

Community Shared Solar Brookline Working Group

Minutes

06/10/2015, 6:00 pm, room 111, Town Hall

Jenny Fariborz, Willy Osborn, Nataly Cahn, David Lowe, Jack Spence, Suzette Abbolt, David Klafter, Blake Cady, Dave Pantalone, Daniel Lescohier, Joel Cameron, Werner Lowe, Claude von Roesgen, Ernie Frey, David Lescohier

Action Items for Next Meeting, (on 2nd Wednesday) July 8th, 6:00 – 7:30 pm, Town Hall, Room 418.)

Tasks:

- Continue to explore Carlisle cooperative opportunities (Willy Osborne & David Lescohier)
- Evaluate role for Village Power website (Jenny Fariborz)
- Link with Massachusetts Climate Action Network regarding Community Shared Solar projects with other chapters in the NEMA load zone area (TBD)

Updates

No updates this month.

Other discussion

The June meeting was devoted to a presentation by David Kane from Village Power.

Village Power catalyzes and facilitates solar/renewable energy projects for community organizations.

Village Power seeks to address the looming climate crisis by supporting the broader adoption of renewable energy. History is in the making, as the price of renewables begins to fall below the cost of energy from conventional hydrocarbon sources. Solar and other clean energy solutions make sense today, and can be part of a transition to a greener global economy.

Financing options for renewable energy projects, and particularly solar, are not keeping up with rapidly growing demand. The “tax equity” that drives financing for solar in the US typically comes from big corporations, who usually direct that capital towards large projects with

investment grade credit organizations. And yet community organizations—houses of worship, schools, clubs and condo associations—often have strong member support to transition to clean, low-cost solar energy. Village Power gives community organizations the ability to control their own energy and economic futures and to give voice to the strong desire we hear from members of organizations all over the country who want to move toward a cleaner, renewable energy future.

Village Power provides the online tools, service, and personal support to help anyone get a solar project built for their community organization. Projects are financed in part with local capital, so members of the community profit.

From members of faith communities, to students and parents in schools, to residents in homeowner associations, there are people who are passionate about clean, renewable energy in every community. They are “Solar Champions,” and Village Power is designed to support them in bringing solar to their community.

Village Power helps spread the word and attract supporters to the project. A dedicated project portal on the Village power website explains the project in detail, demonstrates how the community will profit, and provides information and tools. Champions can share this information with community members; drum up support for the project.

- David Lescohier

The next meeting will be on 2nd Wednesday, July 8th, 2015 at 6:00 – 7:30 PM in Town Hall, room 418. Group will review tasks identified under “Action Steps”.