

**Meeting called by:** Dorian Yates                              **Type of**                              SECC monthly meeting

**meeting:**

**Facilitator:**                              Dorian Yates                              **Note taker:**                              Jim Schley

**Attendees:**                              Dorian Yates, Susan Hodges, Doc Bagley, David Lutz, and Jim Schley

**Next**                              July 9, 2024, 7:00 pm via ZOOM

**Meeting:**

Minutes

New ACTION ITEMS from this meeting:

**Doc** will look at the Energy Action Network dashboards for Strafford; that shows that as of 2022 there were 71 heat pumps installed in homes here. They have different filters to search on sectors (agricultural, municipal, transportation, industrial, etc.): <https://canvt.org/vermont-energy-dashboard/>

**ACTION ITEM:** For July, 6, **Dorian** will look at the spreadsheet and ask Matt if he has ideas for displaying this. **Doc** will ask Efficiency Vermont and Capstone if they have energy-efficiency and rebate handouts. Jim wondered if we could have a heat pump to display, or at least a poster/diagram that shows how they work. **Dorian** will also ask Kira Campbell, who is organizing the parade etc., if we can have a table again. **Jim** will provide two tents for shade and rain protection.

**ITEM:** **David** will contact Paul Kifner about the possibility of doing a demonstration at one of the concerts on the common powering all the sound equipment with his Kia.

AGENDA for this meeting:

- 1. Approve minutes** (attached). **Approved.**
- 2. Review and update Action Items** from last meeting. Reviewed: some are carried over.

**ACTION ITEMS:** **Dorian** will make changes to the survey on the Google Form master and print more copies. **Susan** will do a list-serve posting telling those who took a paper survey that they can return it to Coburns': the bulletin board near the post office, and she'll say that we will tabulate on May 1. **Done.**

**ACTION ITEM:** **Dorian** will offer to meet with Bryan Kovalick on **Wednesday, April 24**, with **Matt** and **David** to talk about decision-making principles. **Matt** is also offering to be involved in capital planning on some kind of ongoing basis. **Dorian, Matt and David talked with Bryan about sustainability principles, green procurement, energy-efficient building standards.**

**ACTION ITEM:** Bring ideas to our next meeting for July Fourth activities for our committee. **See below.**

**3. Town Energy Survey results and further gathering** (see Completed round 1 of this process.  
[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1q\\_99xwpT-jLEGIAM9Ju5FvhMPF0hEfV5mWGAb\\_N3e2g/edit#gid=1747477906](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1q_99xwpT-jLEGIAM9Ju5FvhMPF0hEfV5mWGAb_N3e2g/edit#gid=1747477906)

We received 151 responses. We ran out of paper forms, as people were (maybe surprisingly eager?) to participate. Matt is the keeper of the spreadsheet at the link above. It's not very sortable, because many of the responses are sentences.

Do we have a plan for analyzing the results? As I was putting in all the responses, it seemed that when/if we do this again in the future there might be an easier way to frame the answers so they would be more amenable to a spread sheet and analysis?

I also found that there were probably a couple of people who might not be Strafford residents; maybe "town of residence" should be on the survey? or something that says "don't fill this out if you are not a Strafford resident"?

Several people said to me that the survey made them think about other things they could do—and that is a good thing! I have also mentioned this to folks in the 350VT Node (that meets in S. Royalton), and people at the meeting thought this project would be great to share with other town Energy Committees.

If we devise a way to summarize the results we can use this for our Town Meeting report. **ACTION ITEM: Doc** will look at the Energy Action Network dashboards for Strafford; that shows that as of 2022 there were 71 heat pumps installed in homes here. They have different filters to search on sectors (agricultural, municipal, transportation, industrial, etc.): <https://eanvt.org/vermont-energy-dashboard/>

Dorian is interested in preparing for the next update of the Enhanced Energy Plan for the revision of the Town Plan.

**4. Independence Day festivities: July 6**

Discussion of doing a table again with the Climate Action group. They will have a big blue ball to march with in the parade. We can offer post-its for people to write down the initiatives their household is making.

We talked about having some kind of graphic representation of the survey results. David described some ways that the results could be summarized with number totals (how many EVs in town now) and "word clouds."

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**5. Demonstration idea:**

David described the "vehicle to load" (V2L) feature on some EVs (currently certain models from Kia, Hyundai, and Genesis and some plug-in hybrids: RAV4 Prime, for instance), which allows you to run large loads, including a whole house, from the high-voltage battery of the car. David needs to work on July 6, but maybe we could do this for some other event; for instance David's Kia could power the whole sound system from the car. **ACTION ITEM:** David will contact Paul Kifner about this.

**6. Check-in on educational postings** on the Strafford list-serv:

July: Electricity (Doc, David, Matt)

August: Household products & pets (\_\_\_\_)

September: Fashion/fiber (Dorian)

October: Forests (Dorian and/or Susan T.)

November: Garbage & recycling "literacy," including plastics (Jim)

December: Plastics, or redo holiday posting

**7. Sub-committee and other reports, monthly updates, if any:**

\* **Community Solar:** Increases each month. 22,000 kWh for April; 24,000 kWh for May. Doc said that this may be one of the last community solar arrays in Vermont, because the Public Utilities Commission has accepted the utilities' contention that net-metered electricity is too costly, compared with generating their own from large solar installations, some of which will be out of state.

\* **State Legislature:** Susan provided 350Vermont updates:

**June: Veto Override.** Contact legislators to support **House Bill 289, the Renewable Energy Standard legislation.**

**August:** Action to make six fossil fuel "peaker plants" (energy stations that run when demand is high), in addition to our polluting and inefficient biomass plants. 350Vermont will be partnering with No Coal No Gas as well as Rights and Democracy (RAD) for a low-lift, fun summer action.

\* **Intramunicipal Energy (IREC)** group: Still waiting on a report from the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) assessment of the town garage. There is also discussion occurring of potential for solar (80 kW) on garage roof: sized to not requiring wiring/circuit upgrades. David is also seeking a quote from Orange Energy (<https://www.orangecharger.com/products/level-2-evse>) for Level-2 charger(s) at Park-and-Ride lot (their units don't require internet connections); their charge is 8 cents / hour when used, with no charge when not used. There would be an initial set-up charge, but no ongoing cost to the town.

\* General discussion of common sense approaches to agriculture, eating, raising animals, eating in season, and the need to change expectations.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:41 pm.      Next meeting is July 9, 2024 via Zoom.**