

## **ECC Minutes, January 2017**

Members Present: Tom Konrad, Margot Becker, Iris Bloom, Eric Stewart  
Guest: Chris Hewitt, Rochester ECC

### **SOLARIZE RONDOUT VALLEY**

We will be working with the Town of Rochester ECC and Solarize Hudson Valley (John Wackman) in launching Solarize Rondout Valley. The campaign will run from March thru June. An outdoor pizza party in Rochester was discussed for month of April. A kick-off event in Marbletown was discussed. Several dates from late February to mid-March were considered as well as several possible venues. These included Marbletown Community Center, Arrowood Farms Brewery, Rough Cut, Friends & Family and Lekker's. Both towns as well as Solarize Hudson Valley will make \$ contributions towards this event. Eric and Chris will take lead in scheduling and organizing.

Tom will speak to Doug re: town approval of event.

Eric to approach RVBA which is hosting a panel discussion on solar energy issues to include John Wackman of Solarize Hudson Valley on that panel and coordinate with our own efforts. Date of breakfast/panel TBA.

Town of Rosendale will not participate due to their desire to not be seen as promoting particular company(s) certified by SHV as part of their vetting and certification process of installers.

Margot inquired as to how we will find volunteers and attendees. Options discussed included press releases and invites through RVBA, Marbletown Dems & Center for Permaculture. Also, help from installer Solar Generation, advertising/press releases/stories in Blue Stone Press & Country Wisdom News, and signage in front of Hwy Dept. were all mentioned.

NOTE: While on topic of press releases and stories ... Tom requested that folks send him their press contact info for compilation and use in all of our future events/efforts.

### **ACTIONS FOR CLEAN ENERGY COMMUNITIES (CEC) FUNDING**

#### **1) ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS**

Tom will look into using cheaper charging stations than the ones currently provided in the NYS grant we received. According to Tom, we could possibly get 3 for the price of 2.

There was much discussion as to whether these possible new charging stations would have appropriate software to show up on existing maps that show fueling station locations. Our station will appear on the map for the network we choose. We will also be on the open source map PlugShare. The new chargers will be Tesla compatible using an adapter that comes with the purchase of the car.

#### **2) STREET LIGHTS**

Tom reported that Rosendale is using some of the \$50K it received from CEC monies to convert their street lights to LED. Currently Marbletown has 11 LED lights.

### 3) UNIFIED SOLAR PERMIT

Here, the Town of Marbletown would need to create a standardized form/check-list that would be used by all solar installers working within the town. This is perhaps something that we could pursue now that we have a new building inspector. Also, Solar Hudson Valley guidelines could perhaps be useful in helping to draft this document.

### 4) BENCH MARKING

This high-impact CEC action commits the town to reporting energy usage in town buildings. This is something we are already working on. This was some back and forth as to how this would work since we share the town and its expenses with Rosendale.

### 5) SOLARIZE RONDOUT VALLEY

See above.

Tom announced that we could have enough CEC actions completed by April to apply for our own \$50K in CEC grants. These funds could go to retrofit the Community Center to be more energy efficient.

Margot suggested some funds could also go towards creating bike paths along streets as opposed to rail trails which are great for recreation but are not practical for actually getting from point A to B.

Iris suggested using funds to create incentives for local businesses to install solar panels. Margot to research this idea further. Tom noted that solar water heaters are great investments for restaurants.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

PIPELINES: Iris discussed efforts underway to stop the Pilgrim Pipeline and encouraged everyone to call Gov. Cuomo.

CULVERTS: There was a brief discussion about culverts and how these should be inspected and maintained to not only properly mitigate run-off but also to facilitate movement of wildlife. It was pointed out that culverts shaped like an inverted U (without a bottom) are the most desirable for new installations and replacements. *There is currently a free evaluation of culverts being carried out by DEC* [is this correct?] There will be a presentation by Andrew Myer of DEC. [details?]

ENERGY-EFFICIENT HOMES: Iris noted how difficult it is to find such homes in the area for either sale or rent. Tom noted that establishing such a uniform code for Marbletown would also qualify as a CEC action. Such training would require cooperation with the building inspector and planning committee. Iris then brought up related topic of clean energy audits. It was agreed that this is a major/broad topic and should be put on the agenda for future deliberation at which time Tom could make a presentation or bring in another expert on the subject. Margot expressed the need for a holistic approach to this topic. Tom also noted that this is currently being discussed by the *Community Choice Aggregation Working Group* [correct name?] that involves Carl Chipman (Rochester), Jen Metzger (Rosendale) Mark Darcy (RUPCO) Steve Noble [or is it his wife?] (Kingston) as well as Tom himself