

Energy Committee 2012

Mission Statement: The Town of Cornish takes local steps to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The Cornish Energy Committee has made gradual progress in meeting the goals of our mission statement since it first began its work in 2007. We produced three educational presentations to the public on energy topics. In 2008 a structured committee was formed with more focus on beginning a few projects. A grant from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund helped to fund an energy audit (Jordan Institute) of the elementary school. Heating fuel costs and electric bills have been reduced. An overwhelming response from the community with contributions of time and expertise made this possible. In 2009 and 2010 we joined forces with the Plainfield Energy Committee to host an Energy Expo at Plainfield Elementary School. The selectmen made a significant step in paying attention to town energy use by receiving a grant to participate in the Municipal Energy Assistance Program. The result of the decision-grade audit report (June 2010) 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 most energy intensive, energy demanding, and costly building in Cornish is the Town Offices.

Recommendations – Overview

1. *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.
2. *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.
3. *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.

A discussion between the Cornish Energy Committee and a representative from UVLSRPC, Mike McCrory, resulted in a walk-through with the selectmen and an engineer with the Peregrine Energy Group in the building that houses the Town Offices to evaluate energy consumption and to identify methods to reduce its energy consumption. Drainage has been directed away from the building in order to reduce moisture underneath it. 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 will continue to check on the town’s energy use year-by-year. Data since 2009 was displayed as a presentation at last year’s town meeting. Current data will be on display this year.

In the autumn of 2011 we hosted *Button Up!* This is a home weatherization workshop. In May 2012 many townspeople attended a panel discussion about bus transportation along the Route 120 corridor. Additionally, 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.

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, and Martha Zoerheide



Nancy Wightman and Bill Cable at Cornish Town Meeting on March 13, 2012