



TOWN OF DURHAM
15 NEWMARKET RD
DURHAM, NH 03824-2898
603/868-8064 603/868-8065

DURHAM ENERGY COMMITTEE
MARCH 22, 2011
DURHAM TOWN HALL – COUNCIL CHAMBERS
4:00PM

— MINUTES —

Members present: Kevin Gardner, Chair; Charles Forcey; Brian Goetz; Robin Mower

Guests present: Corey Johnson (UNH), Philip Fabens-Jones (UNH)

The meeting was called to order at 4:10pm and the agenda approved.

Energy inventory—Corey Johnson and Philip Fabens-Jones, UNH

Corey and Philip said they had completed the gathering of municipal monthly energy use data for 2008 through 2010 (except vehicle data through 11/10) and entered it into STOCC (Small Town Carbon Calculator, from Clean Air-Cool Planet) spreadsheets. Data was entered for all stationary items (structures) and fleet / vehicles. Electricity and heating data were aggregated.

Phil noted that vehicle use included both gasoline (police) and gasoline/diesel (DPW and Fire).

Monthly data for every account was entered; STOCC calculates annual figures

STOCC spreadsheets provide an option to input renewable electricity: if purchasing or generating, it can be deducted from overall usage.

Mileage data was not included but we could integrate the two pieces of info

Streetlights: generic, plus flashing light on Packers Falls, historic, misc. Questions remaining include: Number of light fixtures in town? Who owns the lights? Who maintains them?

Summary Report pages

Weather influences energy usage. Corey obtained data on heating degree days for 2008-2010 and did not see significant difference

Charles pointed out that the Durham wastewater treatment plant is an envelope with machinery, and if you omitted this outlier, it would radically shift the ratios between transportation and structures.

Brian noted that we could aggregate all the separate buildings that provide a specific function, e.g., water or wastewater, to get at data for that function.

The DEC noted that the data gathered reflects only municipal properties and vehicles, not residential. However, an objective remains to gather data from residents/businesses.

Future data collection: With all towns Corey has worked with in the past, he has stressed the importance of the actual data collection and input process. It is best to input data each month, rather than at the end of year; then someone can fairly easily transfer that data at the end of the year (perhaps taking about 1/2 hour).

The DEC agreed to become familiar with these files before making a presentation to the Business Office and/or Town Administrator.

Feedback about getting data from PSNH: they're getting better with requests. Heating companies (oil) have always been good about providing figures.

Charles asked if the Town has an online account with PSNH from which it can download data. That's something the Energy Committee could do without the help of the Business Office. Robin will check into the option of downloading with Constellation/New Energy.

Brian asked if Durham is benefiting from demand management; that was discussed when we met with Constellation/New Energy. Durham has big generators at wastewater treatment plant and an unusual pattern of seasonal demand (because of UNH), e.g., reverse from typical in terms of cooling in the summer because usage drops when the students leave. The DEC will revisit the option as we have more info about usage.

Charles asked if the energy inventory data could be put into a relational database, since the chances of Town losing track increase over time.

Corey noted that one would lose the ability to query and to create reports if the inventory were structured only on an annual basis. The STOCC (Small Town Carbon Calculator) tool was deliberately created to be simple, and therefore there are some limitations: one does not have advanced options.

Brian: this seems like an annual audit. Where does it fit in with the budget process?

Discussion followed about aggregating the data by Town department, adding a field so that we can sort and create reports.

Additionally, one could export the data into another tool to get statewide data, compare to other towns our size. (Probably the Peregrine tool supported by Strafford Regional Planning Commission.)

Brian raised the issue of public ownership of water systems. He also noted the benefit of carbon sequestering from open space. Start to get into carbon offsets. What does the town own? Doe Farm: What does that forest stand mean? The Clean Air-Cool Planet carbon calculator takes that into account.

Brian stated that it would be great to know what developing more of Durham's open space would mean, i.e., the town would be more carbon consuming, have a bigger carbon footprint. He asked where Corey would advise we take a look first?

Corey suggested that we look for anything unusual. Nothing stood out immediately to him.

Robin suggested that the DEC hold a workshop on this specifically and invite Dave Cedarholm to participate.

Charles suggested that we look at the skating rink and the usually-empty Courthouse. Look at buildings that are draining for light usage each year. Nice to have a figure for them.

Rink: Ice, hot water, cold water.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30pm.

Next meeting date: Tuesday, April 12, 2011, unless otherwise determined.

Robin Mower, minutes taker