



Sustainability Commission

Economy • Environment • Society

Think long-term, act now

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 28, 2009
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Location: Nashua River Watershed Association
Attendees:
Commissioners: Carl Flowers, Chris Christie, Leo Laverdure, Mike Roberts, Steve Webber
Liaisons: Ted Roselund (for David Gordon)

Commissioners absent: Carl Canner, Chase Duffy, Richard Hewitt
Open Commissioner slots: 1

Minutes taken by: Leo Laverdure

Agenda

- Sustainable measures

GENERAL

- We need another commissioner. Can we get a high schooler?
- We'd like to increase our public communications

Handouts

- Agenda

Agenda Item #1: Sustainability Measures – How to Measure

- We discussed how each metric is to be measured and who will be responsible for refining each definition and taking or arranging an initial baseline measurement. The responsible persons are given in the text below.
- Category 1 – Energy, by source:
 - Do we have a statistician??
 1. Electricity (Chris)
 - GELD's sources (renewable vs. non)
 - National Grid: Hollingsworth & Vose
 - PV?
 2. Oil: (Leo)
 - Oil companies (Shattuck, Ayer Oil, Mass Consumer Alliance, Lorden)
 - Biofuel
 3. NG (Leo)
 - a. National Grid
 4. Propane (Leo)
 - a. Ayer Oil
 - b. Amerigas
 - c. Grilling gas, mosquito
 5. Coal (Leo)
 - Ask Ayer Oil, May & Haley
 6. Gasoline & Diesel (Carl C.)
 - Just residents
 - Gasoline suppliers

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- Backup generators
 - Yard equipment
 - Boating, in town use
 - Farm equipment
 - Transportation
 - Estimate via mileage
 - Town use
 - Town info on vehicles
 - Registry
- 7. Wood (Carl C.)
 - Cord wood (purchased & burnt, sellers)
 - Pellets (estimate from registered stoves; sellers)
 - Stove permits
- 8. Solar thermal, through collectors (Steve W.)
 - Estimate from permits
- 9. Geothermal (Leo)
 - Estimate from permits
 - LA, Val Prest, Lee Day, ...
- Category 2: Ag land
 - Food, biomass, animals, ...
 - What's currently in food production? What could be?
 - Farmers in 61a
 - Food generating gardens
 - Agricultural Commission – give it to them!
 - Steve will talk to George Moore
 - Sign him up as a liaison
- Category 3: \$ leakage
 - Leo to ask Haynes Turkle, Ray Capes, Michelle Collette
- Category 4: total vehicle miles traveled (just for Groton)
 - Residents
 - Commerce (e.g., Buckingham bus, school buses, ...)
 - Town & Schools use
 - (Mike Roberts)
- Category 5: water use per household
 - Chris C. to talk to both water commissioners
- Category 6: % of income going to housing & transport
 - State data for housing?
 - Mortgage, taxes, insurance, utilities, maintenance (Mike to ask Ted R.)
 - Census data on vehicle miles
 - Leo to look at commuting info, vehicle miles traveled, census(es)
 - Fay, Spophard & Thorndyke (Google FST; Mike to ask Michelle)
- **Action (parties identified above): Report progress by next meeting (12-May-09)**
- As a reminder, here are the selected measures, by category:

Category 1: Greenhouse Gases & Energy Security
a. Total town energy use
b. Percentage of town energy supply coming from renewable and

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other sources
Category 2: Loss of Agricultural Land (or “Food Security”?)
b. Acreage of farms and gardens
c. Number of farms and gardens
Category 3: Community Resilience/Ability to Cope
b. \$ leakage (percentage of money spent by residents that leaves the town)
Category 4: Transportation
c. Total vehicle miles traveled
Category 5: Waste Material and Water Use
e. Water use per household
Category 6: Reasonably Affordable Housing and Jobs
a. Percentage of household income going to housing and transportation, by quintile

FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 12, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Nashua River Watershed Association (NRWA)**. Agenda is still TBD.

Following meeting: **Tuesday, May 26, 2009.**

Meetings are usually held the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at the NRWA. WG meeting schedules are *ad hoc*.