

Climate and Environment Committee  
October, 2011, 7:30-9:00 PM

Attending:

Julia Craighill

Coralee Hoffman

David Lublin, Town Council Liaison

Judith McGuire, Chair

Eric Niiler

Stuart Sessions

1. Update on committee page on website (Eric/John/Coralee)

Eric reported that the Green Pages link has been transferred to the new merged committee website. The committee discussed various options for either improving the Town website page or starting a separate Facebook page. It was decided to move forward if a committee member agreed to work on developing a Facebook site.

2. New opportunities for bikers: Eric

Eric discussed the possibility of Capital Bikeshare program's being expanded to Montgomery County and Chevy Chase and the potential to have a station in the Town. The committee was supportive of the concept and asked Eric to make a proposal to support it at the next Town Council meeting. He will compose a letter of interest and support on behalf of the town to send if the Town Council agrees.

3. Midterm Evaluation ... further discussion: Stu

Stu presented his findings on overall trends in energy use, 2009 and 2010 relative to earlier baseline years. Since 2006, the average home has become 7 percent more efficient in electricity. But the natural gas use has increased. The weather is responsible for increased greenhouse gas emissions in 2010. 2010 was a moderate increase over base year for GHG emissions for 20815 zipcode. The recession and high gas prices has cut driving. Judy asked Stu about checking for hybrid ownership via town permits, however make and model not always identified. Stu presented his overall assessment of the mid-term progress under the town's climate action plan. David suggested presenting the report to council as is. Judy asked Stu to finalize the report. The committee will send it to the Town council and publicize the results in Forecast and elsewhere.

4. Incentivizing Greener building: Julia & Judy

Having approached realtors in town, spoken with builders, determined that the Town is not willing to impose any requirements, and considered the various options for incentivizing certifiably green new homes and substantial additions in Town, Julia recommended that the Committee not put forward a proposal on green new homes and additions. The committee decided that it would continue to focus on making older homes more efficient and to stop working on the green new homes option.