

Community Shared Solar Brookline Working Group

Minutes

11/12/2015, 6:00 pm, Denny Room, Public Health Building, 11 Pierce Street

David Pantalone,, David Lescohier, Werner Lohe, John Harris, David Lowe, Suzette Abbot, John Harris, David Klafter, Blake Cady, Scott Englander, Alan Leviton, Don Weitzman

Action Items: Next Meeting; (2nd Wednesday, December 9th, 6:00 – 9:00 pm, All Saints Parish Church, 1773 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA

Wednesday, December 09, 2015 at 06:00 PM

[All Saints Parish Church](#) in Brookline, MA

Community Shared Solar: Chapter Round Table

Community Shared Solar (CSS) provides homeowners and businesses with the ability to buy solar power. These individuals would not be able to get to solar energy otherwise because they do not qualify for solar panels due to the shape of the roof or the location of the home or business. Chapter leaders who attend this event will be able to learn more about CSS and hear from fellow leaders about their projects and some of the challenges they face.



What the night will look like:

6-7: Informal meal and opportunity to meet and greet.

7-7:30: Go around the room and chapters talk about what they are working on

7:30-8: Panelists present

8-9: Q&A and problem solving

There will be plenty of parking at the church and it is T accessible. The panel for this event is not finalized, but MCAN will finalize the list before the event.

Tasks:

- **Participate in round table with other Massachusetts Climate Action Network chapters regarding Community Shared Solar experiences in Massachusetts.**

Updates

Updates on other possible sites:

Carlisle site developer is scheduled to appear at the Carlisle Planning Board early in December seeking a variance. Notices have been sent to abutters. A favorable vote of the Planning Board would mean the project would receive a building permit.

Willy Osborn and David Lescohier have had a discussion with Next Step Living (NSL) about a Brookline Long Term Purchase Agreement. There are many companies offering this product. The aim of the Brookline CSSWG would be to intervene with some consumer protection to be able to recommend a no regrets agreement. We discussed two features that would mean that this offering would stand out from the competition. The first would be a group purchase rebate scheme. As more Brookline residents sign up, the higher the rebate would be. The precedent is Brookline's Solarize Campaign. Since the agreement is long term, the second feature we discussed is easier termination terms. Moving forward with this design depends on the NSL partners finding a large scale site in the NEMA load zone region. So far, despite great efforts by many companies, such a site has not been identified.

There was discussion about the Audi site. Willy Osborn approached The attorney for the owner. Werner Lohe will make additional inquiries.

Other discussion

David Pantalone reported on the net zero initiative in Cambridge. Quinton Zondervan presented at a recent Climate Action Brookline meeting.

Last month, Cambridge ratified a plan to propel itself into a net zero future.

What is this "net zero" you speak of? "Net zero" means that all greenhouse gas emissions are offset by carbon-free energy. This essentially means the energy from nonrenewable sources=the

energy from renewable sources. Simple enough. However, bringing a community to net zero requires more than just utilizing renewable energy sources like solar and wind energy. It also requires changing policies, increasing efficiency, and raising awareness.

So how exactly do we make this happen? In order to accomplish the lofty goal of net zero, the Net Zero Task Force group was created to help put Cambridge on the path to success. The Task Force outlined numerous strategies tailored for all the different types of buildings in Cambridge. Because each business and each home is unique, it is important that policies and deadlines take into account these differences. Also, the Task Force is exploring every path to make sure no stone is left unturned. The Task Force's recommended actions can be broken down into 5 main categories:

1. Energy Efficiency in Existing Buildings

This is an important part of the plan because buildings that aren't operating efficiently are wasting valuable energy. For example, poorly insulated buildings let heat escape, forcing them to use more energy than necessary. This part of the plan not only involves retrofitting buildings, but also creating the right incentives and guidelines for renovations.

2. Net Zero New Construction

This section is all about creating building requirements and policies that support the goal of net zero. This is anything from improving the green building requirements to creating incentive programs. New buildings will start achieving net zero starting in 2020.

3. Energy Supply of Low Carbon and Renewable Energy

Of course, renewable energy is a *huge* part of going net zero, and since we love solar energy here in the Boston area, there is a strong focus on solar, in particular.

4. Local Carbon Fund

For some buildings, going net zero is just too challenging. In these cases, a local carbon fund offers an alternative to going net zero by allowing a building to pay to offset its emissions. The money gathered through the fund goes towards supporting green initiatives.

5. Engagement & Capacity Building through Communication and Resources

This part of the plan is concerned with maintaining open and consistent communication in order to keep all of the different sectors unified and in the loop throughout the 25-year plan.

Cambridge's groundbreaking net zero plan is among the first in the US, making Cambridge a national example. If all goes as planned, Cambridge will reach a 70% emission reduction by 2040. A success of this magnitude will demonstrate that it is possible for other cities to take on

the challenge. For more information, visit
<http://www.cambridgema.gov/CDD/Projects/Climate/NetZeroTaskForce>.

David Lescohier

The next meeting will be on 2nd, December 9th, 2015 at 6:00 – 9:00 PM , All Saints Parish, 1773 Beacon Street, Brookline, MA. This meeting will be a joint effort with the Massachusetts Climate Action Network.