

Greensboro Energy and Climate Action Committee

Notes in lieu of meeting - April 17, 2025

As only Liz Steel was able to attend the meeting, here are the notes based on individual conversations with ECAC members.

There were no edits to the Minutes from ECAC meeting 1/16/25 - Liz will update the date and file name and ask Kim to post.

The approved version of the ECAC Mission is now on the [Town website](#). If we are applying for Federal grants we will need to drop the word "Climate" from our committee name. For a short more user friendly/verbal version of our mission statement we will use: "Affordable energy improvements to save you money and protect our environment."

MERP Grant update from Beth/Bill:

The Greensboro Library basement envelope has been completed. Ryan Kneeland filled cracks in the foundation. Tyvek is up and the moisture barrier on the floor of the old basement is finished. The old basement has been foamed and sealed. In the new basement the sills have been foamed and a new moisture barrier has been laid down. To finish the building envelope improvements windows in the new wing will be replaced in the fall.

Installation of the HVAC system is set to begin at the end April. We are using an air to water, whole building heat pump system with two zones and an ERV. [Installation goals](#).

Hardwick Electric and Ivers Electric are assessing whether the building needs an upgrade to the service to accommodate the ventilation, heat pump and backup battery. Electrical usage in the building suggests that an upgrade from 200 to 400 Amp service is not required.

The report for the first quarter to BGS has been filed. Kim has paid vendors and submitted for reimbursements which seem to be coming in quickly.

VCRD Grant:

ECAC was not selected by VCRD for the Climate Economy Community Program. Liz is applying for the Climate Catalyst Leadership Program - May 1 deadline. Bill was selected for this program in 2024.

WindowDressers update:

The 2025 WindowDressers program has started and Greensboro has 7 customers signed up. Fan Watkinson and Bill Slocum are an experienced measuring team and Blake will team up with Jan Terweisch as a new second measuring team. Liz has talked with all of the customers and measuring teams will reach out to schedule window measuring in May/June. Liz has applied for a \$3,000 grant from the Greensboro Association which we should hear about by the end of April. Greensboro will collaborate with the Craftsbury Energy Committee, for the WindowDressers Community Build event, which will take place Oct 31 - November 9, 2025 at the Craftsbury Outdoor Center.

Networking - key takeaways and upcoming events:

- Efficiency Vermont - Better Building by Design, April 2nd/3rd: Bill and Blake attended
- VECAN - Energy Committee RBES training, April 9th: Blake attended
 - Residential Building Energy Codes (RBES) are already required in Vermont but there is no enforcement or regulation in rural communities.
 - Efficiency Vermont and VECAN are starting a building contractor education campaign as the builder is ultimately responsible for compliance
 - As homeowners decide to sell their properties, RBES compliance may become an important consideration for buyers so opportunity for homeowner (both seller and buyer) RBES education as well.
- Vermont Climate Council - Climate Action Plan Community Input, April 14th - Liz and Bill attended
 - The Climate Action Office gave a short presentation "How is climate change impacting Vermont?" [Hardwick Gazette article](#)
 - [56 Climate Action Priorities](#) grouped under 4 themes identified:
 - Cross-Sector Mitigation: Transportation; Electricity; Buildings & Thermal
 - Cross-Cutting Issues: Workforce; Education; Compact Settlement
 - Rural Resilience & Adaptation: Capacity Building & Planning; Built Environment; Public Health
 - Agriculture & Ecosystems: Reduce & Sequester; Support Adaptation; Climate-Resilient Land
 - Discussed which of these action priorities are most compelling for Vermont?
 - Almost all actions require funding; the most notable action that will generate revenue is a cap-and-invest program, such as the New York Cap and Invest (NYCI) or Western Climate Initiative, covering emissions from Vermont's transportation fuels sector, and potentially other sectors.
 - Opportunity to stay engaged with the process - updated plan due 7/1/25
- Building for the Future: Ensuring new housing in Vermont is clean, energy-efficient & cost effective, EAN, April 22nd - Bill to attend

AOB

- No credit has been found on the Town Ledger regarding the 2010 Energy Committee Hydro Project
- Community Education initiative for 2025 to be focused on RBES - brainstorm session to be scheduled for May: Blake and Bill to meet in May to discuss
- April News Alert to be on WindowDressers - Liz to prepare
- Liz sent information on Vermont Emergency Preparedness & Resiliency to Liz Hatch; Bill attended Hardwick Rescue information session 4/12
- Funky Fourth - Liz has been asked by the Pollinator Group to tow the Honeybee Steel Band in the parade again this year. ECAC to use this opportunity to promote our Community Education initiative

NEXT ECAC Meeting - June 18th, 6-7:30pm when we will host the Hardwick Electric GM