

Task Force on the Climate Emergency
Minutes for meeting 1/11/2021, 3:30 PM.

1. Call to order - Brian, Norm, Sirohi, Jill, Tobin, Cornell, Jen (late), Margaret
2. Approval of Minutes -- Minutes approved 6-0

3. Adoption of Agenda --Agenda approved 6-0

4. Public Comment. -- Finn Baker is wondering if elec vehicle purchasing is a primary goal of the task force? What else could be put in place? They aren't as impactful as say transitioning businesses to energy efficiency. It is discouraging to come to these meetings and hear mostly about EVs rather than bigger issues. Norm explains that we are looking at other areas but we need to get the GHG audit to be able to determine our focus and areas to address.

Ania Wright to Panelists (3:58 PM)

Finding a consultant sounds like a great step - there are folks in Maine that would be qualified for that work, especially folks that helped with the State Climate Action Plan

5. Regular Business

A. One hour session on climate action plan development.

Sirohi presented a possible template for a CAP

Jill - Need to identify financial resources for planning

Brian - So ME plan suggests some funding possibilities

Margaret suggested we explore working with other MDI towns, possibly sharing a Sustainability person

Jill will check with all MDI towns for interest. We know NEH has a group designated and a vote in spring on Climate Emergency declaration.

Sirohi - We need to set goals for a plan, then hire a professional to create strategies and benchmarks. Some areas might be: public transportation, solar renewables, public education.

i. Reviewing state and other city climate action plans and developing our own timeline for having a climate action plan for the council in 8 months.

Jill recommends we start with the framework that Sirohi created. Brian wonders if making specific goals is too rigid within our purview. Sirohi says we have to be careful about being too hesitant or we will make no progress. Jill says that all of our recommendations are subject to feasibility, but that shouldn't stop us from making recommendations and goals. What can we do to make the community comfortable with our goals?

Brian wonders if we are allowed to work on a doc outside of the meeting without it being done in the public. Cornell: If it is always saved to the website and the public can see it in real time it should be OK. Sirohi will set up the Google doc, Tobin will submit it to Steve to put it on the website for the town.

Some good sections from Portland.....

Norm Burdzel to Panelists (4:26 PM)

Develop an Environmental Preferable Procurement Policy

Foster and Encourage Student Support

Update our Emissions Inventory

Conduct Public Outreach

Norm Burdzel to Panelists (4:28 PM)

Develop a Behavior Change Program for Employees

Other models: Belfast, Ellsworth, Brunswick etc

Homework: look at the other towns and add to the goals on the doc from Sirohi. Jen and Sirohi will work together to combine documents and then make them available for the group to edit. Tobin will give link to Steve to put on the Town website so the public can view it but not edit it.

ii. How to incorporate public comment into the strategies we might recommend

iii. Looking into hiring consultants? Sustainability coordinator? How?

Margaret spoke with folks from the State climate council and was given a name of a person who works for the State of Maine (Cassandra Rose) who might be a really good resource. Brian spoke with her and she said she would be happy to meet with us. The state is interested in increasing the capacity of addressing climate change from state to local levels.

B. GHG Audit update.

Spencer joins us with what he has so far of Scope 1 data -stationary combustion as well as transportation fuel. Scope 2 is elec. The town has more meters than S was expecting. It is in the works. The usage is about 50/50 diesel and heating oil. CE school is 27% of the usage for the town. Another large stand out is the diesel use from hwy dept including school buses. Despite the fact that propane is cleaner and more efficient. Right now there is no alternative fuel. Oil and diesel could be swapped out with a biodiesel blend to reduce ghg emissions. Also on road biodiesel. That could create a 13% reduction with no changes of equipment. This is a good start while we work toward a change in infrastructure and equipment. Spencer encourages that we go through doc and look at the data to see what stands out. Jill wonders if we can look at a \$ comparison between oil and switching to biofuel. Jill thinks this might be a good graphic for the Town Council to discuss (in terms of increasing climate literacy). It would be helpful to have \$\$ amounts. Spencer can make more of a graph that will be helpful for the Town to look at. We can get estimates from biofuel folks with the numbers we have which might be given a discount given the large quantities. Norm warns about the decreased btu output of biodiesel as well as the impact on warranties of vehicles that use biofuel.

Margaret asks if it wouldn't be more efficiency to look at the numbers right now and compare.

Town is locked in right now at 1.99. How much is biodiesel right now?

Brian says it is helpful to look at these numbers to help us prioritize our focus.

Norm says we should include a no idling rule among municipal vehicles.

Spencer says that normally you wouldn't see heating be as high as transportation usage. Connors Emerson is the biggest user and that could really be a focus. Norm suggests we find out how many miles are driven by town vehicles. From Cornell: Police cars (5) 132,500/yr according to 2021 budget book.

Thank you Spencer.

Spencer hasn't put everything into the emissions free trial product so it hasn't started yet.

Jill would like a more user friendly version for Town, public, newspaper. Is anyone able to do that?

Margaret wonders if it would be helpful for us to look at the bigger spreadsheet? Spencer says to look through this first and then ask him for specific questions.

Jill says this data about CES is important for the discussion of whether or not we build a new school. Spencer really wants to dig into the CES and do more analysis. Norm says we can put

together factors for “green” school to replace the old building and get that to the town for that discussion.

6. Future Work:

A. Tourism carbon impact

i. Cruise ships

B. Climate Justice-- acknowledge impact of climate change and its disproportional impact on lower socio-economic groups and the intersectionality with other crises like racial equity.

Climate change impacts developing countries

exponentially more than developed countries and the developing countries are not the ones benefiting from the use of fossil fuels etc.

C. Ground mounted solar array.

D. Community composting.

E. EV chargers

F. Town based incentives for new buildings or renovations to exceed code requirements for efficiency, build electric and/or incorporating solar into design. Tax break? Cash back? What could the town actually do to incentivize? Could you forgive the first year of property taxes on a new build if there a solar array of a certain size or all electric house or passive house level insulation? A few thousand dollars might be enough to encourage some best practices.

G. Public Outreach

i. Engage the BH Chamber of Commerce

7. Items for next meeting. How to take action on quick fixes like changing electricity producer to a green solution?

8. Adjournment Sirohi moves to adjourn and Margaret seconds. All approve.