

RANDOLPH ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE



**RECENT PROGRESS &
LESSONS LEARNED**

LAYING THE FOUNDATION



- **In 2012 the Energy Committee Began Outreach**
 - Energy Expo held at Vermont Technical College to raise the profile of energy conservation in the community
 - The Energy Committee held meetings throughout the town to discuss streetlight deactivation recommendations from TRORC study of town streetlights.
 - Information on PACE was shared with the community.
- **In 2013 Inertia was Built**
 - PACE was passed at town meeting.
 - A second Energy Expo was held at VTC.
 - The Energy Committee ran a successful VHEC campaign.
 - Three new members joined the committee.
 - The town hosted a 150 kW solar array, and receives 10% of power generated and a lease payment for the site near the town landfill.

Accomplishments in 2014

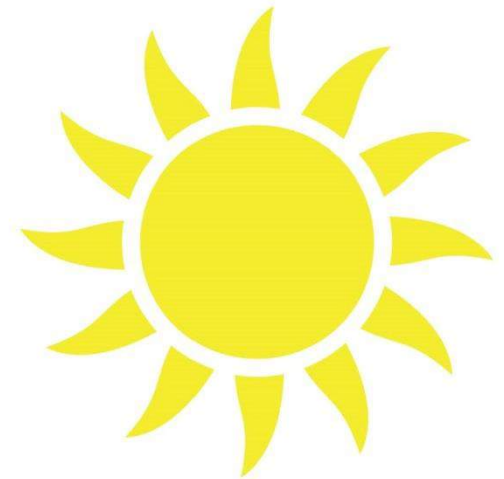


- Street lighting work over the previous 3 years came to fruition. LED conversions of streetlights, streetscape and town parking lot lights yielded >\$22000 in annual savings.
- The Energy Committee began detailed review of the town government's energy use, including electricity, heating oil and propane. EPA Portfolio Manager is used to track and help evaluate energy usage.
- Randolph was selected by Vital Communities for a Solarize campaign, and 42 local households went solar. This project absorbed most of the Energy Committees time between July and January.

Accomplishments in 2015



- Our third Energy Expo was organized in the Spring
- After our Solarize campaign, we began a community solar project that allowed local people without the opportunity to have solar at their homes to go solar. This project took much of the Energy Committees time in 2015. This was a 180 kW (DC) project involving 36 local households. It is a non-profit member managed project with costs 30% below Vermont average. Construction began in November. A second community solar project is underway for 2016.
- The Energy Committee sponsored and organized a Community Solar Development Forum at VTC in November, in which stakeholders from state and local government and solar developers debated solar siting issues. More than 40 members of area Energy Committees, Select Boards and Planning Commissions attended.



**RANDOLPH
COMMUNITY SOLAR**

Successful Strategies



- **FOCUS:** We have found over and over that having too many projects and goals in play can stall progress. While principle focus on one project allows us to reach our goal successfully.
- **HELP:** New committee members is a vital boost to the continued progress of the group. And using the TEC resources available through SERG, Vital Communities, Efficiency Vermont and VECAN also provides organizational support and inspiration.
- **AMBITION:** Aim high. If a project stalls, set it aside for another day and move on to another one.

OBSTACLES



- **LONG TERM PROJECTS:** Tackling an issue or setting a goal that will take more than a year to complete can sap the “energy” of the committee. Our street lighting project was vital and eventually successful, but it required most of our attention for more than 2 years, which stalled other projects.
- **CROSS PURPOSES:** Sometimes the Select Board or town manager may not fully support a energy committee project. This can slow or stall progress, and should be avoided.
- **MULTIPLE PROJECTS:** An energy committee with 4 or 5 members may not be able to sustain more than 1 or 2 projects at a time. As mentioned, having focus on one project at a time often ensures progress and success. Larger committees can often handle multiple projects more effectively.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR REC?



- **Randolph Community Solar 2:**
 - This project will be on town land, and provide energy to local members and the town government
- **Energy Expo 2016**
 - The Energy Committee will continue our outreach efforts to increase awareness or energy issues in the community.
- **Town Energy Conservation**
 - We have identified inefficient town buildings, and will encourage town government to start energy retrofits.
 - Given the rapid growth of solar in Randolph lately, we will help the town government increase its use of green energy.

