

Balancing Economic Development & Environmental Stewardship Meeting Notes March 15, 2010



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

Next meetings: April 12, May 10 at 8:00 am (Tri-County CAP Resource Center). June 16 (evening) Community wide meeting with all teams.

Attendance: Noreen Downs, Pat Jones, Raymond O'Brien, Chuck Henderson, Leona Simon, Brian Walker, Dorothy Solomon, Wendy Scribner and Cyndi Paulin.

- The meeting primarily focused on energy (biomass). The team decided to go forward with the biomass tour on April 22nd.
- The team decided to look more closely at business incentives once the tour is completed.
- Future meeting formats (post-April) may include breakout time for subgroups to work on the various areas the team is interested in working on.

Energy

Biomass Tour

- The biomass tour will be the morning of April 22nd. (Leona confirmed the date with Winnisquam and Wendy confirmed the date with the forest service.) Seeing these two facilities will allow people to see both a wood-chip boiler and pellet system in action.
- Sarah Smith from UNH Cooperative extension has agreed to serve as the "tour guide" on the bus to host a conversation and help to answer people's questions.
- Charge \$5/person to help defray costs and encourage people to follow through and attend once they sign up.
- To do:
 1. **Invitations** – Go to superintendents, school boards, energy committees, selectman, town administrators. Invite a couple of students who are interested in the topic.-
 - Brian will draft invitation
 2. **Team members following up with specific conversations with school contacts.**
 3. **Transportation** – Go by bus. Fast taxi and first student are possibilities. (Noreen will follow up). Dorothy will check with county re: their van. Cyndi will check with Peter Waugh (he does some driving for Gov. Wentworth). Meet at Tri-County CAP?
 4. **Resource page to refer people to-** Put together a resource sheet and page on the website (Include compelling biomass video, BEREC, example schools, etc.). Add Campton
 5. **Economic Fair on March 26th (Ossipee Main Street)** – have information available. Additional hands are welcome to staff the table.
 6. **Image** – Spend heating dollars to support NH forest economy or mid-east oil. (Moose or Camel?)

Background

- Vermont has about 40 schools that installed biomass boilers, NH has 4-6. Vermont initially funded 90% of the installation cost, now funding 50%. Chuck toured 6 of the facilities.
- Economics are viable even without a government subsidy because of large fuel savings – up to 60%.

- Available technology – systems are 70-85% efficient, one Denmark systems is approaching 100%. There are companies from Germany, Denmark and Sweden visiting NH because NH is perfectly positioned to make use of this technology given our vast forests. This technology is commonly used there, people are surprised there is very little use of it here.

Broadband

- Broadband video – video has been distributed. Let team know if you see it!
- Broadband report – Part II has been mailed with Leona’s assistance. It went to all selectman, town broadband contacts and town administrators.
- Press release – A press release summarizing what the team has learned and asking people to take the speed test has gone out to all the Carroll County newspapers. Let the team know if you see it run. (Thanks to Noreen for taking the lead on this!)
- UNH president Mark Huddleston noted at the recent presentation he made at the Carroll County UNH Cooperative Extension meeting that broadband access throughout NH is key to the future delivery of education in NH.
- There are funds available for rural broadband development through the farm bill loan program. For more info see http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/utp_farmbill.html.

Business Incentives – brief discussion. This will be on pause until after the biomass tour.

Ideas:

- Look at what other’s have already done before go too far.
- County website might be an appropriate location for county-wide economic information and then the towns could link to that info from their websites.
- Briefly looked at the report put together by PSNH as an example of some of the state-wide economic info that might be helpful to include.

Follow up tasks (See team’s action plan):

- Biomass invitation (Brian)
- Call sustainable energy association (Leona)
- Transportation follow-ups (Noreen, Cyndi, Dorothy)
- School contact follow-ups (Ray, Noreen, Leona – check in with Marletta)
- Information about Tuftonboro pellet boiler (Wendy)
- Attend Local Energy Solutions 2011 (Ray & Noreen)
- Attend Heating the Northeast with Renewable Biomass Conference (Chuck)

Other:

- Local Energy Solutions 2011 to be held on April 2, 8am-4:30pm at Merrimack Valley High School in Penacook, NH includes a track on bio-mass heating.
- **New England Society of American Foresters Annual Meeting** includes a field trip focused on wood-fired boilers in schools to Hanover High School. For more details: <http://www.nesaf.org/society-american-foresters-annual-meetings.asp>.
- **Heating the Northeast with Renewable Biomass Conference and Vendor Fair!** April 14-15, 2011; Manchester, NH . More info: <http://heatne.com/>
- **Ossipee’s annual expo & economic fair** is Saturday, March 26th. The theme is “Get Smart”. CCU will have a booth and would welcome team member assistance. If you represent an organization that would like to have a booth, contact Pat Jones at 603-539-4181.