

Beverly Clean Energy Advisory Committee Meeting

9/21/2022 6:30-8:00pm via Google Meet Link: meet.google.com/nyx-ohre-edm

CITY OF BEVERLY
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Call to order: 6:30 pm

Roll call committee: Julia Long, Julie DeSilva, Fred Hopps, Tom Keeley, Jordan Stutt, Sean Leach, Amy Smith
Absent: NA

Guests: Beverly's Sustainability Director Erina Keefe, Lyndon Holmes, Nancy Schalch, Kira Fabrizio, Bruce Egan, Kevin O'Reilly, Mayor Cahill, Dean Berg

Welcome Jordan

Currently working with 7-Eleven on EV charging initiative.

City policy & project updates (Erina)

- Outreach to residents and small businesses for energy efficiency programs. More than 500 assessments have been done since we started this outreach. Since last year we have doubled weatherization projects. Kevin asked about the ratio of businesses to residents on this project. Erina summarized the work of visits to over 300 businesses. To date, more than 20 projects have been completed! Energy Coach will be coming online through a grant to help more businesses complete more projects.
- **Green Municipal Aggregation** Beverly Community Electric plan was submitted in March 2021, still waiting for approval in hopes to compete with NG winter rates (expected to be 33.9)
- **Solar projects** Multisite solar and canopy projects reception for the 6 sites has been good. Middle school project is especially cool looking because of the water feature. High school, Senior Center, and downtown projects are underway. City Hall project starts in a few weeks. Fred is helping to repurpose and rehome the 1981 panels from Greenergy Park (and Erina called for ideas for how to use; reach out to Fred if you have ideas). All solar credits are being allocated to municipal accounts. Solar developer leases the land for solar production. Tom asked if there are plans to own any. Erina answered not at this time. She mentioned the site at the airport might be an opportunity. The Mayor chimed in that Erina can provide a future update on the airport and two other projects and how the load relates to use of renewables.
- **Electric Vehicles** We have applied for grants for our next bus, which the city plans to purchase.
- **Grants & other City updates** There is a grant available for hiring a second sustainability role at the city level. Council will be able to vote on this next month.

Green Beverly Update from Dean Berg

Beverly & Salem Energy Challenge (url sponsored by HomeWorks:

<https://www.homeworksenergy.com/town-partners/beverly-salem/>)

- Marketing and events and coaching to be done by Green Beverly. First event is October 11 "fireside chat" type of event.
- Home energy umbrella will include the Home Energy Program and the 100% renewable project

Food

- Food diversion and restaurant recyclables projects are ongoing. Won grant from USDA for a 15-month project on local food production, which will launch soon!

Community Engagement

- Won a grant for Green Network to create a local “green directory”. This project will feed into sustainable shopping campaign for the 2022 holiday season.
- Visit events page on greenbeverly.org for more events
- Second Annual Pumpkin Smash is set for November 6!

Legislative Update

- Fred: It matters what advocates and groups like CEAC do! Shout out to Nancy for her work years ago. Acknowledgement of Kevin O’s amazing outreach on behalf of the planet.
- Tech is really making this work easier and more affordable (e.g., windowsill heat pumps), Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) creates stability in the clean energy sector with much opportunity in wind and solar. Tax credits for renewables will make an impact for consumers. Generally, the bill is “monumental” and designed to reduce emissions by 43% by 2030! The government is signaling businesses that there is opportunity.
- Jordan: There is a lot more work to do. Youth groups helped state legislators to challenge Governor Baker to do more. It complements the federal IRA bill to allow consumers to do more. MBTA is required to fully electrify by 2040. Rebates for new and used EVs. 10 first-mover communities and off-shore wind job creation are notable features.
- Tom mentioned that there is a lot of interest in purchasing heat pumps and other things and cautioned the city to act quickly.
- Mayor Cahill mentioned that library is getting a new geothermal cooling system and asked that this be shared at the Green Beverly library event on October 11. Erina asked about advertising for the event. Julia said planning starts Friday.

Larger Context (Bruce)

- Effects of drought on hydropower slide. Contributed to California blackout risk. Norway may be forced to limit exports of electricity because of this.
- California had historic heatwave setting records for intensity and duration of high temps. Pacific Wind proposed plans for floating turbines off the CA coast. May total 4.5 gigawatts.
- IRA inspired US based First Solar to invest more than \$1 billion in new solar panel production.
- China increased coal capacity; US decreased.
- Defers nuclear fusion discussion to next meeting.

Committee Changes

- Julia and Julie D.’s terms are expiring in January, which creates an opening. Committee is currently six and we have seven spots. Interested parties can reach out to the Mayor’s Secretary Martha Lewis if they are interested.
- Julie D. asked the Mayor if a scribe could be provided for the committee and he said yes. Erina can help to set that up.
- This is a vital committee right now and Julia stressed that new members and leaders need to be sure to have clear objectives and goals. The Mayor invited all on the call to help identify new members.

Other Business

- Fred wants to put out a Volleyball challenge to other committees and departments.

Adjourn: 7:58 PM

Next Meeting: October 19, 2022