

Minutes

Climate Protection Committee, February 27, 2008

In attendance: Rob Enelow (Town Council Liaison), Betsey Haddad, Andy Knaus, Judith McGuire (Chair), Christine Real de Azua, Stuart Sessions.

Item 1. Input to new Building Regulations Ordinance.

Committee's Proposal to Town Council requiring Energy Star certified new homes. Rob reported that the lawyer had told him that the Town did not have the authority to require Energy Star Certified new homes. The Committee maintains that Energy Star certification is a design issue and therefore falls under the newly created authority for the Town.

Action: Rob will get to Judy contacts for town lawyer and Judy will plead our case with him. Judy will draft language to submit for 2/28 Town Council working session. Rob will request specific agenda item at Town Council working session on the subject.

Building Regulations Ordinance concerning maximum non-vegetative surface. Although it has not yet been voted on, Rob felt that the Town Council is likely to require a maximum non-vegetative surface (unsure of percent) in the front yard only. The committee would like the Council to pursue a maximum non-vegetative surface for the backyard or whole property and link it to conservation easements trading among properties in town.

Action: Rob and Christine will contact town manager concerning wording on conservation easement. Christine and Judy will draft proposal for Town Council before 2/28 working session.

Item 2. Progress on Greenhouse Gas Assessment

Stuart provided handout giving details on progress to date (scanned version attached).

Responses have been received from 149 households and are still coming in. Using available measures, it would appear that the sample is similar to the 2000 census and therefore deemed to be representative of the town. Thirty-five homes have provided actual energy use data. Energy use for those homes calculated using the HES calculator are different from actual energy use as billed but the average is approximately the same. The team has compared motor vehicle ownership to town parking permit records and found them comparable and compared mileage data with EPA to determine how much they differ. Within a month the teams hopes to complete analysis of home and vehicle energy use. It will still need to take into account the changes over time in land use (tree cover), institutional energy consumption in town, and energy use by town contractors. There is sufficient budget to cover the remaining work of the research assistants, especially because XXX is volunteering his labor, for the time being.

Action: Stuart to keep up the good work

Item 3. Timing of Town Climate Visioning Workshop

Judy pointed out the because of the numerous well-attended meetings surrounding the new building regulations ordinance and the resulting acrimony among town residents, it would be better to delay the workshop until after the ordinance is passed. The group decided that early to mid May would be a good time to do it.

Action: Judy will contact ICLEI and the facilitators who guided the town's visioning workshop in 2005 to identify potential facilitators for our workshop.