

Ready for 100 Regional Phone Call Kick-Off

January 17, 2018

Hanover Update

On the heels of the May Town Meeting vote to become a “Ready for 100 Action” community, a Town and Dartmouth team attended the second annual Ready for 100 communities meeting in Golden, CO on the campus of DOE’s National Renewable Energy Lab in late July of 2017. We were the only Town-Gown team in attendance. This was a very valuable galvanizing experience.

Sustainable Hanover and members of the Sierra Club of the Upper Valley are piecing together multi-part plan to achieve 100% renewable electricity by 2030 as first step. Group began by developing mission statement and goals and objectives to guide our work as Town staff and community volunteers.

Several subcommittees are now working on various elements of this approach including:

- Data Collection and Analysis to benchmark and measure progress;
- Energy Planning – to pursue options for shift to renewably-generated electricity on Town-side basis
- Community Solar Project planning team
- Energy Efficiency – Education, Outreach and Facilitation
- Monthly Town-Gown coordination meetings to insure Town and College are aligned in their energy efficiency projects. Several College staff are also active on Sustainable Hanover and the other working subcommittees.

Work has commenced on several possible initiatives including:

1. Planning for construction of a large community solar array to be located on Town-owned property. Currently exploring options to consider prior to issuing RFP for construction and Liberty has also indicated an interest in participating. Liberty has indicated a desire to construct up to 2.5 MW of solar in the Upper Valley.
2. Close coordination with Dartmouth College which is pursuing its own “Pathway to Green” to begin with installation of 9+ MW of rooftop and ground mounted solar on College buildings and property, some of which may be designed to be ‘behind the meter’.
3. Planning for installation of rooftop solar on several Town buildings including Town Hall, our DPW salt storage building, Water Reclamation Facility, Water Filtration Facility and Hanover Fire Station. We need to walk the talk for our residents and businesses. Likely pursuit of bond to fund installation on all five facilities in spring of either 2018 or 2019.
4. Coordination with Liberty Utilities on commercial opportunities for energy efficiency utilizing support from Bob Reals of Liberty. Funds and technical assistance are available

to help businesses pursue energy efficiency and the Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce has offered to assist.

5. Contracted with 3Degrees (SFO and MA) to thoroughly assess all of our opportunities for a “Pathway to 100%” - we need talented professionals to help guide us. Options to consider include large scale solar, either Town-owned or PPA; adoption of RSA 53-E to initiate Community Choice Aggregation or in NH parlance, municipal aggregation – option which would enable a large consortium of residents, businesses and institutions to purchase competitively priced, Green-E certified electricity – either via direct generation of renewable energy or investment in Renewable Energy Certificates, or both.
6. Discussions with Great River Hydro to purchase Green-E Certified hydropower produced on the Connecticut River in a multi-year PPA to lock-in bulk, renewable electricity pricing for the Town’s 3MW per year for the next 2-4 years.
7. Working with Vermont colleagues to test the viability of expanding the State’s renewable energy dashboard for use by Upper Valley residents as a means of helping them educate themselves and benchmark their own progress.
8. Hope to be considered for Phase 2 of Vital Communities’ Weatherize Upper Valley, patterned on a successful program implemented last year on the Vermont side of the border and the successful Solarize Upper Valley program which saw some 57 homes solarize in Hanover in 2015-16
9. We continue to look for partnership opportunities with Dartmouth around community solar, bulk purchasing of Green-E certified electricity, support for transitioning the college off Fuel #6 for campus steam heating plant and on to biomass for hot water heating plant, etc.