

## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes 2009-10

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### **Minutes: July 6, 2010**

Present: Oliver Herfort, Dave Taylor, Steve Halleran, Allan Ferguson, Nancy Mogielnicki

Discussion of Oliver Herfort idea for "Upper Valley Solar Heat Challenge." Oliver explained his perception that people are unaware of the financial and environmental benefits of installing solar hot water systems as well as the various rebates and tax credits that are available. He advocates for local incentives, with possible forms including a Plainfield Solar Challenge, an Upper Valley Solar Challenge or some form of "local tax credit." These ideas were discussed and will be passed on to SERG (Sustainable Energy Resource Group). The committee agreed that an article in Plain Facts would be helpful.

Allan Ferguson reported on the June 19th CleanAir/CoolPlanet meeting at which Marc Rosenbaum spoke about the Plainfield School Retrofit project. Allan was able to speak to officials involved in various energy grants about the details of Plainfield proposals.

Steve Halleran continues to work with National Grid on a streetlight assessment. They are evaluating the most cost effective means of reducing unnecessary streetlight use. Steve also commented on the discovery that the winter increase in cost (150) to run the blinking light on Rt 120 was related to the fact that Christmas tree lights were plugged into the system at that corner.

PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) legislation was presented by Nancy Mogielnicki. Steve Halleran expressed concern about the effect of a system which creates loans that are repaid through increased property taxes. The PACE program raises the question of the Town's proper role in promoting energy initiatives.

Allan Ferguson reported that the Showcase Communities Grant proposal is due July 26, 2010. He is crafting a document to be submitted.

The idling reduction program was discussed. Dave Taylor will speak with the new Plainfield store about sign use there.

Nancy Mogielnicki reported that representatives of the Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission will be contacting the town to assist in energy audits of town buildings. They will be representing CLF Ventures, a group which has received a grant to help reduce NH municipal energy use.

Discussion of the Upper Valley Energy Expo was deferred due to Thom Wolke's absence.

The next meeting will be held at the Plainfield Library on August 10, 2010 at 7 PM.

## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes 2009-10

---

### Meeting Minutes: June 8, 2010

Present: Thom Wolke, Matt Marrazzo, Dave Taylor, Oliver Herfort, Allan Ferguson, Nancy Mogielnicki

Report from Upper Valley Energy Committees Roundtable held May 25 and attended by Nancy Mogielnicki and Ron Eberhardt. Nancy Mogielnicki reported on the following highlights:

1. PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy), NH HB 1554.  
This initiative will allow funding for energy efficiency projects through revolving community loan funds. It will require approval by the Town at next Town Meeting. Loans will be repaid through an increase in property taxes.

For further details, see <http://www.pacenow.org/>

2. Myenergyplan.net  
This website provides information about local contractors who are available to provide energy efficiency services, incentives, tips for efficiency projects, etc.
3. UV-HEAT (Upper Valley Home Energy Assistance Team)  
This will be a collaborative venture which will provide comprehensive weatherization information to Upper Valley residents.
4. CLF Ventures  
A group which may help Plainfield to audit municipal buildings. Information will be available in early July.

Matt Marrazzo reported on Townline Equipment's interest in energy efficiency, which results in part from the move into larger quarters three years ago. Matt has been active in advocating for incentives for commercial renewable energy installations. Townline expects to install a solar photovoltaic array if grant funding is forthcoming. The company uses an innovative water filtration system and is looking for other ways to decrease its environmental footprint.

Allan Ferguson reported on the grant funding process. He is working on the technical requirements for the Climate Showcase Communities grant that may allow further work on the Plainfield Elementary School retrofit project.

Thom Wolke led a discussion regarding the second Energy Expo. The beginnings of a framework were set:

1. Date: Weekend of January 29, 2011
2. Name: Upper Valley Energy Expo
3. Booth fees: 80 early fee, 100 standard fee, 50 non profit fee.
4. Volunteer time: committee will keep track of work on the expo so that hours may be counted as "in kind" donations for grant applications.

## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes 2009-10

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5. Expo program: the idea of a printed program was discussed. Robin Larson was nominated to use her graphic arts skills to design this product.

6. Format: The Expo may include a series of events, including keynote speech and films as well as the booths and workshops of the first year.

Next meeting July 6, 2010, 7 PM, Plainfield Library

Nancy Mogielnicki

### **Minutes: Meeting May 11, 2010**

Present: Allan Ferguson, Dave Taylor, Thom Wolke, Nancy Mogielnicki

Report of meeting with Selectboard, Town Road Agent, Nancy Mogielnicki, Allan Ferguson and Steve Halleran:

Energy efficiency measures - including retrofit of Town Shed, idling reduction policies, route analysis, etc.- were discussed. Road Agent Stocker reported that the town crew does a good job of promoting energy efficiency and that no-idling policies are already in place. The Energy Committee is interested in helping to increase efficiency of the town shed. The Selectboard will continue discussions with the Road Agent and crew.

Rob Taylor suggested that the Energy Committee consider selling well-researched energy efficient items to town residents.

Grant proposals:

Allan Ferguson reported on the specifics of grant requirements and the fact that the Plainfield situation may not meet the guidelines for the PUC grant application. He will report to group at next meeting about outcome of discussions and on progress regarding Community Showcase grant application.

Idling reduction:

The committee discussed creating some signs which might project a positive tone and be more appealing to community businesses and organizations. The selectboard is planning to use the two remaining signs at the Town Shed. We are obligated to send photos of our sign postings to the state.

Streetlights: Discussion was deferred until we can consult with Steve Halleran about progress.

Expo: Thom Wolke will finalize a date in January 2011 with Plainfield School and KUA.

## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes 2009-10

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Sales of energy efficiency items: Nancy Mogielnicki reported that Gardeners' Supply will provide a 25% discount on any items we wish to offer to town residents. Options for such sales were discussed without a conclusion.

The June meeting will be held on Tuesday, 8th at 7 PM, Plainfield Library.

Nancy Mogielnicki

### **Meeting minutes: April 12, 2010**

The Plainfield Energy Committee met at the Plainfield Library on April 12, 2010 at 7 PM.

Present: Allan Ferguson, Dave Taylor, Mike O'Leary, Nancy Mogielnicki

Streetlights - Nancy M reported on the Meriden area survey with Steve Halleran and Chief Gillens on March 29. There are many lights on residential roads leading away from the village which are not essential for town safety. Steve H. will contact homeowners who have lights in close proximity. We will consider elimination of lights on peripheral roads around Meriden Village. Steve will contact National Grid to discuss timers.

Idling - 2 signs are in place at PES. Thom Wolke has reported that the Meriden Deli would prefer posting signs which are less negative and more positively encouraging. We will explore other options than those offered by the state DES. Nancy reports that we are not able to post signs on federal property and therefore the post offices will not use them. She will contact the state "No idling" outreach coordinator to suggest contacting the USPO to encourage signage at all post offices. School-related handouts will be given to Principal Langsner for use at PES.

Town Fleet - information for the upcoming meeting with the selectboard and town road agent was discussed. We will offer to help reduce energy use by evaluating town fleet routes for efficiency, assess the town garage for efficiency and conservation options and the potential for renewable energy installation.

Community Challenge - Allan continues to collect data and enter it into Portfolio Manager. Our first year of challenge will end in July. Nancy will discuss reporting requirements with Linda Darveau of the EPA.

Grants - Allan reported on two potential grant opportunities:

1. NH PUC - grant to reduce carbon emissions using renewable energy. Options include installation of PV modules (ground mounted, 179K) at PES. This could potentially provide all of the electric power required by the 1989 wing of the school. A recently approved grant will fund energy retrofits of the classrooms in this wing. A second option would be installation of a wood pellet burning furnace. Concerns about both of these include utility and payback for PV, the encroachment on school grounds necessary to mount PV panels, pollution and long term sustainability of wood burning

2. Community Showcase Grant from EPA. - whether to focus on one aspect of town energy use or link multiple projects..Nancy to discuss with Linda Darveau

## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes 2009-10

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Solid Waste Extravaganza - the links between energy issues and solid waste were discussed. There is some interest in promoting further recycling at the annual waste day which this year would be June 19th. Nancy will discuss with members of solid waste committee.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2010 at the Plainfield Library.

Nancy Mogielnicki

### **Minutes - Energy Committee meeting March 11, 2010, 7 PM, Plainfield Library**

Present: Allan Ferguson, Robin Larson, Thom Wolke, Nancy Mogielnicki

Idling reduction campaign: Signs and handouts have been received from NH DES.

Allan will take signs for use in school parking lot and driveway

Thom will discuss use at the Deli in Meriden

Nancy will contact PO

Robin will design educational page for PlainFacts

We will have handouts available at Town Meeting

Streetlight evaluation:

Nancy and Steve Halleran will ride with Chief Gillens on March 29th to assess safety issues.

Town Meeting:

No idling handouts

Weatherization information

Town Fleet: meeting with selectboard and road agent to be scheduled

Community Challenge and Showcase grant: discuss at next meeting.

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes  
2009-10

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Nancy Mogielnicki

**Meeting #12** was held on February 11, 2010, Plainfield Library 7PM

Present: Michael O'Leary, Steve Halleran, Dave Taylor, Thom Wolke, Oliver Herfort, Nancy Mogielnicki

Community Energy Challenge: Steve Halleran described the energy upgrades to the Town Garage that were accomplished in 2009, including exterior lighting and insulating doors. He described interest among the Town Crew and Road Agent in further upgrades and decreasing fuel use in the town fleet. We will arrange a meeting with Selectboard and Road Agent after Town Meeting to discuss further.

Streetlight project: The fact that there are both municipal, commercial and residential lights was discussed. We will request that Chief Gordon Gillens survey the lights with us in order to determine possible safety issues. We will proceed after that review.

Idle-free campaign: Several members reported information regarding policies in place. These include the First Student bus company; no-idling signs are posted at school bus parking but buses are allowed to idle for a short time in extremely cold weather. There is no school policy in place and the committee agrees that student deposit and pick up is an issue of concern. The committee will provide literature on the subject to townspeople at the March 13 Town Meeting and place information in the school newsletter and PlainFacts.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 11, 2010 at the Plainfield Library.

**Meeting #11** was held on January 12, 2010, 7 PM at the Plainfield Library

Present: Dave Taylor, Robin Larson, Thom Wolke, Mike O'Leary, Nancy Mogielnicki

Expo review: Possible scenarios and dates for a second expo were revisited. The expo will be held in January 2011.

Idling policy: The committee discussed methods of promoting a "no-idling" policy in town as a means of saving energy and reducing pollution. Mike O'Leary will investigate the policy in place at the school and committee members will plan to meet with selectboard to discuss.

Streetlight assessment: Allan Ferguson has collected data on streetlight placement and energy consumption. The committee will work toward recommendations for energy savings by eliminating unnecessary lamps and using timers.

## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes 2009-10

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Community Energy Challenge: The committee would like to pursue the possibility of formal audits for some of the municipal buildings. Opportunities for funding will be pursued. Informal assessment and monitoring will continue in the interim.

Energy Committee website: Opportunities for outreach were discussed. Thom Wolke will pursue arranging links to participants in the Energy Expo. Nancy Mogielnicki will organize energy education information and links.

Town reports: A review of Energy Committee activities for the Town Report will be completed by Nancy Mogielnicki. Allan Ferguson is drafting an Energy Chapter for the Master Plan and Nancy Mogielnicki will assist with editing.

Meeting dates and place were discussed. Overlapping town meetings have limited attendance. As a consequence the next meeting will be held on a Thursday. Meetings will continue to be held at the Plainfield Library as long as a majority of participants live on the west side of town.

Next meeting: Thursday, February 11, 2010 at the Plainfield Library at 7 PM.

**Meeting #10** was held on November 13, 2009 at the Plainfield Library.

Present: Dave Taylor, Steve Halleran, Mike O'Leary, Robin Larson, Thom Wolke, Susan Pullen, Nancy Mogielnicki, Mary Boyle (Cornish)

This meeting was devoted to review of our successful Energy Expo which was produced on October 24th. (See the notes by Thom Wolke and Linda Darveau, included below, for details.) After discussion, a decision was made to hold a second annual expo at the Plainfield School in November 2010 or January 2011.

The committee elected to postpone further meetings until January 12, 2010. At that time we will continue with outstanding and new projects, which include the EPA Community Energy Challenge which addresses energy use in our municipal buildings, providing homeowners with online resources for energy reduction projects, streetlight assessment, transportation fuel assessment and support of ongoing projects at the Plainfield School and Kimball Union Academy.

**Meeting #9** was held on October 13, 2009 at the Plainfield Elementary School.

Present: Mike O'Leary, Oliver Herfort, Susan Pullen, Steve Halleran, Allan Ferguson, Thom Wolke, Dave Taylor, Robin Larson, Nancy Mogielnicki, Mary Boyle (Cornish)

Final plans for the Energy Expo on October 24th were reviewed, including: workshops, exhibitors, children's activities, childcare, 7th grade food concession, expo logistics, set up and PR, handouts and signage, school personnel and expectations, Friday night film showing at

## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes 2009-10

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KUA, [350.org](http://350.org) involvement.

Members of the committee will meet at the Plainfield School on October 23rd at 4 PM to begin expo set up.

**Meeting #8** was held on September 24, 2009 at the Plainfield Library

Present: Robin Larson, Thom Wolke, Dave Taylor, Nancy Mogielnicki, Steve Halleran, Mary Boyle (Cornish)

Publicity for the October 24, 2009 Energy Expo was the focus of this meeting. Plans for workshops and exhibitors were reviewed and final poster design was completed. The committee will meet next at the Plainfield School on October 13, 2009, to review all expo logistics.

**Meeting #7** was held on September 10, 2009, at the Plainfield Library

Present: Steve Halleran, Allan Ferguson, Robin Larson, Mary Boyle (Cornish), Thom Wolke, Dave Taylor, Nancy Mogielnicki

Discussion was limited to planning the October 24 Energy Expo to be held at the Plainfield School. (see minutes of previous meeting). The committee agreed that we will complete the line-up of booths and workshop speakers and meet again in time to send out timely publicity.

**Meeting #6** was held at the Meriden Town Hall on August 11, 2009 at 7 PM.

Present: Thom Wolke, Steve Halleran, Allan Ferguson, Nancy Mogielnicki  
Mary Boyle (Cornish), Nancy Whiteman (Cornish).

Discussion focused on the planned Energy Expo, scheduled to be held at the Plainfield School from 10-3 on October 24, 2009. The group debated ideas for format, workshops, vendors, student participation, non-profit attendance, slide shows and other opportunities. Reports of other energy committee fairs and town events were reviewed.

This discussion resulted in the following decisions:

The expo will be a joint venture of the Plainfield and Cornish Energy Committees but will hope to draw attendees from throughout the Upper Valley.

We would like to highlight the energy savings projects at the Plainfield Elementary School

The focus of the Expo will be on the business of alternative energy business. Thom Wolke will be responsible for inviting alternative energy vendors.

We would like to preview the expo with a film to be shown the night before. Steve Halleran will explore getting a copy of Kilowatt Ours and Alan Ferguson will inquire about using KUA space for an evening showing on October 23rd.

Workshops will be presented throughout the day. They will be 20 minute segments on topics of interest, with time for discussion with presenters. Mary Boyle will organize the workshops.

Non-profit and governmental organizations will be invited to present their missions and projects. Nancy Mogielnicki will coordinate these groups.



## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes 2009-10

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All townspeople are invited to participate in further planning of this event either by attending planning meetings or calling or emailing one of the committee members.

Nancy Mogielnicki

**Minutes of July meeting: Meeting #5** was held on Monday, July 20, 2009 at the Meriden Town Hall at 5 PM. Present: Steve Halleran, Thom Wolke, Nancy Norwalk, Allan Ferguson, Oliver Herfort, Nancy Mogielnicki, Mike O'Leary Guests: Jim Potter, UNH Intern and mentors Dr. Ihab Farag, professor, UNH and Linda Darveau, EPA. J. Potter presented his work benchmarking Town of Plainfield municipal buildings. Many thanks to Steve Halleran, the Plainfield and Meriden Libraries and Allan Ferguson for providing the data to make this project possible. This presentation is available in Powerpoint form as an enclosure in this email. It is also available on the Town Website Energy Committee page (<http://www.plainfieldnh.org/energy.html>) which has been established by Mike Sutherland and Steve Halleran. We learned that Plainfield's municipal buildings actually score well when compared to others of the same type. An unexpected finding was that an energy upgrade to the Meriden Town Hall may not be the most effective carbon footprint reduction project. The remainder of the meeting following the benchmark discussion focused on the upcoming energy expo, to be held on October 24 at the Plainfield School from 10-3. Thom Wolke will spearhead this endeavor, with Nancy Mogielnicki as co-pilot. The tentative plan is to invite a variety of for-profit and non-profit vendors of energy related products and activities, to develop activities for children and to involve Plainfield businesses to promote the "Buy Local" aspects of energy conservation. We anticipate that the day will be productive, educational and a lot of fun! Mike O'Leary will contact the Town of Cornish Energy Committee to invite their participation. Ideas for the energy expo or any other aspect of the Energy Committee work can be posted on the Community Forum at <http://forum.plainfield.nh.us/index.php?action=recent> Thank you. Nancy Mogielnicki

**Meeting #4** was held at the Plainfield Library, June 22, 2009, 7 PM.

Present: Allan Ferguson, Steve Halleran, Oliver Herfort, Ron Eberhardt, Nancy Mogielnicki Guests: Nancy Norwalk, Librarian and Bernardina Webber, Trustee - Plainfield Library. Bob Walker - Sustainable Energy Resource Group

1. Benchmarking: Nancy Norwalk and Bernardina Webber have provided the committee with library data (fuel and electric, square footage, hours of operation, computer use, occupant counts, etc.) for the EPA municipal building benchmarking process.

2. Town Lighting: Steve Halleran reported on work to date on town lighting. Plainfield Village has been upgraded. Meriden Village will be assessed this summer. Oliver Herfort has expressed interest in working on this project. Allan Ferguson will be the liason to the lighting consultants and collect data on current status.

3. Allan Ferguson reported on the First Annual Local Energy Committees Conference in Concord, NH on June 20.

4. Bob Walker, SERG: Bob is the Founder and Director of the Sustainable Energy Resource Group (<http://www.serg-info.org/>), an organization which has been instrumental in the organization of town energy committees as well as providing expert consultation and education about energy matters to organizations and individuals in Vermont and New Hampshire. Bob discussed his experience in a number of areas , including street lighting, energy audits, energy fairs - and provided information regarding the many resources available to achieve our objectives.

## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes 2009-10

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Note: October 24, 2009 will be the date of our town energy expo. A post on the Community Forum provides a site for ideas for this event. Please log on and add your voice and encourage neighbors to do same. Nancy Mogielnicki

**Meeting #3** was held at the home of David and Susan Taylor on May 18, 2009.

Present: Ron Eberhardt, Thom Wolke, Robin Larson, Bill McGonigle, Dave Taylor, Allan Ferguson, Steve Halleran, Mike O'Leary, Nancy Mogielnicki

1. Dave Taylor provided a tour of his energy efficient home (HERS 48) which includes solar hot water and electricity, superinsulation, efficient propane system, heat recovery ventilator, Energy Star systems and appliances. Many thanks to the Taylors for hosting the meeting.
2. Townwide street lighting was briefly discussed. Oliver Herfort, unable to attend meeting, has an interest in this subject and will pursue with Steve Halleran.
3. Steve Halleran announced that Plainfield is now an official member of the EPA Community Energy Challenge. A UNH intern will work with the Town to benchmark all municipal buildings this summer, beginning the the Meriden Town Hall for which data has been collected.
4. Thom Wolke described his interest in developing a series of community events at the Grange, including some relating to energy topics. The group expressed interest in having an autumn Energy Fair, perhaps with Cornish.
5. Robin Larson alerted us to the Dartmouth Sustainability Pledge and broached the subject of having a similar pledge specific to our town. She will provide copies of the Dartmouth document and solicit ideas for Plainfield.
6. Bill McGonigle provided a tutorial on the use of the online Community Forum for which Energy Committee members will have interactive access. Address: [energy.plainfield.nh.us](http://energy.plainfield.nh.us)
7. Mike O'Leary continues to evaluate residential benchmarking tools for homeowners. We will investigate the possibility of receiving group rates for residential energy audits if there is interest in the community.
8. Allan Ferguson will attend the First Annual Local Energy Committees Conference in Concord on June 20, 2009.

**Meeting #2** was held April 27th at the Plainfield Library. Present: Susan Pullen, Dave Taylor, Steve Halleran, Michael O'Leary, Thom Wolke, Nancy Mogielnicki, Oliver Herfort, Bill McGonigle  
Tasks outlined at last meeting were reviewed:

1. Establishing website/message board for education and communication (Herfort, McGonigle)  
Oliver Herfort s setting up a link to the Town of Plainfield website which can be used for consumer education, etc. Bill McGonigle discussed the evolving Plainfield Community Forum on which committee members will have accounts. To log on, go to <[energy.plainfield.nh.us](http://energy.plainfield.nh.us)>, click on "register" and follow prompts. Bill, the administrator, will clear all Energy Committee members for interactive use of the site.
2. Baseline data collection for town energy use
  - PES -in progress (Ferguson)
  - Other municipal buildings (Halleran) - received
  - National Grid data (Mogielnicki)- received
  - NH Electric Co-op (Wolke) - requested
  - Public Service (Pullen)- pending Allan Ferguson has agreed to collate the data from the three electric companies to give an overview of town energy use.

## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes 2009-10

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3. Join the EPA Community Energy Challenge (Halleran, Mogielnicki)- in process. We will have an EPA intern for the summer to help with benchmarking municipal buildings. Steve Halleran will complete the paperwork necessary to join the Challenge.

4. Explore use of EPA Residential Yardstick for benchmarking home energy improvement (O'Leary) Michael O'Leary will be available to assist residents who want to use the Yardstick to assess residential energy use. Other business: Members would like to invite Bob Walker of SERG (Sustainable Energy Resource Group) and Lee Lynd of Thayer School and Mascoma Corporation to attend a meeting. Nancy Norwalk, Plainfield Librarian, noted to the group that the libraries will soon have Kill-a-Watt meters available for lending to townspeople. Members would like to share expertise and experience with superinsulated homes and alternative energy. Accordingly, the next meeting will be at the home of David and Susan Taylor.

Nancy Mogielnicki

## Energy Committee Meeting Minutes 2009-10

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### Meeting #1:

Inaugural meeting of Plainfield Town Energy Committee was held March 31, 2009 at Plainfield Town Office, Meriden, 7 PM

Present: Susan Pullen, Steve Halleran, Oliver Herfort, Thom Wolke, Michael O'Leary, Allan Ferguson, Nancy Mogielnicki

Introductions revealed a wealth of expertise and involvement in energy-related activities in the town:

- Engineering, construction, education, communication, administration
- Facilities and "green" committees at Plainfield Elementary School, KUA and Meriden United Church of Christ
- Personal experience with energy efficient construction, solar installation, etc.

Discussion revolved around the range of potential activities for this committee, including :

- Public education through website/message board, public events and other media
- Improving energy efficiency of all municipal buildings
- Promoting energy efficiency of residences, businesses, farms and transportation
- Supporting other initiatives which relate to energy efficiency and sustainability e.g. solid waste and recycling, "Buy local" campaigns, commuter issues, etc.

Tasks to begin this process include:

- Establishing website/message board for education and communication (Herfort, McGonigle)
- Baseline data collection for town energy use
- PES -in progress (Ferguson)
- Other municipal buildings (Halleran)
- National Grid data (Mogielnicki)
- NH Electric Co-op (Wolke)
- Public Service (Pullen)
- Join the EPA Community Energy Challenge (Halleran, Mogielnicki)
- Explore use of EPA Residential Yardstick for benchmarking home energy improvement (O'Leary)

Next meeting scheduled for April 27, Plainfield Library, 7 PM

Nancy Mogielnicki

EPA Community Energy Challenge:

<http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/energy/energy-challenge.html>

To receive Community Challenge email updates contact:

[darveau.linda@epa.gov](mailto:darveau.linda@epa.gov)