

Bristol Energy Committee Meeting 31 July 2024
7/31/2024, 7pm ET, Zoom & In-Person at Holly Hall

Attendees: Allison Pouliot (BEC in-person), Richard Butz (BEC in-person), Jim Quaglino (member of the public via Zoom), David Flachenriem (BEC via Zoom), Sally Burrell (BEC via Zoom), Thomas (member of the public in-person)

The purpose of this special meeting of the Bristol Energy Committee is to discuss the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) assessments for each of the three Town buildings and prepare summary recommendations to present to the Selectboard on August 12.

- Richard created a summary document for Holly Hall
- Allison created summary documents for Howden Hall and the Library
- We will hand over summary reports to Selectboard and advise on contractors and streamlining of the process to get the funding that is available.
- Starting with explanation of MERP to reorient everyone on the goals of the MERP program.
- Note that the Selectboard has had access to the reports and we can reasonably expect that the Selectboard has read each one.
- Detailed conversation about what is driving the MERP goals; push to decrease overall consumption in each building.

Holly Hall

- Currently has propane fueled generator. May be useful to have batteries but seems infeasible due to footprint and back-up generation is already at the building.
- Should there be a consideration for back-feeding of a hypothetical battery system to the grid?
 - Maybe, but seems beyond the scope of MERP and is not listed in the MERP report.
- Leave battery system recommendations in place as a questionable improvement.
- EV Chargers not applicable (change to blue/asterisk)
- Define items in blue as questionable/not entirely recommended
- Energy Conservation Measures are good to recommend. They are loosely defined, but more definition will be gained during the contractor bidding period.
- Biggest concern with air-to-air heat pumps is the visual on an old/historic building.
 - Could route refrigerant lines below the floor
- Should we include changing the boiler out? Make it blue as questionable, may not get funding for new fossil fuel projects
- Report is silent on hot water recirculation pumps cost, potentially because they are rolled into the new boiler costs. BEC would suggest replacing hot water recirculation pumps even if the boiler is not replaced.

Howden Hall

- ECMs are recommended, similar to Holly Hall.
- Should we recommend air-to-water instead of air-to-air heat pumps?
 - Allison will update accordingly
- Upgrading electrical panel from 100A to 200A if heat pumps are added.
 - Add this as a line item with unknown costs (section 1.4 reference)
- Howden Hall is not part of the 116 solar project so solar at Howden Hall could be feasible

Library

- ECMs are recommended, similar to Howden Hall and Holly Hall

- If we recommend air-to-air heat pumps, remove the cost for air-to-water heat pumps
- Upgrade of electrical panel if heat pumps are added similar to Howden Hall.
 - Add this as a line item with unknown costs (section 1.4 reference)
- EV chargers is likely not a good application at the Library: bad location for snow piling and there are few parking spots.
- Leave mechanical ventilation system improvements in; especially if we are tightening the seal of the buildings.

Next Steps

- Allison will distribute Thomas's contact information to the group.
- Get summary reports to Ian (Selectboard)
- Time is of the essence with securing this funding
- Note that ACRPC is soliciting an independent third party engineering firm to assist the high energy burden towns with MERP implementation grant applications and cost estimating. How does what BEC has done to-date align with ACRPC's third party?
- Consider when we can be on the next Selectboard meeting agenda (12 August?)
- Richard and David to discuss a time to meet up and look at each building again
 - Thomas to come too as a member of the public
- Richard is stepping back from co-chair role, need to discuss who can/would backfill that role?
 - BEC to discuss at next regularly scheduled meeting.

ADJOURNED 8:09pm ET

Next regularly scheduled meeting: 21 August 2024, 7pm ET