

ENERGY COMMISSION

The new five-member Lancaster Energy Commission was formed by the Board of Selectmen in 2009. Its charter is to advise and make recommendations on energy use, monitoring and energy efficiency measures in the Town-owned facilities.

The Commission first started meeting in early 2010, and very quickly created a work plan for each of the Town's facilities. They also worked with the Planning Director and Town Administrator on seeking the Green Community designation and applying for several grants that were made available as a result of the designation.

The following is a roll-out of the Energy Commission's 2010 accomplishments:

- Green Community designation – one of the first municipalities in the State
- Stretch Energy Code adoption
- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (stimulus program) – receipt and implementation
- Green Communities Grant – receipt and implementation
- Town Facility Audits – getting to know each building
- Landfill Solar Array Facility – request for design proposals

One of the criteria for becoming a Green Community is that the Town must reduce energy consumption by 20% over the next five years. To achieve this goal, the Commission has started to undertake the following actions:

- Waste Oil Conversion – installation of waste oil burners at the DPW Highway and Cemetery buildings
- Public Water Supply Well Efficiencies – installation of variable-frequency drives to reduce electrical consumption
- Building Heating Efficiencies – replacement of heating systems at the Police and Fire Stations, and installation of heating upgrades at the Library
- Landfill Solar Array Facility – construction of a solar array facility at the former landfill to generate electricity to power the Town's facilities and to sell the residual to a distributor
- Building Electrical Efficiencies – installation of solar panels onto the Fire Station to reduce electrical consumption

- Building Lighting Replacements – the replacement of light bulbs at all Town facilities with LED bulbs or those having greater efficiencies
- Hybrid Vehicles – adoption of a fuel-efficient vehicle policy and replacement of certain Town-owned vehicles with hybrid versions

It is our goal to have measurable results in the reduction of electricity and fuels by the end of 2011. The Commission will monitor each facility and vehicle and maintain a reporting system that will show fiscal savings, as well as a reduction in our carbon footprint.

The Commission will also promote education and outreach to the Town's citizens. There are plans to launch a web site, mail an annual newsletter, install informational kiosks, host energy forums, and provide a school curriculum.

The Energy Commission meets on the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 4:00 PM at the Lancaster Town Hall. All citizens are welcome to join the Commission for these meetings and public involvement is always encouraged.

The Community Development and Planning office coordinates all meeting schedules and is open Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. As always, this office welcomes citizen's questions, comments or suggestions. Please feel free to contact us at 978-368-4007 or at npiazza@lancasterma.net. For more information on Energy issues in Lancaster, please visit us on the Town's web site: www.ci.lancaster.ma.us.

Respectfully submitted,

Don Atkinson, *Chair*

David Dunn, *Vice-Chair*

Jay Moody, *Clerk*

Bill Spratt