

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, July 17, 2023

ATTENDEES

Cheryl Brinkman - Committee Member	Linda Larabee
Ross Conrad - Committee Member	Molly Francis
Rich Warren - Committee Member	Richard Faesy
Maddison Shropshire - ACRPC	Robert West
Dave Sophrin - Town of Middlebury	Kurt Haigis

AGENDA

5:00 pm - Call to Order

- Review of [April 2023 Minutes](#).
 - Ross moved to approve the April 2023 minutes; Rich seconded; all in favor.
- Review of [June 2023 Minutes](#).
 - Ross moved to approve the June 2023 minutes; Rich seconded. Cheryl requested that the first item on the June agenda be amended to state “The minutes from the April committee meeting were not reviewed due to a lack of a quorum.” All in favor of approving the June minutes as amended.
- Discussion of regional energy plan updates
 - Maddi briefly discussed the possibility of pursuing an update to the regional enhanced energy plan due to the recent receipt of new target data and resources available from the Public Service Department. These resources were reviewed during the June meeting.
 - Ross commented that it has been 5 years since the EEP was adopted and an update would allow the RPC to reflect the rapid change in the energy space. He also reminded the committee that there may be a grant available in the near future to help fund staff time for energy planning. Maddi went on to describe the

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[Climate Pollution Reduction Grant](#) that will fund state-wide energy and climate planning funding with the potential for implementation funds available at a later date.

- Discussion of EVSE Grant program.
 - Maddi briefly presented the new [EVSE program](#) funded by the Department of Housing & Community Development and managed by Green Mountain Power. The program currently offers funding to install level 2 EV chargers for business, multifamily housing, and public attraction locations. The pre application is currently available on the website.
- MERP Assessment Application support and Q&A.
 - Maddi walked through the MERP Assessment Application. Key items of note included:
 - If a fire district is applying for an assessment and implementation funding, the application should be submitted separately from the town.
 - It is important that contact information be included for a person who has the ability to open the buildings (and access all spaces), and is aware of their responsibility to meet the consultants.
 - Prior to starting the application, the town should have determined a priority order of the buildings with the building of greatest importance to the town being listed as priority 1. In addition, the applicant should have the estimated sqft of conditioned space. Additional information that should be collected ahead of time is listed in the “Start Here” spreadsheet Maddi shared with each community a few weeks ago. Please reach out via phone (802.388.3141 ext 7) or email (mshropshire@acrpc.org) with any questions.

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- You can apply for a mix of level 1 and level 2 assessments depending on the building. You will only need to submit the utility data for the buildings that require a level 2 assessment.
- Mini grant/ CEAC - Maddi has heard from several towns that the MERP capacity grants are not of interest due to a lack of administrative capacity to manage or use the funds. CEAC has proposed to work with towns in this situation to build out an online residential weatherization and energy efficiency resource as well as a navigator program to support residents in pursuing energy projects in their own lives. This would allow towns to leverage available resources to support their residents without a significant time commitment. This project is already a proposed use for the EECBG funds and Maddi asked the committee whether there is a preference of funding source. The committee expressed general support with either option or a combination of the two with the desire for greater information on costs and expected use cases.
- Other Business
 - Cheryl provided a report on the success of the recent Energy Fest held in Vergennes.
 - The idea of pursuing a regional energy fair in the next year was discussed and the committee agreed that this should be a priority agenda item in October
 - Maddi announced that she will be on a leave of absence August 21st - September 22nd. ACRPC is onboarding a new staff member who will be available to support towns with emergent MERP questions in her absence, but please reach out prior to the 21st if at all possible.
 - There will be no energy committee meeting in August. The committee chair will determine whether a meeting will be held in September.

6:22 pm - Adjourn

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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/>

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