

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 undertaken 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. New insulation and weatherization measures were installed at the Town Hall. LED street lights will also be installed this coming summer.
- 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 – the array was installed last summer and an impact study was completed by National Grid. Anticipated interconnection is March 2013.
- Municipal Aggregation – the program was rolled out during the fall. The opt-in rate was 90% that are now saving on their electricity rate compared with the rate from National Grid.
- Electric Vehicle Charging Station – has been approved to be installed in front of the Town Hall. Anticipated installation is Spring 2013.
- Fuel Management System – the Town is monitoring gasoline and diesel fuel consumption with a new fuel management system, called *Fuel Master*. This monitoring device has been installed in all of the Town's vehicles and on the gas pumps and will monitor the amount of fuel consumed by each vehicle.

- Mass Energy Insight – all of the Town’s energy usage for the last two (2) have been entered and monthly reports can now be generated for analysis of energy consumption. Department heads and building supervisors now receive monthly reports showing their facility’s electricity, oil and propane usage and how it compares with the previous two years.

Last year, it was our goal to have measurable results in the reduction of electricity and fuels by the end of 2012. To date, we are at about 8% reduction in our overall consumption, which includes gasoline and diesel fuels and street lights.

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 provide education and outreach to the Town’s citizens. We have a page on the Town’s web site, and an educational video on the Town’s solar array facility are routinely broadcast on the local cable channel. There are also plans to mail an annual newsletter, install informational kiosks, and host energy forums.

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