

## **Montague Energy Committee Meeting October 28, 2024**

**Present:** Tim Van Egmond, Jason Burbank, Pam Hanold, David Dempsey

**Designate facilitator and scribe:** Tim, David

### **Discussion with Chris Mason, Regional Coordinator Green Communities about Climate Leader Community program**

Chris presented a power point presentation that went through a detailed description of the steps necessary to move the town from Green Community to Climate Leader status.

1. Must be a Green Community in good standing.
2. Must have a local Energy Committee.
3. Commit to municipal decarbonization by 2050 and produce a "Roadmap" to plan the transition..
4. Municipal Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) first policy.
5. Adopt the Specialized Stretch Code.

Climate Leader Community status would bring significant grant opportunities for the town to help pay for the transition.

Roadmaps to use "Zero Over Time", which focuses on triggering events such as end of life of HVAC equipment, building renovation, roof replacement, building replacement.

Chris recommended that we put the GMRSD Middle School/High School on the list of buildings in the town's energy plan. Gill should also do the same.

Warwick Community School was decarbonized by installing mini-splits to replace fossil fuel heater.

There was a question about whether the ground source heat pump at the Leverett Library was functioning or whether it was going to be replaced?

**Approve minutes from Sept. 24, 2024 MEC meeting.**

### **Updates and discussion with Chris Nolan-Zeller, Asst. Town Administrator**

Chris said that the town had received an Energy Efficiency & Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) of \$27,000 to fund a study of town owned buildings to recommend actions to improve energy efficiency and decarbonization.

He is working on the Green Communities Annual Report that is due 11/15/2024.

### **Community Planning For Solar with U. Mass. Clean Energy Ext. Tabled**

- Exploring next steps.

## **Schools and Energy.**

- Elementary School ventilation – Chris and Jason toured the Hillcrest Elementary School with the custodian who maintains the HVAC system. Even though the equipment is old, Heath Cummings has been able to install Wifi thermostats and a new digital time clock, so the system is as efficient as it can be at this time.

## **Energy Related Town Facility Updates.**

- MA Building Electrification Accelerator (BEA) offer to help Montague explore town building electrification: ideas of buildings to explore with them.

We will wait to hear the results of the EECBG study to determine whether BEA help could be used to implement recommendations.

## **State & federal level energy-related policies & legislation updates.**

- Discussion of Town exploring possibility of becoming a Climate Leader Community (see above).
- Legislative and technical issues, special projects. **Tabled**

## **Recruiting more Energy Committee members. Tabled**

## **Helping Town Prioritize Energy-Saving Projects for Upcoming State & Federal Grants. Tabled**

## **[Energy Saver Home Loan Program \(ESHLP\)](#) and promotion of program. Tabled**

## **Adding missing approved minutes to the Town web site. Tabled**

## **Other topics not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting.**

## **Announcements (no discussion).**

- Update on Green Communities Grant Projects.

## **Plan agenda for next meeting.**