

Bristol Energy Committee
Zoom meeting Minutes
Nov 17, 2021

Members: Sally Burrell, Richard Butz, John McCormick, Carl Engvall
Visitors: Shane Scranton, Jim Quaglino, Sue

Window Dressers Recap: BEC, with New Haven and Lincoln, began with organizing and outreach in the summer, followed by window measuring and signups, and training and building the inserts in November. Inserts are made by gluing and screwing carefully measured pine frame pieces together, stretching and securing clear plastic over both sides, and adding an outer foam strip. The 180 inserts were made to snugly fit, preventing significant heat loss. Grants and volunteers make the program affordable for anyone who wants to order inserts. The nonprofit Window Dressers began in Maine, spread by popularity and has become a valuable program for Vermont. Energy committees around the state sometimes share information/education on weatherization, heat pumps and renewable energy, and collaborate on projects for efficiency.

Bristol Community Solar Construction Update: Progress is continuing despite the weather. Weight of vehicles is carefully monitored in relation to the landfill cap's capacity. Completion is expected in December. A celebration of the project is being planned for early January at Holley Hall with legislators, project partners and others. The project began with Sally reaching out to Acorn Energy Co-op and together walking the land January 28th to scope it out. BCS is fully subscribed and investors will begin seeing credits on their GMP bills in January.

Roundtable:

Work with legislators to make it easier for towns to host **renewable energy generation**. Much of VT's electricity comes from Hydro Quebec, nuclear and natural gas. We are sending most of our energy dollars out of Vermont and losing the opportunity to recirculate money in our own communities. The high emission of methane in HQ's flooding process cancels the sequestration of CO2.

John: We need to get serious about meeting GHG reductions and securing clean electricity. **Off-shore wind** has been mentioned by GMP as a future source. Dept of Interior says off-shore wind has huge potential. Balance is needed in US midwest wind generation and national grid capacity to cover times of no wind at sea.

Paul Hawkin's book Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation offers promising examples of actions now being taken in forestry, agriculture, food, oceans, etc. His earlier book, Drawdown, gives 100 solutions in order of effectiveness. The top 10 are: refrigeration, off-shore (30-40 mi) floating wind turbines, reduce food waste, plant-rich diet, protect tropical forests, educate girls, family planning, solar farms, Silvo pasturing, rooftop solar.

