 2015. Lifting of the net metering caps imposed upon the City and National Grid is of primary concern as to how we may be able to scope out future solar projects. CEC members will be attending a meeting with State Legislators, Senator Bruce Tarr and Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante on July 8 in Boston to lobby for legislation amendment to lift or increase the net metering cap. The City's cap is 10 MWs and due primarily to the wind turbine projects we have only approx. 1.5 MW of capacity remaining. Leasing City land for a private project (Gloucester Harbor Group was mentioned as an example of private sector connection) or constructing a project for battery storage backup for emergency purposes are some other possibilities. The City has already done several studies of potential sites and has retained an intern to conduct an inventory of owned and rented properties. Coogan pointed out that the City does not yet have specific ordinances/bylaws in place for community solar projects in general; further, he suggests that we hold off until the net metering cap matter is addressed. Myers said that he thought we should devote more efforts towards residential projects (not subject to the aforementioned cap since they are typically less than 20 kW).

2. Outreach to Residents/Business: Feasibility of participating in National Grid Community Initiatives Program, application due 7-1-15: National Grid (NG) is soliciting proposals from municipalities to provide public education, outreach, and marketing services during the program period of Sept. 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016 in order to increase awareness and participation in specific NG residential energy efficiency programs. Coogan provided further details of the program requirements but it has been concluded that, due to time constraint, lack of sufficient internal resources to meet the program commitments and minimal monetary incentives, the City will not be participating in this first round of the program. Wheeler had approached UU church but they will not be applying at this time. Geisel mentioned that NSL may participate.

3. Outreach via Website and Social Media: Myers continues to do research and deliver iterations of this project each month and give the CEC the opportunity to provide feedback and guidance during the process. The goal is to comprehend how social media can provide and crowd source a clean energy

initiative, and to deliver a concise, comprehensive approach to CEC members by end of 2015. Myers' summary provided this month "Social Media Presence" included:

- Individual vs. Marketing adoption of Social Media: specifically avoiding Open Meeting Law conflicts (he spoke with the State's Attorney General's Office for further input).
- Different Target Audiences and Social Media Networks such as Instagram and Facebook
- Social Media nexus with Direct Contact such as Next Step Living and Energy Sage. Energy Sage (www.energysage.com) is a solar marketplace which organizations such as the CEC can collaborate with to provide target audiences (homes, businesses as well as the municipality itself) with the ability to connect with solar installers.
- How We Measure Success

Overall CEC member commentary is that we should review the CEC City Ordinance and CEC Strategic Plan to determine how such a program falls into the realm of these guidelines and that further review the City's legal staff would most likely be required. In the meantime, Meyer's will continue to do research on platforms for outreach.

4. Outreach Partnership with UU Church Green Committee: Wheeler is in on-going discussion with them to participate in the Mass Solar Connect as part of developing partnerships for non-profit groups to increase education and outreach for solar technology while also reducing the cost for group members to implement solar projects. This will be accomplished through an educational campaign driven mainly by an outreach team led by the group in partnership with MassCEC, and by reduced pricing offered by a competitively selected solar installer. With the help of the MassCEC, Mass Energy selected the installer Direct Energy Solar, formerly Astrum Solar, who will offer reduced pricing relative to the average market price. On June 2, 2015 a Mass Solar Connect/Cape Ann Sustainability Initiative outreach session was held for residents at the Sawyer Free Library, in Rocky Neck, Lanesville and Magnolia. Also discussed was whether we should approach the UU Church relative to similar programs for low income residents who are presently referred to Action Inc. Further updates will be made in our next meeting.

5. CEC Strategic Plan Update: Brayton, Cleaves and Kiely are continuing to work on draft.

6. Community Development Updates:

- Streetlight Acquisition: Matt Coogan is awaiting final word that the City will be awarded a \$250K grant under the Green Communities program toward an estimated \$1M project to replace approx. 3000 City Streetlights with LED ("lighting emitting diode") lighting. Coogan is in ongoing discussion with Siemens concerning wattage and type of lighting.
- Electronic Vehicle ("EV") Incentive Program has been completed and the City took delivery of three Nissan LEAFs this month. The City will lease these vehicles over three years. Tax benefits and a grant will also be applied to pay down the cost. Use of an EV charging station will be available at no cost and another station may be made available if further grants are obtained.
- Green Communities grant projects: ongoing.

7. Ongoing and New Items: Vulnerability Analysis through Coastal Zone Management Grant: final report is due at the end of June.

8. Action Items

Net Metering Cap meeting, July 8, 2015, State House, Boston – CEC Members as available

Continue to explore options for Solar Siting

Zoning By-laws for ground-mounted solar projects – Cleaves, Coogan

Develop City Inventory of owned/rented properties – Coogan’s Intern
Mass Energy Aggregation Workshop in July – CEC Members as available
Confer with Siemens re: wattage and type of lighting for Streetlights – Coogan
Continue developing Social Media Initiative – Myers
Strategic Plan development – Brayton, Cleaves, Kiely

The meeting was adjourned at 9:38 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday July 30, 2015, 7:30 p.m. in the Pond Rd. Annex Conference Room. There will be no meeting the month of August.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Stout-Saunders