



Sustainability Commission – Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee –

Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, March 7, 2024
Meeting Time: 12:00 PM
Meeting Location: via ZOOM (recorded)

Attendees: Charlotte Weigel, Ken Horton

Guest: Brianna Bennett, Sustainability Coordinator for the Hingham Municipal Light Plant

Minutes:

Started – 12:00pm

Agenda Item 1: Meet with Brianna Bennet, Sustainability Coordinator for the Hingham Municipal Light Plant (HMLP)

- We asked her to explain what the motive was for HMLP to get involved in GHG emissions reduction planning and incentives
- Brianna said she has only been with HMLP for a few years
- HMLP has \$6000 rebates for heat pumps when whole home is electrified
- HMLP first partnered with Abode through Energy New England (ENE) – but programs evolved per MLP
- Now pay \$1500/month plus \$70 per consultation, and \$150 per quote comparison – works out to \$1500 - \$2000 per month
- Bringing coaches on board to save on consultation costs
- Hingham Net Zero advocacy group has their own coaching program, but revamping to align with MLP
- HMLP has ~9500 residential households
- Center for Eco Technology has a calculator where you can input rate and calculate the ROI of moving to a heat pump – can be used by MLPs to determine what their income will be from heat pumps to justify incentives – Ashley, president of CET
- Net billing vs net metering for solar – they only reimburse for the cost of energy – set on an annual basis
- They promote solar for the energy efficiency aspect – and can lower peak when paired with battery
- Hingham's CAP is for Net Zero by 2040
- The HMLP has a 100% Carbon-free pathways roadmap, but no deadlines on the roadmap
- For C-free power, 90% is going to be doable, the last 10% will be expensive
- They have a Municipal Solar Taskforce and Distributed Energy Taskforce within the MLP – they have a 10MW goal. Right now have 2MW of distributed, and 2 MW at the light plant
- Used solar calculator tool from Renewable Energy class at Harvard Extension School modified with information from Building Decarbonization class on site/source energy to evaluate municipal buildings
- Climate action planning done by Climate Action Commission – includes Brad Moyer and Tonya Bodell as consultant
- Back to heat pump coaching – Hingham's contractor list grew organically, not created from Abode
- Before coaching there was a local installer who either wasn't installing cold climate ASHPs or was oversizing them so customers not happy – these customers bypassed help from the MLP and went straight to installer so had a bad experience.
- Abode provides pre-approval for rebates and post install approval

- They were getting complaints about too many actors
 - ENE processes rebate
 - Abode interfaces between customer and contractor
- Agenda Item 2: Approve prior meeting minutes
 - Did not have prepared yet
- Agenda Item 2: Any other business

- Charlotte moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned – 1:30pm

Next Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee meeting: TBD

Respectfully submitted,

- **Charlotte Weigel** Sustainability Commission Member

Minutes approved by Net Zero 2050 Planning Subcommittee, May, 30, 2024.