

## Clean Energy Ad Hoc Committee 3/22/21 meeting minutes

Attending: Shirley McCarthy, Greg Ames, Bob Babcock, Elena Cahill, Bill Horne, Eunice Mahler, John Prins, Dan Rabin, Diana McCarthy-Bercury, Michael Cohen

Invite guests: Emily Basham (CT Green Bank) and Susan Young (Posigen)

1. The minutes of the 2/22/21 meeting were approved unanimously; John Prins moved, Greg Ames seconded.
2. Emily Basham (CT Green Bank) and Susan Young (Posigen) described the Solar For All program (a partnership of Posigen and the Green Bank), which helps low- and middle-income residents get solar. The program is available to all, without a credit check. There are more generous incentives in terms of financing (however, Green Bank incentives have been decreasing and will end later this year), and the home energy efficiency auditors can do more home efficiency upgrades than the standard HeatSmart HES work. The Solar program works directly with towns to present the program. Emily and Susan discussed experience with programs in several other municipalities. There were questions from members of the public about source of funding for incentives, typical cost of solar systems and specific income limits. Emily said that Green Bank can answer questions and send him an email with information.
3. Schools - John Prins reported that the Board of Education approved a power purchase agreement that will involve installing solar at 2 schools and that installations may start by summer. Greg Ames complemented the BOE on the thorough process used to evaluate contract options.
4. HeatSmart update - Michael Cohen reported that more than 300 people have signed up for HES audits, 116 audits have been scheduled and 44 have been completed. Ten or so people are planning to install heat pumps. The committee is working to increase outreach to low- and middle-income community members and is interested to learn of the possibility of working with the Solar For All program to strengthen these efforts. It is also seeking information about how much residents will be charged for an HES audit after the current fee waiver expires April 1.
5. Building stretch codes - Greg Ames reported about stretch building codes, where a state allows municipalities to adopt a more ambitious standard for energy conservation and other energy-related matters. The stretch code could even include adoption of net-zero standard. It was suggested that the South Central Regional Council of Governments staff might have information about the status of a bill in the CT Legislature that would enable municipalities to adopt stretch codes.
6. Greg Ames urged committee members to view a Passive House webinar that he sent the link for earlier in the day.
7. Earth Day program, April 17 on The Green - Diana McCarthy-Bercury reported on progress lining up organizations and individuals to present materials about environmental and sustainability/resilience issues at tables in the afternoon.
8. New business - Eunice Mahler reported attending a presentation in Westport by the Chair of CT Legislature's Transportation Committee on progress of Bill SB127 to allow manufacturers of

EVs to sell outside of established dealerships. She also noted that there are solar panels on the roof of the Westport train station, and wondered if/how the committee could work to accomplish that in Branford?

6. Public comment -There were questions about sources of electricity (renewable vs fossil fuel) to charge EVs and the sources of funding for the incentive programs that were mentioned earlier.
7. On a motion by Bill Horne, seconded by Eunice Mahler, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Bill Horne