

## **Solar Success Stories and Strategies**

Presentation for VECAN Conference Fairlee, VT December 7, 2013

By Duncan McDougall – LEAP Chair



- LEAP was founded in 2007 on Step-It-Up Day
- Our goal is to become the greenest town in Vermont by 2020
- Became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit in 2009. Volunteer-run.
- We have conducted dozens of renewable energy, energy efficiency and emissions reduction projects over 6 ½ years.







### More than 500 people attend the annual LEAP Energy Fair every April

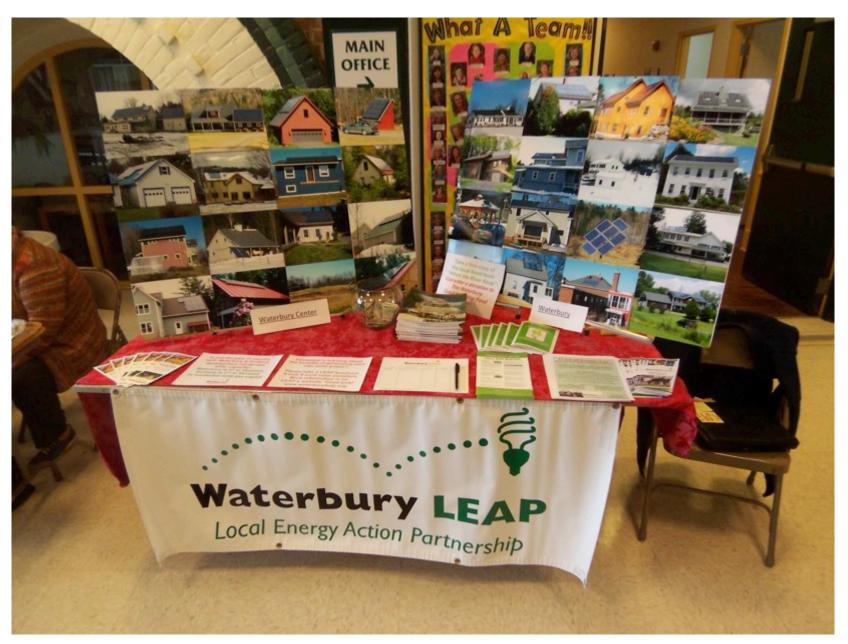




- At 6<sup>th</sup> LEAP Energy Fair (April 2012) announced the Waterbury / Duxbury Solar Year to double local solar capacity in one year
  - Wrote periodic articles in the Waterbury Record
  - Spoke on WDEV and ran ads to encourage solar
  - Held LEAP Solar Fest with free pizza, ice cream, and live music. 110 people met with various solar installers.
  - Hosted a Business Solar Workshop with experts
  - Distributed info about local solar installers at public events, on our website, and through local stores, etc.
- We met the goal in only 11 months!
  Governor Shumlin helped us celebrate.



#### Distributing solar information at the Waterbury Town Meeting

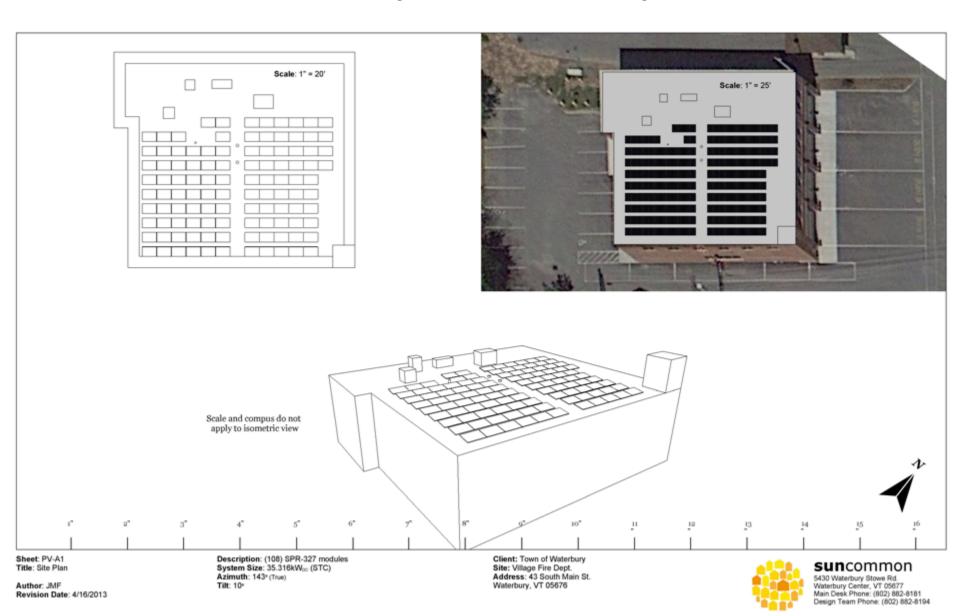




- At the 7<sup>th</sup> LEAP Energy Fair (April 2013) we announced the 2<sup>nd</sup> Waterbury /Duxbury Solar Year. If successful, we will quadruple local solar capacity in only two years
  - Continued local PR efforts
  - Began 'Solar for Scholars' Program with Middle School
  - We knew we needed to achieve some major projects so we decided to lobby and educate local leaders about solar
    - Waterbury Select Board
    - Waterbury Village Trustees
    - Waterbury/Duxbury School Board

The following three projects resulted from these efforts:

#### New 32.4 kW solar array on the Waterbury Fire Station



New 157 kW solar array at Crossett Brook Middle School. Together with the school's 15 kW roof array (installed by LEAP in 2010) CBMS has the most solar of any school in Vermont!





#### 500 kW solar array to be build on village land in Spring, 2014



# We take photos and track info of every local solar installation. Duxbury is now #2 and Waterbury is #5 in solar capacity per capita in Vermont. We're aiming for #1 and #2!





