

**Tolland Energy Task Force  
Meeting Minutes  
January 6, 2010**

**Energy Task Force Present:** Mark Summers, Anji Seth, Michael Gannon, Letitia Naigles, Joshua Freeman, David Bergeron, David Crowell, David Scotti, George Roberts

**Liaisons Present:** Beverly Bellody (Town), Chris White (BOE)

**Others Present:** Bill Lahey (ECSU), Byron Woodman (Community Energy)

Meeting was held at Hicks Memorial Town Council Chambers

Mark Summers called to order: 7:05PM

**Approval of Minutes:** Mark Summers moved to approve the December 2<sup>nd</sup> minutes.  
Discussion: None. All were in favor

**Building Benchmarking**

Bill Lahey from Eastern Connecticut State University Institute for Sustainable Energy provided an overview of the benefits of benchmarking the energy consumption of buildings using the EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager software. The tool compares energy consumption (electricity, oil, water) against an extensive database of buildings with similar usage profiles across the country. The tool accounts for building floor space, occupancy, and hours of use to provide an energy consumption target. Buildings that receive a score of 75 or higher can be eligible for recognition as an Energy Star building. There is also an EPA 10% Challenge program which gives recognition for buildings that decrease energy consumption by 10% over their baseline condition.

Bill's team at ESCU inputted the utility bills for a 12 month period for all Town and BOE buildings into this tool to generate an operating cost per square foot and score for each building. A report was provided to TETF and electronic copies will be made available. TETF will have access to the website to be able to update the data. Josh Freeman volunteered to review the inputted data to ensure accuracy.

The next step will be to use this data to prioritize buildings which need improvement to reduce energy consumption. Energy audits can then be conducted on high priority buildings to identify opportunities for improvements. There are two primary types of energy audits which would be conducted by an independent professional engineer. A preliminary facility evaluation would provide an assessment of the building and an estimate of costs for improvements. Typical cost of this audit is 3 – 5 cents/sqft. An investment grade audit is more thorough and would involve detailed design plans and contractor quotes (approximately 10 cents/sqft).

ECSU can provide a 6 day training course for a group of 20 building maintenance personnel that will focus on building and system maintenance techniques to optimize energy consumption. It was recommended that Tolland could get together with several surrounding towns to organize this course which is provided at no cost. Bill also provided a list of other resources and organizations that TETF can contact to assist in developing plans for “greening” our community.

### **Community Energy**

Byron Woodman from Community Energy provided an overview of the company which is a provider of renewable energy and also operates several wind farms and a solar installation. The fees paid by customers for renewable energy supply along with the renewable energy credits (RECs) received by operating solar and wind installations are used to invest in additional renewable electricity generation facilities. Community Energy is a competitor to Sterling Planet which was reviewed at the August 2009 TETF meeting.

Byron presented options for Tolland to purchase 13% - 100% of the annual electricity usage from wind sources with prices starting at \$1,800 per year for contracts ranging from 1 – 3 years. All prices were based on the actual annual electricity consumption of the Town and BOE buildings which was provided by TETF.

Tolland currently purchases 7% renewable energy from TransCanada, so a minimum purchase of 13% from Community Energy or Sterling Planet would be required to meet the 20% by 2010 clean energy campaign.

There are several approaches to justifying the increased electricity cost to the town which include positive environmental impacts, energy security from foreign oil, and a leadership example for town residents. There are also grants that are available for participating towns. A list of towns participating in programs through the CT Clean Energy Fund can be found at:

<http://www.ctcleanenergy.com/YourCommunity/CTCleanEnergyCommunities/CommunityReportCard/tabid/93/Default.aspx>

A vote was held with TETF members present to propose that TETF makes a recommendation to the Town and BOE to purchase electricity from renewable sources. All were in favor.

A vote was held with TETF members present to recommend Community Energy as the preferred supplier of renewable electricity. All were in favor.

Mark Summers will send a letter to the Town Manager, Superintendent of Schools, Town Council and BOE to arrange a meeting for TETF to present an overview of the program and recommended amount of renewable energy the Town and BOE should purchase. Mark will circulate a draft presentation to TETF members for comment in advance of this meeting.

**Other Topics**

A motion was made to table all other agenda items until the next TETF meeting. All were in favor.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:20 PM

Respectfully submitted,

George Roberts