

Energy Committee 2013

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

This year the Cornish Energy Committee(CEC) applied for and was accepted as a community of Solarize Upper Valley which will make residential-scale solar energy more accessible for residents in Cornish/Plainfield, Thetford/Strafford, and Lyme. These collaborating towns will work with Vital Communities to pre-select competitively chosen solar photovoltaic (PV) installers during the spring of 2014. The strategy is to pool a large number of customers from the paired towns to get the lowest possible price from selected installers.



Thumbs up for Solarize Upper Valley in Cornish!

In preparation for the 2014 Solarize Upper Valley, the CEC will be doing a lot of work on educating our committee and the Town so that we can make thoughtful choices. As a beginning in this process, we can be more aware of energy usage by looking at electric bills and noting monthly usage. Noticing where the sun hits the yard and house gives an idea of how effective solar might be for your household. Visit the Stowell Free Library on School Street and take out a Kill-a- Watt Detector; when an appliance is plugged into that detector, it records the kW usage of that device. Or check out the workbook, *Low Carbon Diet: A 30-Day Program to Lose 5000 Pounds* by David Geshon which provides an action plan to reduce our carbon footprint. The CEC will be giving workshops this spring on understanding solar terms, designs and possible rebates.

Again, the CEC had visible presence at Town Meeting in 2013 with a poster display showing that greatest energy use has been fuel used by the town vehicles including those for road maintenance and the police department which amounted to 70% of the town total energy use. A no-idling policy in town is supported by our selectboard and is one way to help reduce vehicle fuel consumption. Energy use by town buildings made up the other 30%. Our committee asks for your voluntary support.

A DVD of the May 2012 Cornish Energy Committee forum on the possibility of a bus route from Claremont to Lebanon along Route 120 and local transportation options was filmed and edited by Mary Boyle. It is now available for viewing. In addition, many committee members attended several energy-related meetings and presentations throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,

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