

# **Balancing Economic Development & Environmental Stewardship Meeting Notes**

## **December 13, 2011**

**Team Goal: Community members steward both a vibrant economy and our human and natural resources so that all generations thrive.**

**Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 2012 8am at Tri-County CAP Resource Center**



### **Decisions Made:**

- Our audience for the follow-up communication is all of the Wood Biomass Heating Tour attendees and invitees
- The team will organize and prepare an informative email with the funding resources we have found so far, and promote the NH Local Energy Group Conference at Merrimack H.S. March 31, 2012.
- Possibly look into developing a list of local folks who can be called upon as resources for neutral advice, science advice, vendor advice, etc.
- Ask the recipients for feedback – ie., is the information beneficial and ask how the team can further help.

### **Discussion**

- The committee had a round table on what has been found so far:
  - Funding Opportunities: Appendix C of the Community Biomass Roadmap
  - Community Solution to Global Warming – Community Catalyst Fund
  - NH OEP Renewable Energy Programs Resource List
  - DSIRE: Incentive/Policies for Renewables & Efficiency by State
- The team talked about the importance of finding and providing names of folks who have worked on retrofitting and planning wood biomass heating systems in schools and town buildings.
- An article on the new work force housing building going up in Conway says it is installing solar and we want to know why it chose not to go wood biomass – Pat knows the builder and will inquire.
- Sarah Smith at UNH Coop Extension advises folks go directly to the NH Office of Energy and planning. Also, the USDA Forest Service will do Pre-Feasibility Studies through the “Wood Education & Resource Center” although on their website there is no announcement yet for 2012 funding.
- Chuck Henderson reported to Noreen that Dave Van Houghton did an exhaustive search for grant funding on behalf of the Grafton County Nursing Home and came up empty.
- Noreen spoke with the Northern Forest Center (Joe Short, Program Director) – Northern Forest is coordinating some regional home heating projects – one in Colebrook NH where they are receiving NH Charitable Foundation Funding. Periodic opportunities come up through PSNH Regional Greenhouse Initiatives and he also mentioned the BEREC (Biomass Energy Research Center) “Fuels for Schools” program. USDA also has a Communities Facilities Program where they provide grants to communities under 5,000 population.
- The team attendees worked on follow-up assignments to move forward.

### **Agreed to do:**

- Leona will make contact with Julia Dundorf “CACP” and Andy Duncan – Building Professional Institute
- Noreen contacting vendors on funding resources
- Pat contacting Great Bridge and Brad Harriman
- Ray contacting the Green Team
- Mike contacting the utilities
- Wendy contacting Mtn. View Ossipee Pellet & Other links thru Coop Extension

**Attendance:** Noreen Downs, Ray O'Brien, Mike Benoit, Wendy Scribner, Leona Simon and pat Jones.

**Meetings:**

Second Tuesday of the Month, 8am – 9:30am