

Climate Protection Committee  
Minutes  
Meeting Nov. 9, 2010

In attendance:

David Lublin  
Judith McGuire  
Debbie Litt  
Stephanie Lowet  
Julia Craighill  
Stuart Sessions  
John Kolakowski  
Peter Winglee  
Betsy Johnson

1. Judy McGuire reviewed progress to date:

- ✓ We've touched about 1/3 of the households in town (according to Daniel Button's research).
- ✓ Last year's Energy Audits and Assistance Program was fully subscribed at 50 people of whom 37 people actually took action. The program has been renewed this year and our goal is to ensure that it is fully subscribed. Important because homes emit about 67% of the town's greenhouse gases. We will follow up with participants to glean lessons learned and consolidate their recommendations.
- ✓ UMD students have surveyed town residents who have had an energy audit done. The initial answers (about one-third of auditees have been called) are enlightening. 73% listed climate change or concern about the environment as the reason they got the audit, 36% said it was to save money, 27% said it was to improve comfort, and 36% attributed it to concern over high energy use. 2/3 were very satisfied with their audits and an additional 25% were satisfied.
- ✓ Climate Corps was comprised of one student last summer who worked with Larkspur energy to implement a phone mini audit program. Six households participated. Participants were satisfied and 5 out of 6 took follow up actions.
- ✓ Suggestions were to solicit, consolidate and share recommendations from residents on service providers and specific actions (e.g. insulation blown in through walls).

2. Reports on this year's programs

- ✓ We will be thinking of new ways to get out the word and catalyze action on upgrading homes through improved energy efficiency. No single medium reaches everybody.
- ✓ We will hold an active transportation event in the spring. Committee members are encouraged to volunteer and bring creative ideas.
- ✓ On January (30<sup>th</sup>) the Climate Protection Committee and the Environment Committee will cosponsor a food event. We will show the movie “Fresh” then have a tasting event with potluck items made with sustainably grown and organic food, local food, and vegetarian food. Judy McGuire, Sally Kelly and Carla Graeff are currently working on this. Others encouraged to volunteer as well.
- ✓ Julia Craighill, Marcie Meditch, Daniel Button, and Suzanne Parnet have been working on the Green Homes subcommittee of which the goal is to encourage new and substantially renovated homes to be green. Their proposals have been through several iterations. Julia presented the outlines of the subcommittee’s ultimate proposal, which include a pilot program in which the Town pays for a building science consultant (up to 40 hours) to work with the homeowner, architect and builder to incorporate state of the art energy efficiency building science in the design. One suggestion was to include in the design hook-ups to recharge electric cars. The question was raised about how to ensure that some of the recommendations are implemented. Some suggestions were a) to have an early decision point (e.g. after 4 hours of consultation) when the homeowner would commit to following the recommendations or forfeit the remainder of the Town’s payment; or b) to structure incentives to motivate the homeowner to take action (e.g. providing a rebate for professional services only after suggestions incorporated). Another suggestion was to plan now for a second year of operation assuming the pilot is successful. The pilot would cover 4 homes the first year (Julia estimates that 18 homes per year are of sufficient size to qualify) using a single consultant who would then write up the lessons learned. One suggestion was that quantitative outcomes be measured although it appeared that the usual tools for measuring energy use might not work in the case of teardown or major renovation. Need to contemplate this further. Julia agreed to revise this and bring it back to the committee at the December meeting.
- ✓ John Kolakowski is working on providing information for residents the multitude of programs (rebates and services) available from Pepco and how to access them. In addition, he will provide information on how to sign on to alternative electricity providers like Clean Currents for renewable energy. He will seek multiple routes to reach people with the information. Some suggested that we solicit input from residents on their experience with PEPCO program options (specifically the external governor on the AC unit vs. the programmable thermostat indoors and the

25%, 50% and 100% cycling options on AC). He will continue to work on this and keep the committee apprised of his progress.

3. Update on midterm evaluation (Stuart Sessions). Stuart passed out a notional outline of a midterm evaluation report. He will compare the actions the CPC has taken and results (to the extent they are available) to ascertain within some margin of error whether we are on track to achieve the goals set out the Chevy Chase Challenge. This will be followed up with recommendations for future action. Committee members are to get comments to Stuart by Nov. 19.

The next meeting will be held on December 14, 7-9 PM, in the Town Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50PM