

VECAN Conference 2019

Working Effectively with Municipalities: Tips and Tricks for Energy Committees

Breakout Sessions

Public Outreach and Education

Project: Window Dressers

Goals: Build local experts, build a coalition, weatherize homes, reduce consumption.

Expertise: Window Dressers

Stakeholders: Fire Department, local woodshops and tech schools

Communications: Town survey, town office, front porch forum, recycling station, residents knocking on doors (canvassing), town meeting, local businesses, schools (newsletters). Log information into communication plan (and how they work out). Consider target audiences: Food bank/pick-up, transfer station events (community dinners)

Potential First Steps: Identify a space, build a core team of partners

Weatherizing Municipal Buildings

Project: Arlington Town Hall Energy Audit

Expertise: Local Contractors, Efficiency Vermont

Stakeholders: Town Selectboard, Facility Manager

Communications: Presentation at town meeting, Identify contractors (Efficiency Vermont list), Work with facility manager to get energy audit scheduled and done, put something in town report

Potential First Steps: Identify projects at town hall, Presentation at town meeting, Get permission from selectboard for money allocation.

Fuel-Switch Municipal Building (To electric or wood heat)

Project: Fuel-Switch Town Garage

Goals: Make town garage more energy efficient, switch to renewable energy sources

Expertise: Window Dressers, Efficiency Vermont, VECAN

Stakeholders: Selectboard (especially those who have expertise)

Communications: Keep regional planning commission in the loop, find solar potential of garage, see if you can switch to a wood boiler (new boilers are hard to replace), get an energy audit of garage, figure out the heating and cooling systems work (and who controls them)

Potential First Steps: Contact the Efficiency Vermont case manager to get a free solar assessment, Get the energy bills from the portfolio manager (EPA), Find out what's happening with the garage (solar assessment results)

Town Solar Project

Project: Solar power and batteries to power emergency headquarters (owned by town, built by the solar developers, town get tax credits, town buys it back after credits expire)

Goals: Public Safety, Offset carbon footprint, Save money, Stabilize Energy Costs, Uninterrupted energy

Expertise: Solar Developers

Stakeholders: Town energy manager, State Emergency Agency, Department of Public Works

Communications/Potential First Steps: Gather info on costs (power bill), needs, siting, funding options (lease/buy back/bond)

Municipal Fleet

Project: Anti-Idling for Municipal Fleet

Goals: Reduce fuel costs, pollution, and noise

Expertise: Capital Planning, Charging/maintenance/finance town staff

Stakeholders: Public, Selectboard, School Board, Departments with vehicles (police, schools, etc.), Non-profit partners, Regional Planning Commission

Communications: Research funding options (VW Settlement Grant), Reach out to school for a partnership for school fleet, due advocacy and offer support to stakeholders, front porch forum/press release, hold a public event with food

Potential First Steps: Research funds, policy and which vehicle fleets you want to change, Meet with Selectboard and School Board to make proposal, Due advocacy about project for stakeholders