

Addison County Regional Planning Commission

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

ENERGY COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, December 18, 2023

ATTENDEES

Cheryl Brinkman - Committee Chair
Rich Warren - Committee Member
Richard Butz - Committee Member
Bob West - Goshen

Jim Averill - Ferrisburgh
Kurt Haigis - Ferrisburgh
Jean Terwilliger - CEAC
Maddison Shropshire - ACRPC Staff

MINUTES

5:02 pm - Call to Order

Review of November 2023 minutes

- Richard moved to approve the [November 2023 Minutes](#); Cheryl seconded; all in favor.

Discussion of regional energy plan updates

- Presentation on the generation scenarios tool draft materials
 - Working with GIS planner to develop input data for this tool. Progress will be reported at the Jan 20th gathering.
- Presentation of potential LEAP disaggregation results
 - Maddi presented two LEAP disaggregation methods of allocating regional energy targets to each town for discussion. One was based on the number of housing units while the other incorporated natural gas use, census data on number of businesses and vehicles, as well as overall population. The committee agreed that the more complicated method more appropriately allocated responsibility to communities. Maddi will present charts and maps based on this method at the January 20th meeting for further feedback on the results.
- Assign committee members to assess EEP sections
 - Maddi requested that energy committee members begin to review the existing EEP for potential updates, additional resources, and edits. Cheryl suggested that all members review the plan and a separate meeting is convened to discuss the plan in late January or February.

Discussion of Vermont Council on Rural Development Grant opportunity

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- VCRD has made the Climate Economy Resilient Communities program available. This program offers facilitation, community engagement, and strategic planning services to all communities in the state. Towns and town energy committees are encouraged to apply.
- Maddi proposed that ACRPC apply on behalf of the region to secure facilitation services to develop a scope and generate buy-in for a municipal energy coordinator position in the region. The committee agreed that this was a good opportunity for the region and Maddi was approved to move forward with the application.

Discussion of regional energy events

- January energy committee gathering
 - Agenda - The committee approved the following event outline: the meeting will be scheduled from 10am- noon on Saturday, Jan 20th. Lunch will be provided following the meeting. The main agenda items will be soliciting feedback on the enhanced energy plan and providing a forum to discuss energy initiatives and programs. The event will be held in Holly Hall, Bristol.
 - The committee preference is for a 100% in person meeting, but Maddi will explore alternatives if many participants have concerns about the format.
 - Cheryl recommended 3 Squares for event catering
- Energy fair updates
 - Cheryl has worked with the chamber of commerce and identified Sept 7, 14, and Oct, 12th as potential event dates. Committee preference is for Sept 14th
 - Maddi will speak to Solar Fest VT about their planned events and a date will be chosen to avoid them.

Misc. Energy Program Updates

- Update on EVSE funding:
 - The ACCD and GMP [EVSE program](#) is still available to those who wish to submit a pre-application for level 1 or 2 EV chargers. This program has a quota per region and Maddi has requested an update on capacity from GMP. This program will be releasing the level 3 (DCFC) funding application in the next month.
 - State [site host program](#) form allows towns, businesses or individuals to express interest in hosting a state-owned EV charger. This form is only an expression of interest, not an application.

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- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant - The CPRG is funding from the federal EPA through the state Climate Office. The CPRG contract for ACRPC has yet to arrive but is expected to fund 1) inventory of regional energy and climate resiliency needs, 2) energy planning at both regional and town levels, and 3) implementation of energy and resilience projects contingent on the success of the Climate office's application for funds. Maddi asked that energy committees be prepared to support the initial inventory process, and reach out if energy planning is a priority for their town.
- MERP - Assessments for high energy burden communities are underway in Addison Co. Maddi will reach out to towns when they are assigned a vendor and provide additional information on the scheduling process and the assessment expectations. Updated MERP timeline below:
 - Remaining towns are assigned assessment vendor Dec 2023- Jan 2024
 - Assessments are completed by end of May
 - Assessment reports are anticipated 6 weeks following the assessment. Towns will have one opportunity to provide feedback on the report or request changes.
 - Final assessment reports should be submitted by mid July
 - Implementation grant applications will open January and close in the Fall of 2024
 - Applications will not require a contractor quote for the scope of work. Towns are only expected to use the information in the assessment report and provide narrative on the importance of the building for this application.
 - Implementation grant decisions will begin in the fall.
 - Grant agreements will go out in November/ December of 2024.
 - All agreements MUST be signed and funds transferred to towns by the end of 2024 to adhere to ARPA rules.

Rescheduling of Committee Meetings

- The January committee meeting will fall on MLK day. Therefore, the committee will not meet at the regularly scheduled time. In lieu of this, the committee will attend the January 20th energy gathering in Bristol.

6:02 pm - Adjourn

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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