

11-17-2011

Lewiston Energy Saving Committee

Attendees

Bruce Damon, Emily Mottran, Michael Paradis, Dan Stasko, Ray Bergeron

Minutes:

Incentive vs. Rebate

Discussion initially focused on the lack of a rebate policy on the part of Efficiency Maine, which currently focuses on an incentive policy, making it difficult/impossible to recoup costs for efficiency improvements by home and business owners *unless* Efficiency Maine programs were applied for (and approved) *before* the work was attempted. Discussion also focused on the need for some alternative classes (new construction/empty shell) in the criteria. Additionally, current housing market issues limit the viable pool of home owners due to slump in home prices, making it difficult for recent homebuyers to benefit, while long term home owners likely would not recoup ROI. (data needed to support claim, see below)

Advocacy:

Procedures were discussed regarding making recommendation to city council, or joint recommendations to both Auburn and Lewiston city councils regarding items and talking point with recommendation. At the moment, members present agreed that there is a certain level of frustration regarding Efficiency Maine and that a statement to the city council and the state legislature *may* be warranted. Work will be delegated to ascertain what issues others may be encountering with Efficiency Maine and gather data for discussion.

State level advocacy for a coordinated energy policy.

Report: Three city buildings (Library, City Hall Police Station) are all capable of receiving an energy star rating but requires an engineering review at a cost of approximately \$1000 per building.

Question: Should the committee recommend to the city council to move forward with the rating?

Discussion: City may be unwilling to outlay the funds for “a piece of paper” that has no benefit besides cache. Other options include soliciting business partners to support the ratings by either donation of funds or donations of time (if an engineering firm), or seek private donation from local organizations. Grant writing for xxx energy star building certification was also discussed.

Agenda Items for next meeting:

Examining the cool community bullet point list and discuss and pick 2-3 items and make those items the focus of our work for the upcoming year.

Generation of an updated mission statement, committee name, and description.

Current (From City Website):

About the Committee:

The purpose of this committee is to serve as an energy and environmental sustainability advocacy committee for Lewiston, and its recommended initiatives shall be directed at all energy use within the city - municipal, residential, commercial and industrial. The Committee shall serve as a forum to review, recommend and suggest environmental projects and sustainability initiatives and develop a sustainability plan for the city, working to reduce the city's environmental footprint by minimizing its energy use while reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing the volume of waste generated, promoting the local economy and protecting its environment.

Proposed future meeting topic: Invitation of Androscoggin Land Trust to discuss Greenway Walking Assessment.

What should we be doing in the greater LA community?

Catalog what everyone is doing.

Communicate between groups more effectively.

Promote (programs/information) that already exists and is available.

Promote PACE

Climate/Energy savings action plans for both cities.

Publicize successes.

Work with Sun Journal and other media outlets

Trade show for consumers/Home Show

Work to Broaden Mission of Efficiency Maine Trust

Talk to Eff. ME about impact of their approach

Talk to Eff. ME about multifamily dwellings

Talk to city code to promote programs

Enforce State Energy Code

Look for possible grants to pay for local activities

Use CDBG Funds for energy audits

Demonstration "energy saving" neighborhood

Look at roof structures to see how we can better utilize solar

Develop more pedestrian/bike friendly infrastructure

Outreach to school programs

Work with LRTC on curricular issues and local colleges

LNG fueling stations

Let legislature know what needs to be done

Get students involved (Bates / LAC)

Dorm competition (Bates)

Chamber Events

Topic for a Chamber Breakfast

Display of energy saving ideas and successes at office/events
Special 'Energy Breakfast'

Target different audiences
Environmentally sound development site

How can we work better together to accomplish those goals?

Communicate between groups more effectively.
 Share mission statements
 Share minutes
Quarterly joint meetings
Joint sponsorship of programs
Jointly approach policy issues (legislature/other)
Joint promotion and education
Cross linking of websites
Working together to craft a plan
Benchmarking current energy usage
Plan for "green" business park jointly between two cities.