

Montpelier Energy Advisory Committee Meeting Notes 9/17/19

Committee members attending:

- Jose Aguayo
- Diana Chace
- Donald deVoil
- Geoff Fitzgerald
- Amy Gamble
- Peter Luyckx

Others attending:

- Alex Baad from VNRC/VECAN

There was not a quorum present.

Button-Up Vermont

There was a discussion of whether Montpelier wanted to participate in the statewide Button-Up program this year. Nobody at the meeting was prepared to lead this effort, and nobody who was not at the meeting had indicated they wanted to lead. The deadline for Montpelier to decide to participate was the day of the meeting (September 17).

Working Group Updates:

Window dressers

Four MEAC members (Amy, Donald, Kate, and Paul) held a kick-off meeting. Participants are being recruited mostly by word-of-mouth for now. Also, Capstone will send a letter to LIHEAP recipients inviting them to participate. Other possible methods for recruiting participants were also discussed. The project will involve building 150 window inserts for Montpelier residents, with 40-50 hopefully reserved for low-income residents. Energize VT may provide funding to cover the cost of low-income inserts. Amy and Donald have begun measuring windows and so far have measured 12. Cost is based on size, and inserts will cost between \$30 and \$50 each.

Policy and Planning

The group working on the efficiency disclosure ordinance has not met since last month but has a meeting scheduled for Wednesday, September 25. The City of Burlington has released a new plan to be net-zero by 2030. (See <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/Press/mayor-miro-weinberger-burlington-electric-department-release-net-zero-energy-roadmap-and-over> for the press release and <https://www.burlingtonvt.gov/sites/default/files/BED%20NZE%20Report%20Final%202>

[0190905.pdf](#) for the full plan.) City of Montpelier Planning Director Mike Miller will attend the next MEAC meeting, on October 15, to discuss the development of a net-zero plan for Montpelier.

Municipal

Ken and Kate met with the school board. Ken is going to work with Andrew Stein to draft either a formal endorsement for the schools of the city's net zero goal or a separate net zero goal for the schools. Kate met with Bill Frasier to discuss the city's plan to hire a facilities director/energy coordinator. She shared with him 2 very good job descriptions from other municipalities that have hired for a position like that. A project to weatherize the overhead doors at the police and fire stations is underway, financed by the revolving loan fund. Blower door tests were performed, and a second set of blower door tests will be performed after the work is complete. Work is also underway to weatherize the windows at city hall. New heat pumps for summer cooling have been installed at the police station, and electrical use at the police station is down by ½ for summer, saving the city \$900 a month. For the wastewater treatment plant, ESG is working on updated estimates of various options – sludge drying, sale of gas, or generating electricity.

Other

Jose and Donald were at Drive Electric day last Saturday. They did not table but spoke to some people there. It was a very interesting and busy event.