

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMISSION

The Sustainable Energy Commission held a regular meeting Thursday, January 19, 2017 in shared meeting room 3 of the Municipal Center located at 3 Primrose Street, Newtown, CT 06470.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Kathy Quinn at 7:03p.m.

Present: Chairman Kathy Quinn, George Brown, Mark Sievel, Dave Stout, Barbara Toomey

Also Present: Fred Hurley, Chuck Litty, Allen Adriani, Thomas Snayd

Absent: Jeff Jorgenson

Communications: Mr. Hurley and Ms. Quinn presented an update on the work of the commission to the Board of Selectmen in December. The First Selectmen asked that the commission pursue Sustainability CT. Ms. Quinn shared an article related to the VW settlement (att.) Public comment deadline is 2/28.

Public Comments: none.

Acceptance of Minutes: Ms. Toomey moved to accept the minutes of 12/15/16. Mr. Stout seconded. Ms. Quinn noted that item c, Solomon Solar project, is separate from the Batchelder topic. Solomon is an offsite, net metering project.

Business

Discussion and possible action:

- a. **Status of Landfill Solar Project:** Mr. Hurley brought the new members up to date on this project. He is waiting on a starting date for construction.
- b. **Reed School solar project:** Direct Energy is installing at 600+KW system on Reed School. Through the Green Bank there is a change to the power purchase agreement (PPA), an increase from 5.8 to 5.99 and an escalator after ten years. Mr. Hurley recommends making the requested modification on the PPA, as there is minimal expense to the town over the life of the contract. Mr. Stout stated there will be snow pads on the panels which will prevent production loss. There will be an increase of KW hours resulting in savings. The current system will be removed and stored until a decision on where to use it is made. Ms. Toomey moved to modify the contract as per Mr. Hurley's recommendation. Mr. Sievel seconded. Mr. Stout abstained as he is an employee of Direct Energy. Motion passed.

Request by Direct Energy to post sign: The commission discussed and agreed that Direct Energy could post a sign at the site; Mr. Hurley suggested that CT Green Bank be included on the sign.

- c. **Solomon Solar project:** There is a limited maximum amount of capacity that has been authorized by state legislation. Solomon has an offsite, virtual net metering project, in Hampton CT. It is a 2 megawatt system that would be earmarked for the high school and generate approximately 3.5 MW hours/yr. The credit would go against the high school.

Rec'd. for Record 1-23 2017
Town Clerk of Newtown 3:53 PM
Debbie Gaudin, Johnston

The pricing is 8.99 cents/KW; this project is fixed for twenty five years. There is a temporary letter of intent signed with Solomon and it should known within four months if this is going to go forward.

- d. **MLS Group – Nunnawauk Meadows – solar:** The only area that would work required having to cut down many trees. The vendor is currently working to try another way.
- e. **Batchelder site:** Ms. Quinn and Mr. Hurley met with people who would handle this entire project which include finance and solar productivity. Mr. Sibley, Deputy Director of Planning and Land Use is spearheading the project. A request for proposal needs to be put together. The town is not responsible for excess cost. Output power could be purchased by the town or any interested commercial operation.

- f. **Grant Funds –** The amount of grants received will be \$9,000 as opposed to the expected \$13,500. Mr. Hurley reported that having Celtic help package the streetlight study is too expensive; they will be used for oversight of the RFP, but not consulting. The grant money will be put toward a two headed, level 2, smart system EV charging station that will be located in the back of the municipal center. It will have the capability of being open to the public. This needs to go to the Fairfield Hills Authority. Electric Vehicle purchase will be done in house.

- g. **Energy Savings program update**

Municipal Center: This project is almost complete; waiting on emergency ballasts.

Waste Water Treatment Plant: This project is in process now.

Next Projects: The High School and the Middle School are not eligible through the Small Business Advantage Program. The next buildings considered for projects are the Public Works building, the C.H. Booth Library and Head O' Meadow School. The list of vendors identified was vetted and narrowed down. Mr. Faiella prefers Advanced Energy Management for Head O' Meadow, as they worked well at Middle Gate School. The Multi-Purpose can be put off until the next round of projects because there are plans to eventually move the Senior Center. Ms. Quinn suggested giving a request for information from JK relative to the Library, Advanced Energy relative to Head O' Meadow and Artist Energy relative to Public Works. Ms. Quinn said meetings needed to be set up with people from the library and with Mr. Faiella. Ms. Toomey moved to accept the recommendation to use the Library, Head O' Meadow and Public Works as the next projects and request information from JK, Advanced Energy and Artist Energy. Mr. Sievel seconded. All in favor.

- h. **Microgrid feasibility study:** no update.

- i. **Street Lighting:** this item was discussed under (f) Grant Funds.

- j. **Appointment of new members:** Allen Adriani and Thomas Snayd were present, introduced themselves and spoke to the commission about their backgrounds and interests. Ms. Quinn moved to appoint Allen Adriani to the vacant position with a term to expire 1/6/19 and Thomas Snayd to the vacant position with a term to expire 1/6/18. Mr. Stout seconded. All in favor.

- k. **Funding for High School program:** Mr. Stout has email addresses Kitty Latawicki and Peg Ragaini, staff involved in scholarships and internships. Ms. Toomey suggested talking to Ms. Rodrigue, the principal of NHS; she would know of the capacity or interest of the faculty. Ms. Latawicki and Ms. Ragaini can post internships from the Career Center at NHS. Ms. Quinn said that the education portion of Sustainable CT can be incorporated under one umbrella.

Additional Items for discussion:

1. **Sustainable CT:** Mr. Litty, a Southbury resident was in attendance as a student going for a degree in sustainable design. The program encourages reaching out to local organizations. Mr. Litty has reached out to Sustainable CT. He is looking to learn from Newtown and influence change in Southbury. Ms. Quinn attended a local Sustainable CT meeting and suggested the commission members sign up for the newsletters. She went over the categories for Sustainable CT (att.) which is based on the sustainablejersery.com. This is something that Sustainable Energy can oversee in conjunction with Watershed, Parks & Recreation, Department of Public Works and the schools; it will be a town wide effort. Ms. Toomey suggested forming a committee to include Rob Sibley, Amy Mangold and someone from the schools.
2. **Municipal Energy Plan:** no update.
3. **Energy Star Portfolio Manager:** The information is almost completely loaded.
4. **Web Site:** The Sustainable CT information will be put on the website.
5. **Outreach to Schools:** this item was discussed under (k) Funding for High School Program,
6. **Bridgeport Eco-Park:** no update.
7. **Ban on Fracking Waste:** no update.
8. **Organic Recycling:** There are 400 participants signed up for the program. This is a pilot program; the vendor wants to set up a commercial program.

Earth Day is April 22, 2017

Adjournment: Having no other business, the Sustainable Energy Commission adjourned their regular meeting at 9:08pm.

The next regular meeting will be held on February 16, 2107.

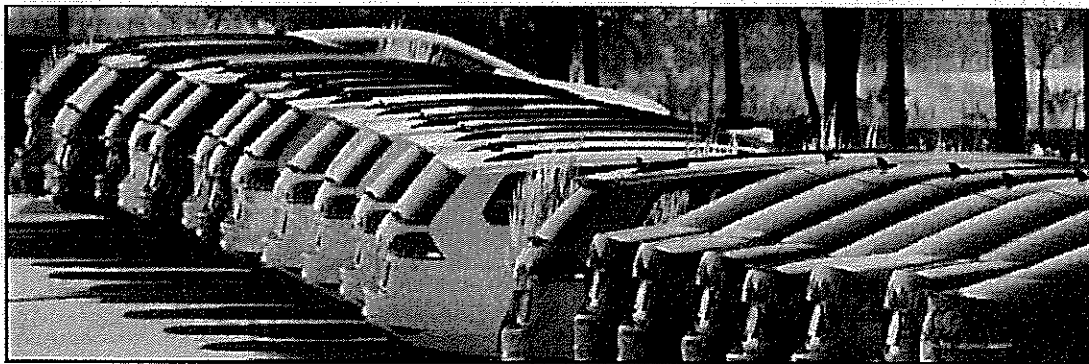
Attachments: VW article; Categories for Sustainable CT: Draft Language

Submitted, Susan Marcinek, clerk

ENVIRONMENT

State urged to use funds from VW to support use of electric vehicles

By Bill Cummings



Associated Press

Volkswagen cars for sale at a VW dealership in Boulder, Colo.

Connecticut will receive \$51.6 million from a national settlement that punishes Volkswagen for equipping vehicles to beat emission tests — and ideas on how to use the money to clean up the damage are already pouring in.

"Volkswagen lied to the American people and the residents of Connecticut paid the price," said Kate Cohen, education director of the Connecticut Public Interest Research Group. "(But) Volkswagen's crime is now an historic opportunity to help clean up our transportation system and accelerate the transition to a cleaner, healthier 21st century transportation network."

ConnPIRG is asking the state to use the windfall to install more than 100 electric vehicle charging stations along state highways and purchase dozens of electric buses. Other groups are pushing the state to invest in natural gas or electric powered buses and cars, provide money to retrofit large diesel engines so they can run on a mix of biofuel and help companies purchase special exhaust filters for big trucks.

Volkswagen's historic settlement with the states, the federal government and consumers totals \$14.7 billion, of which \$10 million is earmarked for buy back and vehicle repair programs administered by Volkswagen. Some Audi and Porsche cars are also involved in the settlement.

The automakers were accused of selling 590,000 diesel powered vehicles between 2009 and 2016 equipped with "defeat devices" — software embedded in the on-board computer — that enabled the vehicle to pass emissions tests while emitting nitrogen oxide and other gases at rates far exceeding federal Clean Air Act limits.

"Volkswagen's installation of defeat devices on diesel vehicles sold in Connecticut resulted in emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) that exceeded limits by up to 3,400 percent," said Josh Berman, staff attorney for the Sierra Club, in comments on the settlement filed with state regulators last month.

"As a primary component of ground-level ozone (smog), as well as a source of fine particulate matter and acid rain, the excess emissions contributed to diminished air quality levels in Connecticut," Berman said.

Competing ideas

The money Connecticut is set to receive comes from a \$2.7 billion Environmental Mitigation Fund established under a consent decree with the U.S. Department of Justice. The money will be distributed based on the number of affected vehicles in each state. In Connecticut, nearly 12,000 vehicles registered in the state were equipped with the defeat device.

Each state can request money from the fund through detailed applications, and the state Department of Energy and Environmental Protection in December began taking comment over how to use the money. Another \$2 billion in settlement funds will be put into a national Zero Emission Vehicle Trust and used to increase sale and use of electric vehicles.

ConnPIRG is urging Gov. Dannel P. Malloy to use Connecticut's settlement money to purchase and install 154 fast charging stations for electric vehicles along the state's highways, and buy 54 all-electric, zero-emission buses for the state's mostly diesel-powered fleet.

Those purchases, Conn-PIRG said, will reduce "dangerous pollution and save money, all while accelerating further market transformation to an all-electric transportation system." The group warned against using the funds to purchase fleets of natural gas powered cars or buses, saying natural gas is a fossil fuel that carries negative environmental impacts.

"We must make sure these funds are not squandered on dirty, outdated technology like diesel and natural gas instead of all-electric options that can help save lives and protect the planet," Cohen said.

The Sierra Club is also pushing the state to use money to expand access to electric vehicle charging stations and to purchase electric trucks, buses and port vehicles.

"Light-duty vehicles are the single greatest contributor of NOx emissions in Connecticut (and) electrification of the vehicle fleet is the most effective way to mitigate emissions from this source category," Berman said. "Access to electric vehicle charging is a key barrier that must be overcome in order for EV adoption in Connecticut to rapidly expand."

The Solar Energy Association of Connecticut asked the state to use the money to help purchase conversion kits so diesel engines can run on a biofuel mixture.

Categories for Sustainable CT: Draft Language

Sustainable CT communities are thriving, resilient and collaborative. They build community and local economy. They equitably promote the health and well-being of all residents. And they respect the finite capacity of the natural environment.

Clean and diverse **transportation** systems and choices

A transportation system that promotes safety, accessibility, and health, as well as accommodates all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders.

Includes transit oriented development, complete streets, transit planning, alternative fuel vehicles, electric vehicles/infrastructure, anti-idling, etc.

Efficient **physical infrastructure and operations**

Accessible municipal buildings with efficient operations, maintenance and energy systems.

Includes building energy (efficiency and renewables), water (efficiency, water treatment), street lights, landscaping, fleet, etc.

Strategic and inclusive **public services**

Creative and collaborative municipal services across sectors and transparent and inclusive public processes.

Includes materials management, procurement, public safety, public health, emergency management, parks and recreation, boards and commissions, civic engagement and public processes, etc.

Dynamic and resilient **planning**

Planning that balances human development with a wide-range of factors, including livability, economic opportunity, democracy, biodiversity, and natural systems.

Includes plan of conservation and development, zoning, resilience, sustainability, and climate planning, etc.

Well-stewarded **land and natural resources**

Policies and practices that recognize our finite resources and that strive to achieve a balance of many users while preserving and increasing ecosystem health and resilience.

Includes open space, forests, agriculture, working lands, stormwater management, water and air quality, etc.

Thriving **local economies**

Economic development that fosters energy-efficient and clean-powered commercial and industrial buildings, supports local products and businesses, increases local jobs and revenues and promotes environmental and community well-being.

Includes economic development, buying local, brownfields, commercial buildings, etc.

Healthy, efficient and diverse **housing**

Diverse housing options—in both type and affordability—with efficient and renewable energy systems and located in thriving, livable neighborhoods.

Includes residential buildings, housing diversity and affordability, universal design, lead/asbestos/etc. abatement, etc.

Vibrant and creative **cultural ecosystems**

Distinctive, engaged, and livable communities that shape people-centered places, provide robust artistic and cultural opportunities and consider environmental impacts.

Includes arts, culture, placemaking, public spaces, public amenities (libraries, senior centers, etc), etc.

SustainableCT.ORG
SustainableJersey.com