

Energy Committee 2011

Over the past several years the Energy Committee has made incremental steps to help in the process of meeting the goals of our mission statement for our town to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A few members have gone yearly to the Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable which brings town energy committees together to share their progress and ideas. A significant step made by the selectmen was to receive a grant for the Municipal Energy Assistance Program. The result of the decision-grade audit report was recommendations to tighten up the Town Office. The MEAP report also showed that 75% of energy costs come from municipal vehicles.

Basic Findings of Decision-Grade Audit

Municipal energy costs, use and emissions by sector:

- Municipal Energy **Costs** (\$): Buildings 31% ; Vehicles 69%
- Municipal **Energy Use** (MMBtus): Buildings 24%; Vehicles 76%
- Municipal **Emissions** (CO2): Buildings 22%; Vehicles 78%.

Buildings of greatest significance:

- **The Town Offices** are the most energy intensive, energy demanding, and costly building in Cornish.

Recommendations – Overview

Prioritize Building Efficiency Efforts

- Concentrate audits and improvements on buildings of greatest significance for highest return on investment.
- The Library, Police/Fire Station and Highway Department building are other inefficient buildings in Cornish, based on a comparison across energy intensity, cost per square foot and overall energy use.

Vehicle Fleet Monitoring

- Adopt a “No Idling” Policy for all city vehicles and machines.
- Create a log of miles traveled/hours run for municipal vehicles and machines to closely track use patterns, fuel consumption, and costs.

Utilize Established Programs

- Continue to inventory buildings in Portfolio Manger to sustain benchmarking efforts and view changes in energy use as building improvements are made.
- Centralize energy data in a convenient place that is easy to update.

This led to a discussion between the Energy Committee and a representative from UVLSRPC, Mike McCrory. Together we arranged a meeting with the selectmen and an engineer from the Peregrine Energy Group. There was a walk through with the selectmen to evaluate energy consumption in the building and identify methods to reduce energy consumption. The next step is to put these findings into the Energy Technical Assistance & Planning database. This will focus on town office electrical and fuel use and the highway department fuel use.

We plan on presenting more energy saving events as educational opportunities for townspeople. What ideas would you like the Energy Committee to work on?

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Boyle, William Cable, George Edson, Janice Orion, Pat Pinkson-Burke, Nancy Wightman, Martha Zoerheide