

Mid-Maine Sustainability Coalition
Steering Committee Meeting
Thursday, April 23, 2009
2:30PM

Minutes

Members present: Mike Roy, Ken Fletcher, Steve Erario, Paul Blanchette, Doug Carnrick, Sally Harwood, Elery Keene

Mid Coast Coalition Meeting

Elery, Sally, Ken, and Norm were in attendance for a meeting with 5 Mid-Coast Green Collaborative meeting. The presentation by the Mid-Coast group focused on Germany's feed-in tariff legislation and its successes.

Maine now generates electricity through large, central plants and high-capacity transmission lines. Distributed generation uses many smaller generation sources to feed into the system, in an ideal world generating the electricity where you need it. You can then have smaller transmission lines. This allows for homeowner, business, and community-based energy production and promotes renewable energy generation. The distributed model saves the amount of energy lost during transmission over large distances and costs of high-voltage transmission lines.

The feed-in-tariff allows you to enter into an approx. 20 year contract for sale of electricity onto the grid. It causes a large jump in renewable energy generation. The issue is cost effectiveness of a solution, especially at a target price of \$0.50+ for solar photovoltaic (solar electric) systems.

Report on Forum for the Future

KVCOG forum being held at the REM center on May 1st. We want some of the people from the MMMSC to be there.

Report on Teams

Team 4 falling behind the other groups. David Elias interested in joining that group. Elery, Mike, and Sally will coordinate recovery by identifying a new leader.

Report on MEIC

We are waiting for Norm for a discussion on this.

Report on Summer Interns

Three interns chosen. Possibility of identifying more. Steve will be in contact with each of the team lead groups over the coming weeks to identify areas of collaboration and will present a proposed work plan at an upcoming steering committee meeting.

Sentinel/Grouploop/Newsletter/Sustainability Coordinator

Mike talked with Colin Hickey. Colin wants to see organize articles around products of each of the committees.

Steve then brought the group into a discussion about grouploop, communications, and the newsletter. Norm, Elery, and Steve agreed in previous discussions about the ability to bring on a full time coordinator. Sally asked if each of the towns could contribute; Mike and Paul replied that they are cutting employees this year and cannot provide funds for this position.

Grouploop will be eliminated and likely replaced with an online newsletter to all interested participants (including those not included on committees) and a website.

Logo

A logo is currently undergoing the revision process for presentation to the steering committee.

Transportation Proposal

The transportation proposal was not addressed in this meeting, but will be presented by Jim Wood at the next meeting.

Future meeting date

The next meeting date is scheduled for Thursday, May 7 at 2:30PM.