

Town of Chevy Chase Climate Protection Committee  
Minutes  
May 2, 2007

Present: Dian Seidel, Interim Chair; Christine Real de Azua; Stuart Sessions; Lynn Lichtenstein; and Rob Enelow, Town Council Liaison

1. Town Greenhouse Gas Inventory --Stuart

Stuart presented a questionnaire to gather information from Town residents for estimating energy use in homes. There was general discussion of the questions and of methods of response—stamped envelope, drop off at the Town, website. The survey is also intended to provide baseline data on energy saving features in Town homes. Stuart expects a response of one in five (20%). Committee would like survey to go out in June.

\*Rob will e-mail Todd Hoffman regarding what review of the survey is necessary.

Stuart met with the County Forester to discuss change in coverage of the tree canopy in the Town. The state of Maryland has money for preserving the tree canopy in urban areas and may want to work with us in a pilot project if we will adopt measures they are promoting.

2. Home Visits (light bulb giveaway) – Andy Knaus

Has distributed over 60 light bulbs to volunteers alongwith fact sheets, street numbers of those who have already been contacted, and a suggested conversation to help address issues we want discussed. Hopes to sign up more volunteers. She and her husband delivered ten more light bulbs and found all but a couple of people very receptive.

One person visited was concerned about disposal of fluorescent light bulbs because of mercury. Recommends taking them to the hazardous waste facility and will instruct volunteers to do so as well.

3. Purchase of Carbon Offsets – Christine

Carbonfund.org runs a program in which people can offset their CO2 emissions by contributing \$5.50 per ton of emissions which is used for renewable energy, increased energy efficiency, or reforestation. The Town has purchased offsets for the CO2

emissions from the manufacture of the electricity used to run Town street lights for about \$700. In January, 2008, the Town will join a County purchasing group to buy these offsets. Committee would like Town to display the certificate from Carbonfund.org in the Town office.

4. June Column for Forecast—Christine

The column will describe the offsets purchased from Carbonfund.org. Deadline for this article is probably May 15, 2007.

\* Dian will verify deadline for the article.

5. Composting Seminar—Dian

Bruce Russell, Town resident and Master Composter, gave a lively composting seminar on Monday, April 23, 2007. He brought all the necessary equipment and composted on the spot. Showed how to build a compost pile so it works, what to put in it, and what not to put in it. About a dozen people came. Bruce's handout, "Composting Tips from Bruce Russell" is posted on the Town website under Climate Protection Committee--

<http://www.townofchevy Chase.org/assets/documents/pdfs/committees/climate/composting.pdf>

Ideas from the composting seminar—could start compost piles in the Town parks which would produce compost for use on site. Would eliminate trucking leaves and cut greenery out and soil amendments in. Committee decided to ask Bruce to help train Town employees to set up and manage a compost pile.

\*Dian will ask Bruce to help train Town employees to compost.

6. Rainscapes Program (collecting and using rain water) – Dian

Montgomery County has money for towns for barrels and other equipment to collect rain water. Need 50% of homeowners to sign up for the program to get funds. Environment Committee is working on this. Rainscapes is on the web--  
<http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Content/DEP/Rainscapes/home.html>

7. Global Warming Changing Course (Climate Circle) – Betsy Johnson

Organizational meeting May 30, 7:30 p.m., in the Town Hall. The purpose of the group is for each member to examine his/her personal relationship to climate change and to reflect on values and habits as we consider taking action on behalf of the Earth.

8. U.S. Conference of Mayors questionnaire

Dian recently responded to this questionnaire which asks what actions the Town has taken to comply with the Mayors' Climate Change Agreement. The information will be used at a Mayors' meeting in June.

9. Town Vision Statement (Strategic Plan 12/06)/Coordination with Environment and Land Use Committees/next meeting

Dian and Chris—many tasks in Vision Statement that involve goals of Climate Protection Committee, like protection of tree canopy and use of green building or LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards. Committee should coordinate with committees that are tasked with implementation of these goals -- Environment Committee, chair, Joan Rood, and Long Range Planning Committee, chair, Pat Burda. Next Committee meeting should be with these two chair persons to explore areas of common interest. Best date for everyone second week in June, but will depend on availability of Joan Rood and Pat Burda.

\* Dian will contact Pat Burda and Joan Rood and invite them to come to our next meeting and brief us on their committees. Will give them a briefing on the Climate Protection Committee at the meeting.

\* Stuart will research green building standards.