

of our present transition to a renewables-based energy system. Carried over: **Jim** will do this now; not too late.

2. ACTION ITEM: David will find out more about the Elizabeth Mine's current generating patterns and capacity, and will share with us a list of contacts for the developer and key people at the utility and the state so that we can communicate with them about the onsite power-storage question. **Carried over to this month.**

3. ACTION ITEM: Dorian will investigate Google Forms for the Community Survey, and **Susan H.** will send wording suggestions/edits. **Done: to be discussed.**

4. ACTION ITEM: Dorian will submit the budget request to town clerk Lisa Bragg. **Done.**

3. Town report: Draft sent by Dorian to Jim, to be sent to Nellie Pennington by January 22.

4. Survey work and launch. The working draft is at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1g7XEKdj2jVHE9YScAK6bUGoa4n7F4E08cC4bV9zYJw8/edit?ts=6596ca62>

Dorian has asked Lisa if this can be placed for downloading on our page of the town's website. We can also provide a link on the list-serve (not requiring a Google log-on to open), and we can print two-sided copies to hand out at the store, recycling, and town meeting.

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

January: Heating (Matt)

February: Transportation (Transportation)

March: Lawn (alternatives) & garden / fertility, seeds and starts (Susan H.)

April: Building projects and standards (Matt)

May: Farming/agriculture, food (Dorian)

June: Recreation & travel: e-bikes, electric snow mobiles, etc. (____)

July: Electricity (Doc, David, Matt)

August: Household products & pets (____)

September: Fashion/fiber (Dorian)

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

November: Garbage & recycling (Jim)

December: Plastics, or redo holiday posting

6. Sub-committee reports, monthly updates:

Susan's Legislative Report:

Status of the Renewable Energy Standard

350VT has been keeping up with how "improving" the Renewable Energy Standard (RES) is coming along. A government Working Group on the RES reform met this fall and has published its report. You

can read the working group’s final report [here](https://ljfo.vermont.gov/assets/Uploads/5f88e10ecc/RESWG_final_report.pdf).
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Note how many representatives of fuel companies were in this group.

350VT notes that the Renewable Energy Standard bill will be introduced “any day, and will likely be voted out of the House Energy and Environment Committee by January 19th. 350VT plans to put out a synopsis of the proposed bill soon.

350VT has written a commentary on the issues with the RES, which you can find here:
<https://www.350vermont.org/350vt-blog/concerned-vermonters-push-for-better-renewable-energy-standard-cbd3t> This provides some useful talking points about the RES.

On December 29 Sylvie Desautels, Michelle G. (of Randolph) and myself met with Senator Mark MacDonald, focusing on making a connection, and voicing our concerns re the RES. It felt like a positive meeting and will pave the way for more communication. He suggested that right now, letters to state legislators and especially Letters to the Editor on the issues involved would be good to do.

In preparing for this meeting, I researched definitions of “renewable” as applied to energy. The definition Vermont is using is very wishy-washy, in my opinion, and does not really address time-frames or sustainability, which makes it easy to greenwash. A good source of more information on the issues of greenwashing is “Hoodwinked in the Hothouse” a booklet that can be downloaded (free) from: <https://climatefalsesolutions.org/>. Probably the big sticking points come where corporate profits, costs for consumers, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions come into conflict with each other—definitely a challenge in the political arena. It will take lots of citizen actions to influence the outcome.

Upcoming Event:

Vermonters Together - Building a Better Future March and Rally

Date/Time: Saturday, January 27, 1:00–3:00 pm

Location: Meet at Montpelier City Hall (Main St.) and march to the Vermont Statehouse

Event Description:

Join 350VT and allies to envision the Vermont we are working toward and ask Governor Scott and the Legislature to join us in making it happen in 2024! Large public art project to help us answer “What does a just and thriving Vermont look like to you?” that we will deliver to decision-makers.

[Click here](#) for details, carpooling, and to RSVP.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 pm. Next meeting is February 13, 2024 via Zoom.