

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.
- Energy Audits – audits were completed for the Town Hall and the three DPW buildings. Building envelope improvements have been recommended for all these facilities.
- Green Communities Grant – received funding and completed the following energy efficiency measures:
 1. Installed lighting upgrades in most of the Town's buildings.
 2. Installed two energy controller systems at the Town's two well pumps.
 3. Installed new insulation and weatherization measures at the Town Hall, two DPW facilities and at the South Fire Station.
 4. Purchased an electric vehicle to replace the Inspectional Services/Assessor's vehicle.
 5. Installed new LED lighting at the Library.
 6. Ordered new LED street lights; installation will take place in the spring.
- Landfill Solar Array Facility – the array was completed and went live in September 2013. See the Solectria web site for an up-to-the-hour accounting of our energy generation.

<http://www.solrenview.com/SolrenView/mainFr.php?siteId=1549>

- Municipal Aggregation – the program was rolled out in 2012. The opt-in rate was 90% of the town’s residents that are now saving on their electricity rate compared with the rate from National Grid.
- Solar Hot Water -- teamed up with Beam Engineering this past summer to educate residents about the benefits of solar hot water systems. The "Lancaster Is Solar Hot!" program covered residential solar hot water technology, highlighted the financial incentives available for such systems, and facilitated the installation of systems at homes that make the best applications. The overarching goal of the program was to increase the knowledge and prevalence of residential solar hot water systems in Lancaster to assist the community in the transition to more financially and environmentally sustainable practices.
- 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 monitors the amount of fuel consumed by each vehicle.
- Mass Energy Insight – all of the Town’s energy usage for the last three years has been entered and monthly reports are now 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 three 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 9% reduction in our overall consumption, which includes gasoline and diesel fuels and street lights. Even more measures will be rolled out this coming year.

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 Wednesday of each month at 6:30 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 978-365-3326 x1311 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*

Andrew Detsikas