

Minutes of the Meeting
Climate Protection Task Force
Dec. 6, 2006
Town Hall

In attendance: Rob Enelow, Betsey Haddad, Andy Knaus, Judy McGuire, Dian Seidel, Stuart Sessions

1. Assessment. Stu reported on the progress to date on the greenhouse gas assessment. The 1990 and 2000 censuses have much useful information that can be used for the assessment. There has been some success with requesting data from county GIS group on land use (pavement, housing, green space) and from other county officials. There has been less luck with PEPCO. Stuart is going to examine the town parking permit information before deciding how to move forward on the vehicles piece. The group discussed some possible ways of getting better data on home energy use. One suggestion was to request volunteers from the town to share their utility bills from the most recent year and from the year closest to 1990 on which they have records. It is preferable to get kilowatt-hours and therms to getting dollars but if necessary some work could be done on amounts paid. We also discussed the possibility of individuals requesting their own personal records from PEPCO and Washington Gas and passing the information on to the Task Force. The Town Council recently met with PEPCO concerning blackouts. Rob volunteered to speak to PEPCO about getting these data. Stu also reported that Takoma Park Environment Committee, which commissioned an assessment in 1999 and is about to update it. The committee is willing to have us sit in on their monthly meetings (2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30 in the Takoma Park Community Center) and to have one or two of us attend their retreat in January to exchange thoughts on the assessment. Stuart and Judy hope to have collected all the data by the end of December and finish a draft report by the end of January. The report will consist of a readable engaging version for the general public and a technical annex which presents methods and data sources.

Actions:

- Rob will talk to PEPCO to try to get some cooperation and the right contact person.
 - Judy will put a notice in the January Forecast requesting people's participation in providing utility use data.
 - Stuart and Judy will continue to pursue the data
 - Anyone who wishes to attend the TP monthly meeting should do so and report back
2. Streetlights. Judy reported that Andi Silverstone has contacted her regarding buying the greentags to compensate for the streetlights. I have forwarded our proposal with the specific guidelines we gave to the Council (i.e. to buy a mix of renewable energy from carbonfund.org).
 3. House-to-house visiting. Andy Knaus reported on a meeting with Betsy Johnson and Judy McGuire about visiting neighbors to distribute bulbs and explore the level of interest in addressing global warming. The "script" was sent out for comments. Concern was expressed that visitors would be asked questions they couldn't answer. While

volunteers will receive training, all questions can't be anticipated. One solution is to put "frequently asked questions" up on our website as a resource. One such question is: can CFLs be used outdoors? The volunteer visitors will distribute a fact sheet that includes a) information about CFLs, b) information about global warming, and c) a list of things they can do to reduce their carbon footprint. This fact sheet is still being designed by Andy, Betsey, Betsy, and Judy. It will be circulated for comment when ready. After the holidays, several of us (more volunteers welcome!) will be making some trial home visits and revising our script and fact sheet on the basis of experience).

4. Coordination with other committees. Rob urged us to coordinate with the Environment Committee, even sending a representative to attend their meetings. No decision was made on this. Judy will meet with Joan Rood, Chair of Environment, to discuss this.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 9, 2007.