

Task Force on the Climate Emergency
Minutes for meeting 3/8/2021, 3:30 PM.

1. Call to order: 3:31PM Jen Crandall, Sirohi Kumar, Brian Booher, Margaret Jeffery, Tobin Peacock, Cornell Knight, Ruth Poland, Kristin Murphy, Jill Goldthwait, Norm Burdzel. Norm and Sirohi need to leave early.
2. Approval of Minutes: Jen moves that we approve minutes as written, Tobin seconds. Sirohi, Jen, Margaret, Tobin, Ruth, Brian all approve.
3. Adoption of Agenda: Margaret moves to approve the agenda as written, Tobin seconds. Sirohi, Margaret, Jen, Tobin, Ruth, Brian all approve.
4. Public Comment.
5. Regular Business
 - A. GHG Assessment--Spencer Gray from COA presents the GHG audit of BH owned buildings. Missing elec use for fire station in BH, but it shouldn't change any recommendations. Ruth synthesized the spread sheet. Thank you. Scope 1 and 2--about $\frac{1}{3}$ of use is from electricity. We could purchase our electricity from a greener source to reduce our ghg emissions. Oil is another $\frac{1}{3}$ and we could switch to biodiesel as an interim step. Only 3% coming from propane which is good since there aren't many alternatives. Departments that use the most fuel are transportation (split between gas and diesel), Sewer and water treatment, then Connors Emerson (huge amount is for oil vs electricity due to heating issues and old infrastructure). Using a biofuel for the transportation dept may not be possible if it negates a warranty. Energy audits of the specific buildings and implementing efficiency improvements would be warranted. Ruth asks how the solar panels are accounted for in this audit. The use is subtracted from the carbon total. Street lights are billed differently: some have fee per light, some go onto meter. Not included in this audit yet. Spencer needs to get info from Versant.
Recommendations: 1)Convert all heating fuel oil to biodiesel(short term solution, compare cost of biofuel to furnace retro fitting); 2)buy green electricity credits for short term; develop timeline for vehicle conversion; 3)participate in C-E redesign planning and ensure that green energy solutions are part of the plan; 4)target buildings by CO2 emissions to investigate reduction options with building staff (this could be done by a sustainability coordinator, not the task force): a)energy audits for each building, b)convert to heat pumps, c)find out which energy uses are "fixed", such as sewage treatment plant functionality. Compare carbon costs as well as money costs.

Good question from Ruth: why does it matter if we buy our solar power from out of state vs spending to build a solar farm here? We will need to research and enumerate answers to these questions to present to the public.

We haven't even talked about Scope 3 yet (waste, water use etc)

Spencer will continue to update the audit as he gets more data. He will upload it into Energy Star Portfolio Manager in the spring once he has students. Brian will also work on this with Spencer.

- B. Continuing work on Climate Action Plan--Ruth suggests that the recommendations from Spencer are under our purview, but that fine grade building by building recommendations would come under the job of a sustainability coordinator. We continued on with the document, agreeing on goals, strategies and identifying who will be in charge of the action.

Reminder that we are all signed up to work with a partner on a section and present updates at the next meeting. Be sure to connect. See document for partners and topics.

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/12OLF1vd9f_9pGXP2HB7IBCm54f_6SwkZiRaN-](https://docs.google.com/document/d/12OLF1vd9f_9pGXP2HB7IBCm54f_6SwkZiRaN-MbLv8/edit#https://docs.google.com/document/d/12OLF1vd9f_9pGXP2HB7IBCm54f_6SwkZiRaN-MbLv8/edit#)

[MbLv8/edit#https://docs.google.com/document/d/12OLF1vd9f_9pGXP2HB7IBCm54f_6SwkZiRaN-MbLv8/edit#](https://docs.google.com/document/d/12OLF1vd9f_9pGXP2HB7IBCm54f_6SwkZiRaN-MbLv8/edit#)

- C. Anne Kozak proposal for class project. "Communication to Professional Scientists and the lay public". The expectation is that each student will spend 45 hours on this throughout class. Once they have a topic there will need to be a back and forth between us and the class. One or two people could take point on this and meet with them. Class is from March 29-start of June, Tuesdays and Thursdays starting at 4pm. This could be a real resource for education of the public, ourselves, and Town Council. We need to come up with topics that we want them to research. Ruth suggests 3 ideas: what are the benefits of biodiesel vs diesel; what are the carbon benefits of local production vs distant purchase of solar power; difference between net zero or carbon neutral vs zero emissions. Jill: wonders if the topics would interest the public at large. She suggests "what is a solar farm?" or some other starting points. Tobin: from Maine Climate Plan, doing something about the cost of inaction vs taking action could be a good story if told well. Jen wonders if the class's job is to make the topics more accessible to the public, so it could be more complex topics for us and then simplified for the public. Brian: we need to provide them the topic and the audience. Jill says what about a booklet with tidbits of practical information for the lay person.

We need to winnow our ideas down to a what and a who (audience), and then who will be the contact person from our group.

- D. Coastal Grants Available for Municipal and Regional projects. Proposals due 4/15/21 Could be used for a sustainability contractor (instead of a sustainability coordinator) to help us flesh out the action plan and guide us. This would help free us up to turn to other priorities. Ruth and Margaret will look more closely at the document and see if it is something we can apply for. More discussion on next meeting agenda.

6. Items for next meeting. More work on Action Plan, Electric permits on EV charging, ACTT connecting communities project, ensuring capital improvements projects be low/ zero carbon emissions. Also Anne Kozack's class proposal.

6. Task Force Comments.

6. Adjournment 5:16 Tobin moves that we adjourn, Margaret seconded. Ruth, Jen, Tobin, Jill, Margaret, Brian all in favor.

Future Work:

- A. Tourism carbon impact
 - i. Cruise ships
- B. Climate Justice-- acknowledge impact of climate change and its disproportional impact on lower socio-economic groups and the intersectionality with other crises like racial equity. Climate change impacts developing countries exponentially more than developed countries and the developing countries are not the ones benefiting from the use of fossil fuels etc.
- C. Ground mounted solar array.
- D. Community composting.
- E. EV chargers
- F. Town based incentives for new buildings or renovations to exceed code requirements for efficiency, build electric and/or incorporating solar into design. Tax break? Cash back? What could the town actually do to incentivize? Could you forgive the first year of property taxes on a new build if there a solar array of a certain size or all electric house or passive house level insulation? A few thousand dollars might be enough to encourage some best practices.
- G. Public Outreach
 - i. Engage the BH Chamber of Commerce