

BENNINGTON ENERGY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 2, 2022

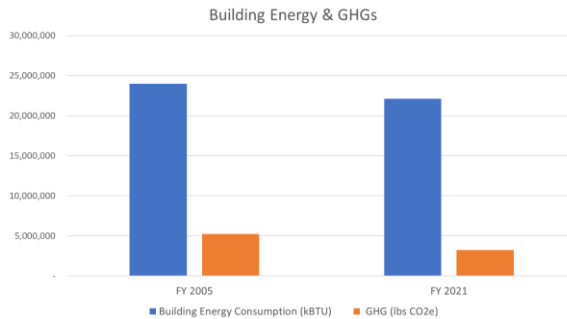
Bennington Fire Dept Multi-Purpose Rm, 3rd Floor, 130 River St, Bennington

7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Minutes

In attendance: William Karis (Chair), Gary Corey (Member), Al Bashevkin (Member), Chris Bates (Member), Bruce Lierman (member), Bill Christian (member), Marshall Hudson Knapp (guest), Nancy Whyte (guest)

- Review minutes from Sept 7th meeting (Oct was cancelled)
 - Motion to approve passed
- Truing Up Advisory Board
 - Marshal Hudson-Knapp and Madison Kremer are happy in their roles and don't need to serve on the Advisory Committee
 - Four of the five seats are already filled. Holly Anderson was suggested as a possible member of the Advisory Board. Gary Corey will reach out to her. Chris is reaching out to Carrie Dolan. We'll revisit next month regarding who will sit on the Advisory Board.
- Bikeable Bennington
 - Subcommittee priorities
 - Bike Parking : Chris Bates talked with some businesses about bike parking in Bennington, and sounds that he has favorable responses.
 - Chris talked about his TV show on local access TV, Bennington Unwrapped, that featured Chris Callahan and the Bike Hub.
 - Bruce Lierman is thankful to the Town and BCRC for their building of the Bike Paths along Bennington. They are high quality and do a lot for the Town of Bennington.
 - Nancy Whyte is concerned that public parking will be taken away by bike racks and is not aware of what the plans are for bike parking as well as bike paths.
- Data Subcommittee Update
 - Bill Karis connected with Dan Monks regarding data the town has about energy usage. Bill is currently looking at building energy analysis as opposed to the fleet data (which has changed significantly since the 2005 baseline and is more of a moving target). Energy use in public buildings has gone down since 2005. Police building is best example how and has become much more energy efficient and using less fossil fuels because of weatherization and the purchase and use of heat pumps. We have gone from 5.2 million to 3.2 Million lbs of CO2e emissions from 2005 to 2021.
 - Gary Corey was wondering if building square footage has changed over time, affecting the energy use data. Consensus seemed to be that square footage has grown. Bill Karis will work to normalize emissions with this new metric in mind.
 - Bill Karis shared the data graph about building energy and green house gasses for the minutes as a work in progress.



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- Composting at town wide events (Garlic Town & Food Truck Fest) and other energy saving activities
 - Garlic town had about a dozen volunteers and was able to recycle 1100 lbs of waste and 1200 lbs of compostable material
 - Marsh Hudson-Knapp talked with an organizer from the Food Truck event in August and they would like to compost from that event
 - Marsh is looking for volunteers to assist with these projects.
 - Cassella's was really helpful for the garlic town event
 - Police department has 2 hybrid vehicles and over the last 2 years, they have reduced their gas consumption by 8 miles/ gallon, which is about a 40% reduction in their fuel. The police are about to order 2 more hybrid vehicles.
 - Marshall is looking for help establishing criteria as well as choosing awardees on behalf of the Climate Advocates for Environmental Excellence awards.
- [State Progress Report](#): Bill Karis reviewed one notable item in the document that simply showed how Vermont can help bolster our economy through using electricity for energy. Most of the dollars spent on electricity stay in VT, and dollars spent on fossil fuels leave the state.
- Electric Vehicles
 - Bill Karis noted 6 new charging stations at the Hospital. There are also 2 stations in North Bennington. Private stations are sprouting up as well
 - Usage trends of Bennington charging stations
 - Between January and September of 2022, use of EV charging stations went up by nearly 100%. Unique users of the charging stations has doubled during that time.
 - Mapping Charging Stations – BCRC is offering the following map indicating charging stations in Vermont and the Bennington County area
 - <https://www.driveelectricvt.com/about-evs/charging-map>
- Action Items Matrix
 - Action Plan is on the website for folks to review. Click [here](#) to access the Action Matrix
- Public comment
 - An audit of Hydro Quebec is supposed to be underway and the Public Utilities Commission has not done this yet. The question is how clean/green is hydro quebec generated energy and the audit could answer those questions.
- Gary Corey shared a letter from Lodiza Lepore encouraging that town government pass a building electrification policy and phase fossil fuels out of our homes and businesses.
- Restriction on sale of screw-based, mercury-containing, compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs) goes into effect February 17, 2023. January 1, 2024 – [Act No. 120](#). prohibits the sale or distribution in the State of four-foot general purpose, low pressure, mercury-containing linear fluorescent lamps (tubes).
- Confirm agenda for first Wednesday of month, Dec 7th, 2022 meeting

We endeavor to host inclusive, accessible events that enable all individuals to engage and participate fully. To request an accommodation or for inquiries about accessibility, please contact Paul Dansereau, Facilities Director: pdansereau@benningtonvt.org or call 802-447-9715.