

COMMUNITY ENERGY TASK FORCE
2nd Meeting
Thursday, May 7, 2009
Minutes prepared by Cathie Currie, Secretary

The 2nd meeting of the Community Energy Task Force (“CETF”) was held on May 7th, 2009 in the Fellowship Hall of the Eagle Harbor Congregational Church, 105 Winslow Way West, Bainbridge Island, Washington, from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Attendees

Bea Dixon, Maradel Gale (Sustainable Bainbridge), Rick Hockins (web developer), Matt Olsen (Info tech), Charles Higgins (Distributive Energy Management), Fritz Feiten (Honeywell), Andrew Hill (Marketing/Communications), Jean Pearson (Resident), Gerlind Jenkner (Green Sanctuary), Stephen Douglass (Community Energy Solutions), Chris McMasters (CoolMoms), Eric Moe (FEB Energy/Community Energy Solutions), Eric Ream (Solar Energy Institute), Larry Koss (Transition Town), Kelly Dickson (Planner, City of Bainbridge Island), Jaco ten Hove (InterFaith Council), Jessica Geenan (Green Communities Outreach, Energy Efficiency Department, Puget Sound Energy), Joe Deets (Community Energy Solutions), Bill Luria (Housing Resources Board), Dave Johnson (Attorney and resident), Eric Schmidt (Planner and architect), Tammy Deets (Community Energy Solutions), Glenn Tyrell (Bainbridge School District), Dave Rau, Jim Brennan (Resident), Kevin Dwyer (BI Chamber of Commerce)

Overview of CETF’s Purpose

Hilary Franz overviewed the purpose of the CETF: Gathering around a movement toward greenhouse gas reduction, an opportunity to see what other communities have done, an effort to capture and captivate people to see what is really possible. It is exciting to see and sense the number of people who are interested in working in the area of energy for our community. **Hilary** briefly overviewed the initial organizing meeting which occurred on Tuesday.

It was agreed that CETF’s goal is not to stop the substation, it is about looking at the way we use energy on the island, and considering alternatives. Postponement of substation could be a measure of success, but is not an objective.

The objective of the CETF is to develop a “Bainbridge Island Energy Challenge” -- a challenge to the whole community and the entities within it, aimed at reducing energy use and using energy differently.

At Tuesday’s (May 5th) organizational meeting, the CETF stated **five goals (now six, since we added jobs)** regarding the island’s energy use. We will select tools for the Community Energy Plan “toolbox” that will help us reach our goals, which are:

- 1. Achieve reduction in peak energy use**
- 2. Achieve institutionalization -- “take-up” of energy efficiency and conservation measures by Bainbridge Island residents**
- 3. Reduce our greenhouse gas emissions**
- 4. Increase energy reliability on the Island**
- 5. Educate the community on how our actions, collectively and individually, can make a difference**
- 6. Create green jobs for our community**

Hilary noted that she is part of a regional group, focused on opportunities to use federal stimulus to develop clean energy. With the slow down in the housing and building markets, there is less demand for the services of construction industry workers. There is a huge opportunity to invite them into retrofitting.

Larry Koss noted the importance of language, and suggested the name of Energy Descent Plan, which is being used in Europe. He also suggested that an additional goal be added to address in some fashion the issue of growth, and proactively looking at getting the community to redefine the revenue stream that supports it, which is framed around development activities. **Bill Luria** recommended that the group not re-hash the goals set at the last meeting. **Charles Higgins** suggested that we not set too many goals. **Joe**

Deets reiterated that, through job creation, the effort will provide economic stimulus. **Dave** noted that development is tied into load growth. **Tammy Deets** suggested that we follow the agenda to move the conversation forward.

Hilary pointed out that energy use wraps in the issue of growth. The Architecture 2030 plan is a movement toward this goal; Washington is the first state that has implemented this plan into our energy code. One element could be, in future development, addressing green building codes.

Possible metrics:

Peak load: A reduction of 4 mg by 2011 on peak demand. 8,000 MW hours.

Fritz Feiten introduced the concept of energy use intensity. 1,000 BTU's per square foot that a facility consumes, incorporating all energy uses, not just energy. We need a "user friendly" language for communicating with homeowners. KW hours/square foot would be a terminology that people could understand.

Dave noted that limiting peak is MW. Consumption reduction is MW hours.

Eric noted that the City of Bainbridge Island is a member of ICLEI, Cities for Climate Protection, which offers tools for evaluating a community's current energy usage, setting goals for reduction, and measuring success. Discussion of these specific metrics might a good option for a subcommittee rather than a 25 member debate.

Amy Shatzkin of ICLEI has said that she would be happy to work with the Energy Task Force, she could coordinate with **Kelly Dickson**, the City's Special Projects Planner.

We will need tools that work for many goals and some that work for just one.

Jessica Geenen noted that in evaluating the need for substations and infrastructure, Puget Sound Energy is looking at their data to evaluate what would be the most useful metrics to extract, and how to provide it for the community so that they can watch their progress.

Fritz Feiten noted that addressing peak load does not mean we are reducing energy consumption overall. It was agreed that both goals need to be addressed.

Looking at Goal #1

Achieve targeted peak load reduction 7 - 9 am, 96 minute peak. Who? Residential and commercial contributors. (It's important to target the biggest bang for the buck, but Charles noted that this needs to be achieved through many small changes which in the aggregate create the solution.)

There was a discussion of whether these issues might be best addressed in sub-groups.

Need a criteria to evaluate alternatives, need baseline. Two of the most important sub-committees would be developing baseline, criteria to screen alternatives

Next week, **Jessica Geenan** will bring information regarding consumption, commercial, residential and industrial. PSE does not track greenhouse gas output, but that could be calculated based on the data they have. Another set of data would be the duration and frequency of outages. PSE usually looks at that on a more regional level, but Jessica has asked to see if they can drill down to the details for Bainbridge Island.

A question arose as to whether the task force could access data about PSE's top energy users on the Island. **Jessica** noted that that is confidential but it might be possible, for example, for PSE to ask the top ten users if they would be willing to share their identity.

Another question was whether there are other communities that don't have access to natural gas that we could compare our metrics to?

David noted that the goals can be addressed by priority. Right now, that is peak load.

Fritz suggested segmenting the goal. There are things that residents can do, things that businesses can do. Break out specific goals to utility, residence, commercial.

The group discussed the desired outcome of targeted peak load reduction: 1 - 2 MW per year reduction would be the desire of PSE.

A goal of 2 MW per year of peak demand reduction per year, beginning in winter 2009, was suggested. **Joe Deets** suggested 0 growth in peak load demand as a goal. It was agreed that 75 MW is the “redline” threshold, so the task force should shoot for 70. That would be 5 MW (megawatt volt amps) below the Island’s nameplate capacity.

To develop the most effective measure, CETF needs feedback from PSE. It would be great to have the Island’s power meter on a website. Every new home will add to the peak usage; so there needs to be corresponding reduction as the Island’s population grows. How do we ensure that new homes are equipped for lower loads? This could be a subcommittee topic.

Fritz asked whether PSE would be willing to provide thermostats which will enable citizens to track each home’s usage on a detailed basis. **Jessica** noted that PSE is close to signing a contract to implement this effort, and because it is a pilot, they will want to test. The challenge is that, in addition to willingness to participate, people will need to have broadband internet access, a heat pump in good condition, and meet other factors for eligibility. PSE would need to get at least 600 people signed up to make it work.

Tammy pointed out that with stimulus funding available, the group has the opportunity to “think big”

It’s important for the CETF to define success: Did we remove the peak? Have changes been institutionalized, integrated into culture?

Stephen Douglass noted that anything we do to reduce the peak will probably reduce our total demand.

Goal #2: Reliability:

Who: Residential users, commercial, PSE

What is the desired outcome? **Jessica** noted that the proposed new transmission line will help reliability by creating a circular line. **It’s important to distinguish between delivery and transmission lines.** It would be useful to know what requirements PSE is subject to under WA State Utility Commission regulations.

One goal might be to have alternative energy sources as backup. What’s needed is a combination of distributed generation and storage. Cells for plug in cars could provide demand alternatives.

There was a discussion of the usefulness of solar, battery arrays. **PSE is limited in their ability to address reliability**, even with redundant loops, because if the main line (at Agate Pass Bridge) goes down, the Island would be out of power. **The only bottom-line solution is distributed generation and energy storage on the Island.**

Short term goal: Quick response backup with minimal greenhouse gas impact

Long term goal: No outages

How progress is measured: By frequency and duration of outages. PSE is working on baseline data.

A committee could be formed to work with PSE to understand these issues, mainline vs. distribution, etc. Given the popular interest in this topic, being clear about what we can and can’t do would be valuable.

Further discussion on reliability was tabled.

Request to PSE: Information about the tools they have in their “tool box” - what is the palette of their programs, even if they don’t apply specifically to Bainbridge Island. **Jessica Geenan** agreed to email documents on current programs to the group.

A subcommittee could look at the programs now available and how we can roll those out through the community.

Tammy noted that we have to focus on a sustainable plan; if we run too fast, we may trip. We are asking for something new, unique. If we choose the wrong tool and start implementing it that could get in our way.

Joe mentioned that PSE has a program for energy reduction in multi-family buildings. The Housing Resources Board (HRB) is already working to implement this.

Jessica noted that PSE has a number of programs in place, but that their Green Community Outreach program was started just a year ago. Working with communities, and marketing energy saving tools through community initiatives, is a new effort for PSE which can help it better market existing programs.

Request to PSE: baseline data on peak demand, total consumption, reliability and carbon emissions. This would allow the task force to project out ten years, look at the economics. To do this, we’d need three years of trend data by sector (residential, commercial, industrial).

Eric Moe volunteered to be the contact for PSE for data collection.

Hilary reviewed stimulus funding alternatives. As we look at solutions, shape them based on stimulus priorities (GET THESE FROM HIL)

Timeframe:

There was a discussion of the timeframe for the task force’s work. To delay the substation, we have 6 months to make a measurable change in the island’s energy consumption. We also need to follow a quick timeline because of stimulus opportunities. Looking at use of distributed energy, alternative energy will be longer-term.

Hilary described the regional energy initiative. All four counties and the cities within them have come together to put together a plan for a clean energy Puget Sound. This would be looking at a billion dollar amount in a competitive grant process. Funding would highlight four or five communities in the nation. We could be one. This would need to involve partnerships between the private sector, community organizations, public sector, non-profits.

Eric asked what form these partnerships need to have to be competitive.

Charles said that based on his meetings with DOE, it is mandatory for a successful proposal to have a partnership with the energy utility in their area. Other than that it’s flexible.

Tammy noted that the organizational relationship does not require legal contracts; memoranda of understanding would be sufficient. Significant participation can create a compelling package.

It’s important for the task force to get its plans into place, so that we can begin to get agreement with potential partners.

It was agreed to set June 19 as the deadline to have a framework plan in place. We will work backwards from that date. The goal would be to have final signoff from partner organizations by July 4.

Eric Moe, Stephen Douglass and David Rapp volunteered to play a leadership role in a Technical Subcommittee, and proposed to come back within a week with a list of potential tools for efficiency, reduction and conservation.

The task forces' next meeting will be a discussion of potential solutions and tools.

CETF Sub-Committees were established, as follows:

Technical Sub-Committee

Eric Moe - Chair
Stephen - Co-chair
Eric R
Fritz
David
Joe
Stephen
Jessica
Tammy
Dillon
Matt Olsen

Marketing and Communications Strategy Sub-Committee:

Tammy
Fritz
Jessica
Chris McMasters -- Chair
Kevin Dwyer
Charles
Drew Hill -- Co-chair
Debbi Lester
Ross West
Cathie Currie
John Koval

Grantwriting and Development Sub-Committee:

Bill -- Chair
Cathie -- Co
Hilary
Charles
Fritz
Joe

Partnership Development Sub-Committee:

Bill
Joe -- Chair
Charles -- Co-Chair
Jessica Geenan
Cathie
Maradel
Glenn

The challenge of short-term funding was discussed. **Jessica** noted that PSE can provide some in-kind assistance with marketing, branding, advertising costs.

Agreements:

Jessica will find out who the people from PSE are most appropriate to participate in each committee. **Stephen Douglass** suggested that, by next week, each participant go to myPSE.com and create their own online profile.
Each committees will meet, or at least set a time to meet, by next Thursday's meeting.

Eric will set up a Google group

On the Parking Lot:

Consider most appropriate name for Task Force.

Meters that can adjust power usage.