

# **Commission of Energy Use and Climate Change**

Meeting Minutes for January 18, 2012

## **Call To Order and Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10

Commissioners attending: Andrea Ranger, Peter McPhee, Juliette Rooney-Varga, Alyssa Rosen, David Lutes, Eliza Johnston

Guests: Russell Koty, Michelle Bebrin, Elizabeth Kennedy, Marion Dumas

## **EECBG**

Russell provided a brief update on the REEP program. He said that the website is up - [www.somervillema.gov/reep](http://www.somervillema.gov/reep). There is an intake form right online and it gets emailed directly to Russell Koty. An initial mailing of 21,000 mailing with a follow-up of 5,000 letters. It has generated a lot of phone calls.

125 home audits have been completed and as a result NSTAR has invited the City to participate in a pilot residential program (Cambridge is participating as well). The Pilot by NSTAR provides additional incentives based on aggregates of energy efficiency measures (total counts of measures over all residential participants) to go to the City of Somerville.

There are 2 homes that have completed the audit and retrofit process. They get a \$750 rebate and then another \$750 after sharing 6 months of utility data.

Second part of marketing plan includes lunch and learns, near Magoun, Davis, Union, Teele, Lower Broadway, inviting owners of 1 – 4 family homes. Eliza and previously Heather mentioned that they hadn't received the marketing letter. David mentioned we need to look into the assessor's database to see whether it has all the addresses. Eliza wants to see lunch and learns with people who speak Spanish and Portuguese. She said the Welcome Project would be open to hosting/helping with a lunch. They are located in East Somerville and work a lot with faith-based communities

The budget for program is \$250K for rebates and needs to be spent by November 2012. David will bring budget to next meeting – there have been a few tweaks to the budget since money has been encumbered and spent.

Next Step Living has approached the City to be the single source auditor but there's been no problem with MassSave getting the people out to do audits. Most of the energy audits are being done by CSG, and for weatherization they sub out to other vendors. Russell stated that he feels there is a conflict of interest if CSG or NSL is auditing and then doing the weatherization.

Elizabeth Kennedy – how recently do you have to have an audit in order to qualify for the Somerville program?

She also talked about the Solarize pilot program she ran last summer for MassCEC – at Harvard, Winchester, Scituate, and Hatfield. The pilots were successful and were run at Green communities.

Juliette offered for Russell to pitch the program to the PTA for the Brown School.

### **Green Communities Act**

The City of Somerville has had to deal with significant budget problems recently. Mayor Curtatone did call Rick Sullivan – head of EEA. Once the Mayor makes a connection with Secretary Sullivan, he wants to have another meeting with Juliette, Andrea, and David.

Juliette stated that she heard from Sarah Bolenksy at Second Nature that Colgate got information together on how behavior change/education that led directly to kWh and therm savings.

Elizabeth K mentioned that she could provide statistics on the number of PV systems in Somerville – could be measured after the Climate Summit.

Eliza – Cambridge just put out an RFP for a climate adaptation plan. Feasibility study and then an adaptation strategy. Eliza thinks its one of the best RFP/plans she's seen.

### **Solar Thermal – MassCEC**

David called SunBug and another firm New England Solar Hot Water. He stated that the issue is finding a source with enough hot water usage to justify the installation. David wants to reach out to Somerville Housing Authority to see whether they could use solar thermal.

### **Clean Energy Choice Funding**

Looking at putting the funding toward a system at East Somerville Community School. Martha Broad is aware of our efforts to move the money toward that school.

Argenziano School – need to finalize RFP for PV for MassCEC grant. \$150,000 grant involved.

### **ESCO M&V**

Heather and David spoke briefly about Honeywell – he needs to follow up with Heather