

ENERGY COMMISSION

The Lancaster Energy Commission is a five-member board, with a 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.

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:

- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (stimulus program) – received funding and installed two new heating systems at the Police Station and Central Fire Station, and a controller upgrade on the Library heating system.
- Green Communities Grant – received funding and installed lighting upgrades in all of the Town's buildings, as well as installed two energy controller systems at the Town's two well pumps. A new heating system may also be installed at the Town Hall.
- Energy Audits – audits were completed for the Town Hall and the three DPW buildings. Building envelope improvements have been recommended for all these facilities and will be implemented as part of an anticipated award from the next round of the Green Communities grant.
- Landfill Solar Array Facility – a public bid was conducted and an award made. The construction is expected to begin by Summer 2012.
- Municipal Aggregation – two RFPs have been received and are currently being evaluated. An award is expected during Winter 2012, with a roll-out of the program in Spring 2012.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station – received a DOER grant to install an electric vehicle charging station at the Johnny Appleseed Visitor Center on Route 2.
- Mass Energy Insight – all of the Town's energy usage for the last 18 months has been entered and monthly reports can now be generated for analysis of energy consumption.

Last year, it was our goal to have measurable results in the reduction of electricity and fuels by the end of 2011. We have already seen at least a 25% reduction in electricity use at the Town's well pumps, which is significant seeing as this is one of the top electricity consumers in the

Town. We are also seeing savings in propane at the Police Station and we are only in the middle of the heating season.

The Commission will continue to 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 Thursday of each month at 4:00 PM at the Lancaster Community Center. 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

Andrew Detsikas