

(Google link, town Facebook page, poster version for Recycling center); are there ways to tabulate more of the responses?

3. Intramunicipal Energy Coordinator (IREC): Still waiting for the report on the town garage so haven't been able to proceed with Town Garage, so now they're talking about using the \$4,000 Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) grant for an EV charger in the Park & Ride lot. Discussion of scenarios where this would be cost-effective and used; mostly people charge at home. This committee recommends that better use of that grant would be the Town Garage, which is the most wasteful building we have.

Amos Post gave a quote for \$100,000 for solarizing the garage, which would earn a 30% tax credit (a bank would administer this), so the town would pay \$70,000, but that would be a hard case to make presently, even though the break-even point would be less than ten years.

Are there other uses we could recommend? A heat pump for the separate garage office would be cost-effective, with another \$4–5,000 for air-sealing; second priority would be the school library. **ACTION ITEM: Matt** will volunteer to do an energy audit for the town garage office to spec the project and size a heat pump.

4. Legislative Report from Susan:

Legislative Report for SECC meeting 8/13/24

2023 was the hottest year on record for Vermont.

My notes from a 350VT leaders meeting on 8/5/2004.

Legislature is not in session, but 350VT has its eye on priorities for the next session:

- Electric Rate-Payer Protection Bill – A study is going on now, including an economic analysis, so that the bill can progress in the next session.
- Affordable Community Solar for All – the utilities deleted community solar from the previous bill; 350VT would like to make sure that people have access to affordable community solar.
- NO biofuels or biomass or LNG should be included in Vermont's Clean Heat Standard. The Utility industry is well represented on the committee studying this issue to decide which fuels should be included, so we need "the people" not just the utilities to speak up loudly and clearly. The Utilities want these energy sources to be included, even though they all put CO2 in to the atmosphere.
- Ask utilities to replace polluting plants, and use the money to increase efficient electricity production, weatherization, solar, battery storage, etc. (A first step was Aug. 20 protests at Vermont's 3 "peaker plants" (funded by tax money to run on fossil fuels less than 30 hours per YEAR).
- Action to funnel Investment Reduction Act funds into our homes – see Rewiring America <https://www.rewiringamerica.org/> for more details, facts. Direct pay could supercharge the movement to a cleaner environment.

Discussion of the need not just to protest "peaker plants" but also advocate effectively for alternatives; point

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm. Next meeting is September 10, 2024 in person? To be determined.