

ENERGY COMMITTEE 2016

Energy Committee Members Betsy Rybeck-Lynd, Evan Oxenham, Michael O'Leary, Ron Eberhardt, Steven Ladd.

The year's effort consisted of a continuation of the Meriden Town Hall project begun in previous years and two new projects; Solarize Plainfield Cornish II and Ready for 100. The Plainfield Energy Committee joined forces with the Cornish Energy Committee to work on the Solarize and Ready for 100 projects.

Meriden Town Hall: Work on the Meriden Town Hall continued. The town received another Moose plate grant for \$7,047 that allowed us to install historically appropriate storm windows for all the town hall windows. The new outside storm window panels were put up at the end of October, so for the winter of 2016-2017 every window in the town hall now has three layers. The outside storm, the original window, and the old inside storms. In time we will likely discontinue the inside storms, but for the moment we put them all up and the town hall is as snug as it has ever been. The new outside storm windows both protect the town's investment in the rehabilitated windows and limit further heat loss. Now that the storm windows are installed we will proceed with the rehabilitation of the large windows in 2017.

Solarize Plainfield-Cornish II: This year we teamed up with the Cornish Energy Committee to run a second round of Solarize Plainfield-Cornish. We kicked this off in February with a "Are You Ready for Solar?" presentation at the Philip Read Memorial Library where we discussed types of solar photovoltaic (PV) systems and what to ask installers when shopping for a solar PV system. This was followed by a "PV Installer Expo" at the Plainfield Elementary School in March, where four companies that install solar PV systems made short presentations and were available for more detailed questions from people interested in installing a solar PV system. The final education effort was in April when residents who had previously installed solar PV systems opened their homes to residents interested in buying a solar PV system. Twelve new solar PV systems were installed in Plainfield and Cornish as a result of this campaign, bringing the total number of solar PV installations in Plainfield to just over 50.

Ready for 100 Campaign :The Plainfield and Cornish Energy committees have been following the work done by Hanover on their Ready for 100 campaign and considering what we could do to encourage Plainfield and Cornish to make a similar commitment. The Ready for 100 campaign is a movement of people working to inspire our leaders to embrace a vision of healthier communities powered by 100% clean energy. The intent is to commit our towns to a goal of 100% renewable electric grid electricity by 2030 and 100% clean renewable energy (including home and business heating, grid electricity and transportation) by 2050.

Nationwide the following cities that have committed to 100% renewable energy:
Burlington VT, Nassau NY, East Hampton CT, Columbia MD, Georgetown TX,

Greensburg KS, Rochester MN, Grand Rapids MI, Aspen CO, Salt Lake City UT, San Francisco CA, San Jose CA, Palo Alto CA, Santa Monica CA, San Diego CA, Del Mar CA.

The Energy Committee will be exploring this issue further during 2017, and will be organizing presentations and workshops to help residents understand the costs and benefits of this goal.

Submitted by
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