

## Marbletown ECC and CSC Task Force Project Updates, June 2019.

### **Clean Power Expo, Sun June 23rd 12-3:30pm**

Thanks to everyone who helped, the Expo was a great success. Large, enthusiastic turnout, lots of EV test drives and interest in heat pumps and building electrification and upgrades.

### **Banning Fossil Fuel Power Plants / Natural Gas Zoning**

Power plants are currently allowed in I and I/B zones with only a site plan. Gas compression and metering stations are allowed in most zones with a special use permit. The Town Attorney has written a law to remove fossil fuel power plants and gas compression and metering stations as permitted uses in all zones. It also allows electric storage (batteries) as non-fossil generation allowed in I and IB.

The law also expands the zones where commercial solar is allowed to all zones with a special use permit.

This is much stronger than the moratorium on fossil fuel power plants recently enacted by the Town of Lloyd. Since no one is currently considering either a FF power plant or gas pipelines in Marbletown, we can jump straight to a ban.

The planning board has given it's OK, and now the Town Board needs to hold a public hearing and do a SEQRA review.

There are also a couple edits that need to be made- will get these in through the public comment process. In particular, the definition of electric storage was too narrow and only applied to batteries charged from solar, and this use did not make it into the use table. Also, commercial solar did not have an entry in the SR use zones.

### **Solarize Campaign replaced with group buy.**

Solar installers SHV talked to did not show enthusiasm for a Solarize campaign, but they did all add EV charging installs to their offerings.

We have begun gathering names to put together a group solar purchase instead. ECC member Doug Adams has expressed interest in participating in an air source heat pump group purchase.

### **NexAmp Wappingers Community solar**

The NexAmp Community Solar installation at Wappingers Falls is on line and producing credits. Marbletown CH meters at the Transfer Station, Old Town Hall, Community Center, and Peak Rd are signed up for this Community Solar offer, and will begin getting a 10% discount as of July 1st. This program can be terminated with 3 month notice; the intent is to sign these accts up for a local offering when one becomes available.

### **Hudson Valley Community Power (CCA)**

HVCP will begin delivering 100% Renewable electricity to approximately 80% of Marbletown meters on July 1st (after ineligible accounts and opt-outs.)

#### 6/14 Update from Jeff Domanski:

Central Hudson has mailed letters to a number of customers this month which is causing confusion and concern about the Program. The letter mirrors an email they sent to their customers not long after our Program letters went out in May. The significant issue with these mailings is, while they acknowledge our Program, they do not describe the Program or its benefits, only focusing on the Opt-Out methods. Implicitly, this suggests that customers should Opt-Out of the Program. I have obtained a photo of one of the letters, and can share with you, but need to redact it to hide the customer's name/address. These messages were done on Central Hudson's own volition – the only mailing they required to do is to send a message to customers AFTER the June 20<sup>th</sup> Opt-Out Period end, indicating they are being moved to the applicable HVCP rate option.

The Department of Public Service (DPS) is aware of these messages and, in short, is not happy with Central Hudson. The response is yet to be determined, but we wanted to make sure you were aware of these mailings (if you have not already heard about them from some of your residents).

### **EV Charging**

Two level 2 15A EV chargers at the Stone Ridge Library have been installed, but are not yet powered up due to the existing conduit not being large enough for the planned wiring (we had planned the wiring to fit the conduit we saw, so not sure what went wrong.) SunCommon is still planning on completing the project and has not asked Marbletown to pay for any cost overruns.

### **Community Solar at High Falls Water**

Rosendale Supervisor apparently has some concerns about solar proposal at HF Water. Supervisor Parete is setting up a meeting between TK, himself, Supervisor Walsh, and MT Board member Don La Fera (who shares some of Supervisor Walsh's concerns.) Per DF, concerns are "mainly that it's not worth it to bother for so little return. Also the possibility that some people in the district will benefit while others do not is odd. Perhaps if instead of offering discounts to some residents they can offer a worthwhile discount on electric to the water plant that all water district residents would then benefit from. "

The point about discounts reflects confusion about how community solar works, so that should be easy to clear up. The point about "not worth the money" needs to be countered by bringing up the benefits (including CSC points for redeveloping a brownfield, local economic development and positive perception of the Towns.) It may be worth encouraging more Rosendale residents and HF water customers to speak in favor of the project at Rosendale board meetings.

### **Micro-Hydro**

Land owners at waterfall on Ashokan Rd has decided they are not interested in going ahead with microhydro project. Trying to get Current Hydro interested in another potential project at Harry Hansen's mill on Kripplebush Creek near the Rail Trail in Rest Plaus.

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### **Building Permit Fees**

The town is revising building permit fees to incentivize efficient buildings. New building permits will be based on volume of air leakage per hour (not sq footage or cost of construction.) Changes in air leakage for remodel (or affected square footage is envelope is not involved.) Dave Allen is gathering information on Building dept costs. We expect to have something worked out for new fees starting at the beginning of 2020.

Until then, TK persuaded the board to lower residential solar permit fees as well as roof mounted commercial fees. Ground mount commercial solar permit fees will be about the same to slightly higher, and all fees are greatly simplified. New fees will go into effect July 1st and are \$100 roof mount residential; \$200 ground mount residential. Commercial (>25 kW AC) will be \$2.50/kW roof mount and \$10/kW ground mount.

### **NY Stretch Energy Code**

The Town will consider adoption of the NYStretch energy code as soon as it is finalized.  
<https://www.nyserda.ny.gov/All-Programs/Programs/Energy-Code-Training/NYStretch-Code-Energy-2018>

### **Marbletown Community Center Retrofit**

Boardmember Don LaFera has taken the lead in negotiating with MalCarne on the CC retrofit package. He wants a bare bones version of the retrofit to consider as well.