

ENERGY COMMITTEE

2018

Mission Statement: The Town of Cornish takes local steps to save energy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. (2007)

At Town Meeting in March, 2018, the Town voted to commit to adopting 100% clean, renewable energy for all the Town's energy needs. This commitment includes reaching 100% renewably-powered electricity by the year 2030, and 100% renewably-powered transportation and heating by 2050. While this is a voluntary goal, it is a serious commitment to doing everything we can to reduce our Town's carbon footprint to near zero in the next 31 years.

One of the most important steps toward zero carbon emissions is to implement energy efficiency wherever possible. With that in mind, in January 2018, the committee collaborated with the Plainfield Energy Committee to launch a very successful **Weatherize Campaign** under the auspices of Vital Communities. The program offered \$100 energy audits, experienced licensed contractors, cost-effective sealing and insulating of homes, and a team of volunteers from Cornish & Plainfield to help navigate homeowners throughout the weatherizing process. Eighteen Cornish homes received energy audits and 12 homes signed contracts. One Cornish family won the \$500 weatherize prize.

In June, we presented a workshop led by member, Bill Cable, on **how to build your own electric bike**. The workshop was a tremendous success. Attendees were astonished by the power of electric bicycles to make riding uphill easy. In planning for a low carbon future, bikes will be an important means of transportation. With our very hilly landscape, electrically-powered bikes make the widespread use of this zero-emissions means of transportation in our region a graspable reality. The workshop showed how easy it is to build your own electric bike and how much you can save in the cost of one.

The Planning Board drafted a **Solar Zoning Ordinance**, with some input from the Energy Committee, and it will be voted on at Town Meeting 2019. It will provide regulations for solar installations within the town.

The Committee is working on forming a **Renewable Energy Stakeholders' Committee**, representing various interested parties in town, to help advise the Energy Committee in the implementation of the 100% renewable energy goals.

The Committee looks forward to many new exciting projects, including large solar arrays combined with battery backup, the installation of electric vehicle charging stations all around town, figuring out ways to tabulate our town's energy use and renewable energy production, and much more. We encourage Cornish residents to think about installing solar on your properties, and we are here to offer resources and support to help make that possible.

We need your help! Please **join us** and help us achieve our renewable energy goals. As a member of our committee, you can learn about exciting technology now available in the green energy sector, and see promising projects come to fruition. The Cornish Energy Committee meets monthly with the Plainfield Committee at the Meriden Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Boyle (Chair), William Cable, Joanna Sharf, and Nancy Wightman.
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