

9 September 2020 ECC minutes

Attending: Amy Moses, Tom Konrad, Iris Marie Bloom, Doug Adams, Alan Newman; visitors Christopher Neidl ([openaircollective.cc](http://openaircollective.cc)), Jim Hoover, Dave Conover.

July minutes approved

August minutes approved

I. Chris Neidl: Greener Concrete

Chris represents Open Air Collective—all volunteer to advance negative solutions to climate change. Open Air Collective. He does a presentation called “Why Concrete Matters to Climate.”

Concrete carbon connection

- Emissions, operational standpoint. Body component—emissions in the making of concrete
- Lowering the emissions is one facet, but using concrete as a net beneficial to store carbon
  - 10 billion tons produced per year, second most prevalent substance on earth
  - Cement most common man-made material, responsible for about 8% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
  - Changing to lower emissions
  - Substitutes difficult due to inertia of the use of the material in the past and into the future
  - Sand and gravel most—Portland cement gives its characteristics
  - One of the most carbon intensive materials on the planet—clinker (limestone in a kiln to temperatures—2600 degrees F, coal or natural gas used to create that intense heat, the release of carbon from that process.
- Huge efficiency differences in where cement comes from and the way it is produced
  - Using less Portland cement—Portland limestone cement, grinds up more limestone rather than heating the limestone (clinker)
  - Glass grinded down, is another aggregate
  - Overuse of cement—being more thoughtful to need, rather than a conservative determination of old
  - Drive down cement use, builders / architects and others can specify less cement
- Carbon Positive Concrete: Make concrete a carbon sink rather than a carbon producer—making it out of aggregate
  - Blue Planet based in California looking for facilities in NJ (Solidia)
- Policy innovator—having building standards changed to incentivize builders to use low carbon concrete—local, county building code changes faster than on the state and national government.

- Local governments lead by example, convene educational programs to show how it is done
- Concrete is a mom and pop enterprise, so it's a local business due to the 50 mile radius of concrete vs cement is a world program
- Kick carbon to the curb
- Concrete—sidewalks and the like, as opposed to structural
- Concrete is the finished product will use cement (Portland cement) as a binder
- Consider specifying greener concrete in Town Procurements
- Hastings on Hudson has passed a resolution to this effect.
- 200 concrete and components plants in New York State
- Local governments shape local demand
- Environmental Product Declarations
- Participants include AIA NYC; Skidmore; Rockland. Need critical mass for adopters.

## II. Outreach program 100% renewable

- Green purchase program extended through October by NYSERDA
  - Targeting mailing to Marbletown end of September, October
  - Talking it up personally
  - Heat pump/water heater deal
- Rycor prices for heat pumps are high, about \$1,000 on them doing all of the paperwork for the application which they turn around and charge for the service
  - Would they offer a stripped down version without filling out the rebates, etc and offer a \$100 rebate.
- Website—is still coming together with overall ideas for the site coming together. Website developer does this on a part time basis, so edits must go in by bulk.

## III. Stretch code update

- Have not acted on the public meeting on the subject. They are mulling. Uncomfortable for renovations and remodels but comfortable with new construction. Daisy Foote working with Mike Dewein, head of stretch code person at NYSERDA.

## IV. Solar Farms

- No success in contacting New Beginnings for a tour of their solar facilities.

## V. Trails

- Doing the trail connections with RMC. Do we want to pursue these options and what is the financial cost of these projects moving forward? Almost all the options require not

only right-of-way but funding for clearing the land for a trail with the current status of funding at the state and national level.