

**ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – July 15, 2009**  
**BARKHAMSTED TOWN HALL**

Attendees: Don Stein (First Selectman), Scott Lefcheck, Andrea Fancher, Mike Schulde, Tom Cook

Absent: Ray Pech, Jim Becketl, Dan Pinton, Storm Connors

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This committee is being chartered in an advisory capacity to assist the Board of Selectmen in selecting projects for the grant application to the State of Connecticut for the ARRA Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant. The Town is eligible to receive \$35,612 for this grant, which can be used for a variety of improvements.

The group also discussed whether it was appropriate for the town to initiate an Energy Task Force like many other towns, with the Task Force focus being energy conservation, working with residents for the CT Clean Energy Fund *20% by 2010* program, and working with the schools for energy education. There are also micro-grants available through the state for specific projects in these areas. This topic will be continued to the next meeting.

Relative to the energy grant, consensus seemed to be around:

- Improve the energy efficiency of town buildings (Town Hall, Senior Center, Town Garage, and possibly the Barkhamsted School and the firehouses), using improvements over a previous baseline energy use to demonstrate to town residents the difference that affordable energy saving measures can make. Tom Cook will line up contractors to look at the town buildings to provide an estimate of cost of insulation or other energy savings measures.
- Offer an energy audit to town residents (free to those who qualify, and at a discounted cost or possibly free to everyone).
- Set up funding for educational programs for residents and/or the schools.
- Consider using the Northwest Connecticut Conservation District as an energy consultant to help write and administer the grant

The audits can be used as a way to:

- Get people to sign up for the *20% by 2010* program (as a requirement for the discount or free audit).
- Educate people about funding for alternative energy, such as solar (PV or thermal), geothermal, other technology or other energy savings activities like an energy purchasing co-op.

Energy audits could be promoted in some of the following ways:

- Through an education component linked to the school (“Live carbon neutral for a day”, or “Calculate your family’s carbon footprint”, et cetera), which would provide a conduit to town households.
- Through the town website and email messages
- Through a direct mailing.

- Through a tour of local examples of energy saving homes. This could be co-sponsored with PACE ( <http://www.pace-cleanenergy.org/> ), or the New Hartford zero energy challenge finalist ( <http://schallerecohome.blogspot.com/> )

The next meeting is scheduled for **August 19 at 7:00 PM in Town Hall.**