



# TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER, MASSACHUSETTS ENERGY COMMITTEE

## FINAL MINUTES: SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

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**Members Present:** ✓ Tom Hall, ✓ Carlton D. Hunt,  TBD

**Guests:** Fred Chase and Delija Valiunkenus, Bridgewater Citizens

The September 7, 2017 Energy Committee (EC) meeting was called to order at 3:13 PM in Room 201b of the Academy Building with a quorum present. The agenda was approved. No Town staff attended. There were no announcements.

The January 5, 2017 draft meeting minutes were reviewed and approved (2, 0) as submitted.

The Chair took the public input out of order. The attending citizens voiced concerns regarding the proposed solar field on the Imhoff property on Auburn Street. The committee explained the role of the EC with respect to solar developments; specifically, that of the Town's designation as a Green Community. The required Planning Board process for solar field development approval was explained. The EC also explained that while the Committee supports solar field development in general having worked with former Town Planner and Planning Board to draft the current solar ordinance. It was explained that the EC does not have any decision authority. The Committee also explained how electrical energy is invoiced to customers and that citizens can purchase their electrical power from competitive suppliers.

The committee then took up the agenda items: The chair passed out a letter received from the school district regarding energy reduction steps they have undertaken. Follow up with the district regarding joining in Bridgewater's Green Community initiative must be completed. (Note: the chair briefed the Town Manager on this after the meeting. He plans to address the issue with the District Superintendent during their next meeting.)

Progress on the FY17 Green Communities grant projects was not available nor was the committee able to consider potential FY18 projects.

The Chair reported on energy use trends since initiating participation in the Green Communities initiative. In general, we have reduced energy use in our buildings but have experienced an increasing trend in gasoline and diesel fuel use in the vehicle fleet (see attached).

The Chair provided a summary of the Town's reduction in electrical energy cost through the purchase of power from the Marina field on Fireworks Circle (See attached). An 11.3 percent reduction in the town's energy cost has been experienced since inception of the field in August 2015. However, the Marina field is not yet delivering 100% of our electrical demand as contracted; the fields has cumulatively provided 78.1 percent of demand since startup.

The discussions with the attending citizens provided information on the status of the Auburn Street solar field development which remains in the Planning Board hands.

No discussions of ordinances were held as Town staff were not in attendance at the meeting.



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No comments on the Chair's December 2016 draft survey to gauge the public's interest in a Town wide policy of individual energy sourcing choice (e.g., opt in concept) for energy purchase versus an aggregate energy purchase contract through town policy (i.e., opt out option) have been received from the Executive Office. (Note: the fact was raised with the Town Manager after the meeting. He will provide comments. The Chair is to look at the capability of survey monkey to consolidated survey data.).

The Committee then took up the concepts for solarization at the Golf Course as provided by Mr. Jim Campbell of the Golf Commission. The Chair indicated he would take up the concepts with the Town Manager. (Note: The Chair and Town Manager discussed after the meeting the potential to issue an RFP soliciting a company specializing in solar design concepts to maximize alternative energy maximization at the golf course to include net metering, behind the meter installations and energy storage.)

Discussion of other items not forthcoming, the meeting was adjourned at 4:04 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for April 6th 4PM in Room 201A of the Academy Building.

Submitted by Carlton D. Hunt, Ph.D.,  
EC Chair

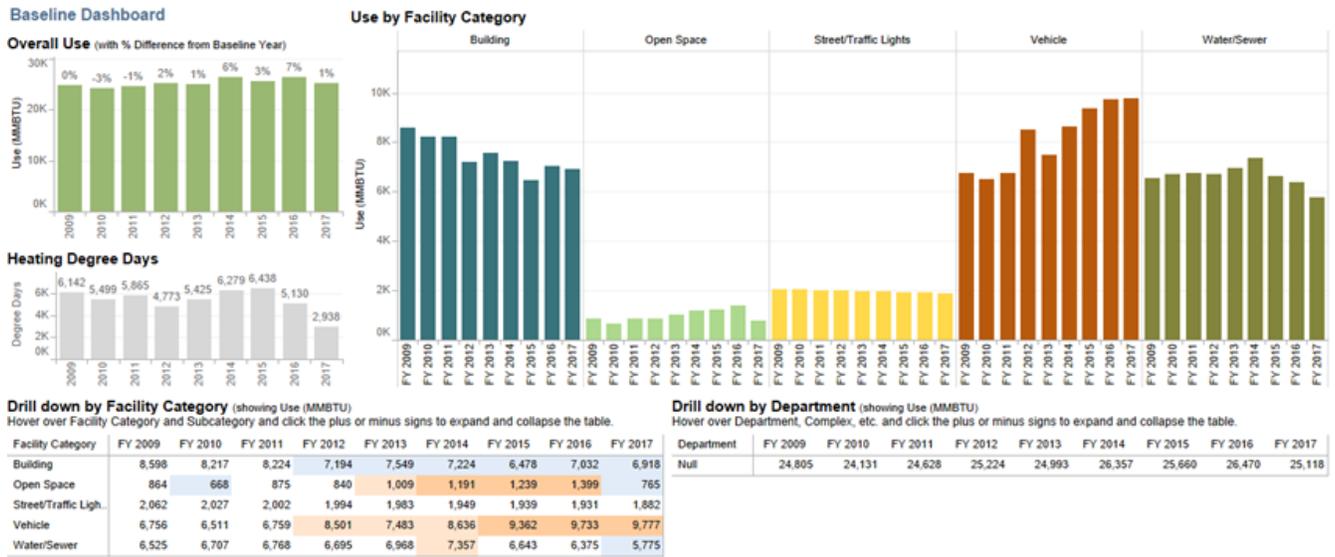


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Solar Energy Supply  
in Bridgewater thro



Notes on Baseline dashboard: Data does not yet include propane use. Access to that data is in process.