

Minutes of the Climate Protection Committee (CPC) 12/02/2008

Attendees:

Judy McGuire
Dian Seidel
Betsy Johnson
Andy Knaus
Stuart Sessions
John Coble
Rob Enelow (Council Liaison)

Note that underlined portions of the minutes indicate action items for members of the Committee.

Updates from the working groups:

1. **Efficiency of Existing Homes** – Michael and Judy – addresses changes needed to the building and its appliances.

- 30 people showed up for weatherstripping workshop
- 30 people showed up for reports on energy audits
- We have advertised in Forecast that we will put people's utility bills into Excel table and graph for them.

2. **Climate Corps** – Dian – to engage high school students and retirees to address life style changes that residents can make to reduce their footprints.

Michael and Dian and some BCC students went to Riverview HS in Howard County to review the training they're doing with students. Mixed reviews.

The BCC club meets weekly – Dian meets with them about every 3rd meeting. They will be coming up with skeleton of action plan for year. First year probably will only be 1-2 dozen home visits. Probably will start mid-Feb.

Working some with students from Wilson and Walter Johnson HS. Idea: make one of their tasks to recruit an underclassman to create continuity for next year.

3. **Transportation** – Betsy and Andy – to address ways to reduce automobile use by residents

If Zip Car decided to put a car in the town (iffy due to density requirements) then they would actually purchase a reserved on-street parking spot from the town. Betsy has contacted them and is waiting to hear back.

Andy researched the Friendship Hts shuttle which runs from 6:40 AM to 9 PM. It mainly serves the big apartment buildings in Friendship Hts and ridership is 8-10,000 people a month for a cost of \$338,000/year. They run 2 buses continuously and they are handicap-accessible. Since the TOCC does not have the density of Friendship Hts, we agreed that a different solution would probably be required and that we would need to see how receptive town residents would be to the idea.

The following are ideas for approaching transportation:

- Call to find out about the Bethesda Circulator to get a better idea of cost, ridership, and to see if they might reroute through the town (again density would be an issue).
- Attend the Sr. luncheon and have informal conversations with folks about their inclination regarding non-auto options, especially shuttle.
- Prepare a handout about existing transportation alternatives like bus schedules, fares, metro, circulator, etc. to hand out at events like the Sr. luncheon.
- Promote walking groups at events (like the Sr. luncheon).

4. **LEED New Homes** – Carla Graeff – to devise a set of incentives to promote LEED Silver, Gold or Platinum level certification for all new homes built in town.

Julia Craighill to take lead on this. Maybe not do LEED since it is very demanding and expensive. Julia has been doing research on other options. Judy wants to recruit other people to be on committee – especially people in the housing industry who are open minded and creative. Suggestions welcome.

5. **Monitoring** – Stewart – to monitor the town’s progress toward meeting the greenhouse reduction goal.

Stuart wants input on what should be monitored – how to assess progress. Doesn’t see that anything can be done for at least a year. We should set up activities so that they produce monitorable results. Like – can the auditors share data from utility bills? Dian stressed that the procedures used for monitoring be the same as the procedures used to produce the initial assessment – in order to have a valid comparison.

6. **Communication** – Judy - to support the other working groups by implementing a communication program to alert town residents to our activities.

Judy has met with some people to get ideas

Focus groups have started – one was held on home energy use last Monday (4 people attended) – UMD students are preparing a report.

John Coble suggested that a software product called BaseCamp might be useful in managing workflow and communication among the multiple work groups. It's a product that is more powerful than Google docs and it can be used to set up projects which can be accessed by a whole committee and be used to track results which it can roll up for reporting purposes. \$24/mo. Up to 20 projects. Rob will talk to the council about possibility of town buying it for use by all committees. John volunteered to mock up a skeleton so we could try it out during a trial period.

Brainstorming for Launch of Town Challenge

Discussion ranged back and forth between piggy backing on scheduled events vs. free standing event. Also, mixed feelings about whether tone should be serious and expository vs. fun and light on details. Get people engaged in competitions.

Next meeting is January 27.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Submitted by Betsy Johnson