



Sullivan County Agriculture and Sustainability Policy Committee

April 4, 2013 AGENDA

2:00 PM

Committee Members:

Cindy Kurpil Gieger, Chair, Cora Edwards, Vice-Chair, Jonathan Rouis, Alan Sorensen, Kitty Vetter

Call to Order

Attendance

Reports:

1. Office of Sustainable Energy (OSE) Monthly Report- Carol Roig & Stephen Stuart
2. Agricultural Planner Report/Ag Advisory Board Monthly Report- Jennifer Mall
3. Update – DPW
4. County Cheesemobile
5. Follow-up on Wind Study

Presentation:

1. Marketing of Local Product/Branding

Discussion:

1. Dairy RBEG and Milk Supply
2. Narrowsburg Micro Food Hub – Solution Project
3. Commitment to Mid-Hudson Regional Counsel
- 4.

Resolutions: None

Public Comment

Adjourn

OSE Activities Report for April 2013

Reporting on March 2013 activities

I. ENERGY MANAGEMENT FOR SC FACILITIES

LED exit lights for GC

Kristin Porter and Jim Hemmer of DPW requested input in finding LED replacement light bulbs for the exit signs for the SC Government Center.

The existing signs each contain two, twenty-watt bayonet-base bulbs.

- Electricity consumption per year using these twenty-watt bulbs is 5,606,400 watt hours, or 5,606.4 kWh.

Details and costs of replacement are as follows:

- Replacing these bulbs with two, one-watt LED bulbs reduces electric consumption to 560,640 watt hours, or 560 kWh (reduces consumption by 90%).
- Electric cost for existing incandescent bulbs is \$56.60 per year.
- Electric cost for LED bulbs is \$5.60 per year.
- Average cost to retrofit is \$16.31 per fixture when bulbs are purchased in lots of 12 or more.
- Total cost of retrofit is \$260.
- Life span of incandescent bulb – six months to one year
- Life span of LED bulb – eleven and one half years
- Total energy cost savings over 12 years is \$1,418.40.
- Additional cost savings will be realized because LED bulbs will not need to be replaced over the 12 year period.

The only risk to the County is the risk associated with climbing a ladder to change the bulbs. LED bulbs greatly reduce the frequency of assuming that risk.

The benefit to the County is an immediate reduction in energy consumption and brighter exit signs.

OSE looked at the NYSERDA Existing Building program to see if this effort would fit into the pre-qualified measure that would rebate \$10.00 per unit replaced. This program only applies to a total change out of the entire exit light, not just the bulbs. Vintage exit signs of the quality of the existing would cost over \$117.00 per fixture. Also, the existing fixtures would have to be recycled. This would not be a sustainable measure for the County, as it would not be cost effective, it would not be environmentally sound and it would negate the embodied energy of each fixture associated with the manufacture of the fixture.

HVAC Rooftop System at Government Center

OSE has scheduled a March 26 site visit at SCGC with Kristin Porter and Mitsubishi to explore the suitability of air source heat pumps as the replacement plan for the rooftop HVAC system at GC.

Wind Project for Liberty Health Complex

OSE worked with Sustainable Energy Development (SED) to coordinate SED's March 21 presentation of the 35% Design Report for HHSC in Liberty. We are working with Heather Brown of OMB and with SED personnel to develop next steps and a timeline for possible implementation. SED is working to address the questions that came up during the presentation. We will work with Legislator Gieger to keep this discussion moving forward.

Integrus Energy Price Lock-in and RECS

OSE continues to work with Heather Brown, OMB, regarding Integrus, RECs and Liberty Wind Project. The Legislature has approved the 33 month purchase at a consistent price. We continue to research RECs issue.

Also ongoing:

We continue to research options for standby electricity utilizing the existing PV arrays at Travis and Mobility Management Center, to help reduce peak demand at county facilities by utilizing the stored excess energy to reduce the peak demand loads of County operations.

We continue discussions with DPW to plan a space symposium to explore space and space configuration needs at the Liberty Health Complex.

Gathering ideas for repair/replace atrium skylight at Government Center, including the possibility of developing the skylight into a PV array, which would help offset electricity costs at the GC.

II. SC CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

The CAP Advisory Board has begun to workshop and draft specific recommended measures in the general topic areas: Energy, Transportation, Materials Management and Land/Water Use.

- Tuesday 3/12, 4:00 – 5:30 PM: CAP Workshop energy recommendations for County, Municipal and Community level – OSE office. CR now transcribing notes into draft CAP chapter n energy.
- Tuesday 3/19 10:00 to 12:00: CAP workshop on land and water use, OSE office. Ethan Cohen and Jill Weyer of SC Planning joined us to help develop ideas for land/water use chapter of the CP plan. CR has transcribed those notes into initial format for the CAP Plan.
- In April, we will continue work-shopping specific measures for CAP sectors: energy, transportation, land/water use, materials management (waste and recycling) 2x per month.
- CR will attend monthly meetings (third Wednesday) of the Long Term Care Council as they discuss transportation needs in Sullivan County. This connection was fostered by Ethan Cohen, and represents an opportunity to bring the County's public health transportation issues under the umbrella of the CAP Plan and to devise and incorporate meaningful goals for public transportation into the CAP Plan. We will have the opportunity to work from two previous documents: a 2005 County Transportation Plan that was never adopted by the County Legislature, and transportation elements in the County's 20-20 Strategic Plan.

- CR presented information about the CAP Plan at the March 6th meeting of the SC Association of Town Supervisors.
- Cochection Climate Smart Pledge: Worked with Cochection Town Supervisor Gary Maas to get the CAP Pledge adopted. Mr. Maas will share Town energy use data for the GHG Inventory. Cochection Town Board adopted the pledge on Wednesday, March 13.
- CR will present to Thompson Town Board on Tuesday, April 2.
- Anticipate data from Cochection, Lumberland – to be analyzed.
- Continue meeting monthly with the Tusten Energy Committee. Working on alternative strategies for LED street lighting, including multiple-town consortium, and lobbying NYSERDA to include LED street lighting as an approved energy measure under existing programs.

III. MID-HUDSON SUSTAINABILITY PLAN CONSORTIUM

Sustainability Planning group and at least the energy working group of it, is continuing to meet, has a small budget, and will be preparing cross-county project collaboration proposals as well as working on a possible collaboration with Iberdrola/NYSEG.

- SC needs to designate a representative to the Sustainability Planning Consortium.

IV. ENERGY EFFICIENCY “CONCEPT OF THE MONTH”

Town of Montgomery NY Energy Efficient Heating and Cooling

Ag Planner Projects:

Dairy Processing RBEG: I have continued working with the firm, and the County's Purchasing and Legal Departments to develop contract language, and have submitted that language to the evaluation team for review. I hope to deliver the contract to the firm this week for their review and acceptance. I have also been working with the USDA to ensure that we continue to meet all requirements of the grant.

Microenterprise Assistance Program: Continued administration of ag projects. As of March 27th we have submitted eleven draw requests, and have received over \$83,000 in reimbursements from the State. Two draw requests are currently being processed.

Sullivan County Farmland Protection Planning Grant: Received grant contract from NYSDAM in late March. Working to set up a meeting with Grants and Audit Departments to set up a system for administering and financially managing this grant. Next steps are to submit contract to Legal Department for review, and to submit contract to County Manager for signature. Continuing to refine request for qualifications, to solicit professional and technical services in support of the plan update.

Red Meat Processing Facility: Continuing to work on the transfer of RBOG from the Ag LDC to the IDA. Continued work on Ag LDC dissolution. Facilitating communication between IDA and Ag Advisory Board regarding the red meat facility.

NYS Agricultural Districts: During March I assembled a mailing to over 5,400 landowners in Ag District #1, notifying them of the eight year review. Revised Ag District inclusion and review forms to help the Ag and Farmland Protection Board gather more relevant information about individual farm operations and the overall status of farming in the Ag Districts. Drafted legal notice of Ag District #1 review, and press release describing the Ag District #1 review and the Ag District #4 annual thirty day window. The open period for requesting modifications or inclusions to Ag District #1, and for requesting inclusions into Ag District #4, is April 1 – April 30.

Marketing and Branding Sullivan County Ag Products: Attended Farm to Market Connection (see below) and, as an outcome, I am exploring connections with Hudson Valley Harvest, a branding and marketing enterprise that partners with Farm to Table Co-packers in Kingston and Hudson Valley Agribusiness Development Corporation.

Recent Events & Happenings:

Ag Advisory Board: Red meat processing roundtable was cancelled twice due to weather. Has been rescheduled for April 25, and will be part of a broader discussion of "Adding Value to Sullivan County Meat and Dairy Products."

Upper Delaware River Roundtable: As part of the UDRR's dairy working group, I met with other members on March 4 to exchange information and prepare for the next UDRR Ag Roundtable on April 4. The dairy working group has begun reaching out to dairy farmers to gauge their interest and needs relative to local dairy processing.

Pure Catskills Farm to Market Connection: March 24, CVI Building. Attended sessions on direct and indirect marketing grass-based livestock, as well as understanding restaurant systems. Heard preliminary findings of the Hudson Valley Food Hub Research Project being conducted by Pattern for Progress.

Upcoming Events:

Next UDRR Ag Roundtable: April 4, Tusten Town Hall.

Ag Advisory Board: Regular meeting of the AAB is planned for April 1, 11:00 am in the Legislative Hearing Room. Dairy and Livestock Processing Roundtable planned for April 25.

Bethel and Liberty Farmland Protection Plan Implementation Committees: These two groups are planning a joint meeting on April 17 to share strategies and resources for implementing their plans.

Ag and Farmland Protection Board: Working to convene a meeting during the first week of April to discuss the NYS Ag Districts, the Sullivan County Farmland Protection Planning Grant, and various land use planning and zoning actions in the County that have been referred to the Board for their review.