

Minutes of the Meeting
Chevy Chase Climate Protection Task Force
May 1, 2006

In attendance: Betsy Johnson, Andy Knaus, Monica Molina, Julia Randall, Rob Enelow, Stuart Sessions, Dian Seidel, Christine Real de Azua, Judy McGuire.

Guest: Scott Orbach

After self-introductions by all in attendance, Scott Orbach talked about his idea of buying wind power to fuel the Town's streetlights. After much discussion, the Task Force deferred making a recommendation to the Town Council about the matter because the proposal needed more information and discussion.

Members of the group then made proposals for the Task Force work program. The unedited list is as follows:

1. Inventory Town's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, back cast them to 1990, forecast emissions to 2012 (without mitigation), and compare prediction against minimum goal of 7% stipulated in Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement.
2. Lobbying by the Town government of governments at the county, state, and national level for reducing GHG emissions
3. Media watch and placement. Tracing media coverage of global warming and town writing in editorials and letters to the editor
4. Community education including a climate change forum/lecture series; column in monthly Forecast
5. Climate change preparedness
6. Town compost heap
7. Conscious-raising/peer support group
8. Inventory GHG emissions, set reduction targets, and create and action plan
9. Adopt and enforce land-use policies that reduce sprawl, preserve open space, and create compact, walkable urban communities
10. Promote transportation options such as bicycle trails, commute trip reduction programs, incentives for car pooling and public transit
11. Increase the use of clean, alternative energy by, for example, investing in "green tags", advocating for the development of renewable energy resources, and recovering landfill methane for energy production
12. Make energy efficiency a priority through building code improvements, retrofitting city facilities with energy efficient lighting and urging employees to conserve energy and save money
13. Purchase only Energy Star equipment and appliances for (TOWN) use;
14. Practice and promote sustainable building practices using the .S. Green Building Council's LEED program or a similar system
15. Increase the average fuel efficiency of municipal fleet vehicles; reduce the number of vehicles; launch an employee education program including anti-idling messages; convert diesel vehicles to bio-diesel

16. Evaluate opportunities to increase pump efficiency⁷ in water and wastewater systems; recover wastewater treatment methane for energy production
17. Increase recycling rates in (town) operations and in the community
18. Maintain healthy urban forests; promote tree planting to increase shading and to absorb CO₂
19. Help educate the public, schools, other jurisdictions, professional associations, business and industry about reducing global warming pollution
20. Carbon footprint (or greenhouse gas) assessment and goal setting; community mobilization/education around global warming as urgently important to us.
21. Greening Chevy Chase Elementary School (reducing emissions due to buses and car use; better sources of energy; reducing use of energy; climate protection in the curriculum and science fair; parent and staff education; students as community activists and researchers; planting more trees)
22. Greening the 4H Club (reducing bus fuel use, better sources of energy; reducing use of energy; 4-H club programming and education; 4H as activists and public educators; planting trees on property)
23. Greening the Leland Center (better sources of energy; reducing use of energy; as community outreach; planting trees)
24. Greening the Town government (improving streetlight energy source and efficiency; town vehicle efficiency; reducing contractor energy use; greening home efficiency regulations, land use for climate protection; protecting and increasing trees)
25. Townspeople as green voters and taxpayers (weighing in on legislation and regulation; electing green officials)
26. Townspeople as green consumers (buying green; facilitating green-ness through bulk buying and group contracting (e.g. insulation installation); knowledge sharing; commuter and errand running groups)
27. Townspeople as stewards of the earth within and beyond town borders
28. Collective action as a town (vs. individual actions as households)

Judy explained her intention to create project teams based on clusters of activities that are related (e.g. all activities related to community education might be lumped together). Each team will need to select its own leader and develop a time bound work plan with concrete output goals. The team leaders will meet monthly as a sort of “executive committee” of the Task Force. The Task Force as a whole will meet less frequently (maybe every 2-3 months).

By the end of the evening the group decided to approve Stuart’s proposal for getting the GHG assessment going and to endorse putting a column in the Forecast each month. Judy will take responsibility for this but needs input from members. The TF also approved the suggestion to put an “ad” in the Forecast to try to get high school and college students to work with us. We already have one volunteer (Kensington resident), a current freshman major in environmental science (economics minor) student at Emory, who will be volunteering for the summer. Stuart will contact UMD concerning the possibility of Environmental Science students’ working with us.

The TF also agreed to have an open Town forum on our work program on May 15 at 7:30 pm at the Town Hall. To advertise ourselves and increase interest in the brainstorming session, we will put out a sign-up sheet at the environment table on election night (May 2) to bring the TF's work to the attention of a broad spectrum of the community and to invite their participation in the Committee, the brainstorming session, and follow-up project teams. The intent is to develop up to ten broad program areas (or project concepts) at that meeting which will then be fleshed out by Task Force members before the next meeting of the Task Force.

The Task Force will meet next on June 12 at 7:30 in the Town Hall (location to be confirmed). At that meeting the Task Force will discuss the options evolving from the Town brainstorming session, prioritize activities based on need and interest of TF members and townspeople, and divide into project teams.