

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

14 Seminary Street Middlebury, VT 05753 • www.acrpc.org • Phone: 802.388.3141

ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, April 5, 2022

PRESENT

Jeremy Grip - Ripton

James Dayton - Panton

Cheryl Brinkman - Vergennes

Rich Warren - Starksboro

Ross Conrad - Middlebury

ACRPC staff - Maddison Shropshire

ACRPC staff - Andrew L'Roe

Guest - Steve Maier, CEAC

Guest - Richard Hopkins

AGENDA

- Call to Order: 7:05 PM
- Approval of March 1, 2022 Energy Committee meeting minutes
 - Moved by Cheryl; James second; all in favor.
- Discussion of regional climate action plan with guests from CEAC
 - Current draft of the ACCEAC Climate Action Plan ahead of the meeting: [HERE](#)
 - High level presentation of CEAC findings from GHG emissions inventory and Climate Action Planning process and feedback forums.
 - Presentation can be found [HERE](#)
 - Discussion of agriculture as the greatest contributor to Addison Co. emissions. Steve indicated that few clear solutions are currently available but there is some movement at the state to identify a path to reduce emissions. Discussed potential initiatives include: cover manure pits and flare methane and encourage the use of feed supplements that reduce methane emissions from the animal (i.e. [seaweed](#) and [Biochar](#)). It is extremely difficult to measure sequestered carbon in soils and this prevents us from getting a clear picture of the potential benefits of things like rotational grazing and no-till agriculture.
 - Cheryl suggests that promotion of Pollinator Pathways and No Mow May could be an easy way for community members to get engaged and learn about the larger issue.
 - Jamie asked how the micro-grid project in Panton could be applied in more Addison communities. Andrew indicated that the funding used for the Paton project is available again this year: [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) Grant Program](#). Please reach out to Andrew or Maddi for additional materials or questions.
 - There is also an expected installation of a storage system connected to the Middlebury College solar field behind the hospital. This will provide the hospital emergency power.

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Lincoln	Middlebury	Monkton	New Haven	Orwell	Panton	Ripton
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- o Ross expresses support for CEACs plan and expresses a concern that neither the regional CAP or the State CAP include policies that will reduce GHG emissions to a level consistent with the recent IPCC report. Group agrees that while it may not be sufficient in the long term, the policies included in the regional CAP provide a necessary foundation to build upon in the future.
- o The Hannaford center is planning to renovate its old HVAC and heating system to gas. This is concerning because it goes against the “electrify everything” mentality.
 - There is a new grant program specifically intended for schools to upgrade HVAC and heating systems. There may be an opportunity to encourage Hannaford Center to consider electric heating with this additional funding.
- Energy Updates from Maddison
 - o Vermont Housing Finance Agency
 - VHFA is currently developing a program to provide no-low interest loans to low and moderate income households for energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades. This program is in partnership with EVT, GMP, VGS, and others to allow for on-bill repayment. VHFA has asked for any opportunity to present to community leaders.
 - Jeremy suggests that VHFA and municipal energy committees be invited to the May regional energy committee meeting.
 - o Drive Electric Events
 - Request for interested towns to host a Drive Electric event this summer / fall. Bristol has agreed to host one event but I am looking to have two or more.
 - Cheryl suggests Monkton as an option
 - Jeremy suggests Addison Field Days
 - o Weatherization campaign materials
 - ACRPC expects to have excess energy funding that could be put towards supporting initiatives in participating towns. Maddi will reach out to towns once we have a concrete amount available. Envision the funding used to support outreach materials, provide discounts for energy audits etc.
 - o Municipal weatherization webinar
 - The webinar went well and sparked a productive discussion. A recording can be found [HERE](#).
 - Questions were asked about services available to agricultural producers and small businesses. In response I have worked with Acorn and EVT to put a summary of available services in the Acorn newsletter to local

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producers. I have also reached out to the Chamber of commerce to connect with small businesses.

- Adjourn: 8:17 PM

Note: agendas and adopted meeting minutes for this and all other meetings are also available online at the ACRPC website: <https://acrpc.org/minutes-agendas/>

UPCOMING MEETING

- May 3, 2022

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