Vermont Climate Action Commission

Rural Solutions Subcommittee

Friday, November 3, 2017

10:00-11:00 am

Notes

Idea

Action item

Members present: Peter Bourne, Alex DePillis, Bethany Fleishman, Bill Leberge, Megan O’Toole, Mary Sprayregen, and Peter Walke

Ideas from last meeting were reviewed by the group

* Community and what is means in the scope of energy and efficiency issues
* Energy burden for rural communities, specifically transportation
  + Mary has a report to circulate with the group with more information about this burden
* Using existing resources in the community to progress towards a clean energy economy
* Requirement of home energy disclosure/rating
  + Cost of owning a home includes the cost to get to and from that home
* Access to resources and information about reducing home energy use
  + Internet/connectivity issues
* Transporting school age children
  + How to gain efficiencies
* Development of location efficiency incentives
  + What would these look like?

Linking with other subcommittees:

* Transportation Subcommittee:
  + This group has a slightly different focus, and is not necessarily working on rural-focused solutions
  + Rural subcommittee could help Transportation group focus on how energy burden is different for rural communities
* Other subcommittees:
  + Rural solutions group could review all proposals from other subcommittees and evaluate those proposals through the rural lens to see how they can be strengthened to have positive rural impacts

Developing ideas for specific proposals:

* Efficiency Vermont program performance indicator
  + Rural energy burden – Alex to look into this, and how EV has measured performance
* Rural energy burden from the fuel dealer side
  + With heat pump and pellet stove/furnace installations becoming more popular, heating oil fuel consumption is changing
  + Leading to more time on the road for fuel trucks delivering “smaller drops” of fuel to customers more frequently
  + Remote fuel gauge reading technology is being deployed so that dealers can efficiently deliver fuel to customers when alternative technologies are being used for heating (less fuel oil usage) or generators have been running (more fuel usage)
  + Incentivize deployment of remote fuel gauge readers
    - 1000 deployed by Bourne energy so far
    - Cost: $200/gauge, plus $60 annual fee
* Work force-diversification
  + Less availability of people who want to train and be higher valued resources
  + High demand on installation side, but not a lot of demand on service side
  + Expand expertise so that technician can install a heat pump or solar array, but then also know how to service a boiler
* Internet connectivity
  + Determine status of connectivity efforts in Vermont
  + Align with other legislative or state initiatives to advocate for the initiatives that will prioritize, focus on, or benefit rural population
* Resiliency
  + How can we distinguish our priorities from Power sector subcommittee?
    - See above on linking with other subcommittees