

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL
ENERGY TRANSITION SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, June 4, 2020 7:30 – 9:00 Virtual Meeting via Skype

CALL TO ORDER: Members: Tim Stevens (Chair), Jon Ward, Michael Trauberman, Andrew Sakallaris, Erika Myers

Staff Liaison: Kate Walker, Environmental Programs Coordinator

Statewide Energy Legislation Review – Effects on the City

Tim reviewed highlights of the Virginia Clean Economy Act, which directs that the electricity grid be carbon free by 2045. It promotes expansion of utility scale solar energy and off shore wind, joining RGGI, phasing out coal power plants. By incorporating most of the Solar Freedom bill components, the VCEA will help promote expansion of distributed solar energy.

The City will be helped by making it easier to reach our goal of 80% reduction (below 2005 levels) in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. FCCPS will be helped by the provision that allows Power Purchase Agreements to more easily be used to finance a rooftop solar system for GMHS. Andy looked at PPAs issued by Henrico and Fairfax Counties and highlighted their possible use by our school organization to make procurement easier.

The state DMME will be allowed to develop a model ordinance for use by jurisdictions to implement C-PACE financing.

The State Corporation Commission will initiate a proceeding to examine broad measures affecting electric vehicles (PUR-2020-0005). Erika will follow this proceeding for possible effects on Falls Church.

Residential Uniform Statewide Building Code

Tim proposed sending brief comments to the state DHCD expressing ETS support for adoption of a new residential USBC that fully incorporates the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (“model code”). Virginia’s current residential building code lags the model code for key energy efficiency provisions (ceiling and wall R-value, allowed hourly air changes), which means that new homes will consume more energy than would be the case if the model code were adopted. ETS members unanimously supported sending brief comments to DHCD urging full code adoption.

Solarize

The program is now accepting customers, with Solar Energy World as vendor. In addition to providing PV systems, this year’s program also offers at home charging equipment and a free energy inspection. Jon prepared and helped send out letters to building owners having the best solar exposure. Kate and Jon will examine whether a virtual town hall can be organized to facilitate education of our residents regarding this year’s Solarize offerings.

LED Streetlights

The committee agreed to encourage city council to proceed with a proposed program to convert existing streetlights to LED models (Tim to compose a brief note to city council). Jon has

been involved with analyzing program details on quantity, savings (financial and GHG emissions), style, perceived brightness (Lumens), perceived color temperature (Kelvin) and night sky light pollution, the latter being particularly of concern to ESC/ETS. Committee members agreed that obtaining public input is important. ETS expressed willingness to provide support to staff as program details are developed.

EV charging opportunities

Erika shared information on permission given to Dominion Energy Virginia to develop a pilot rebate programs to various sectors (e.g. multifamily buildings, fast chargers, workplace chargers, etc.) for electric vehicle supply equipment (i.e. chargers). The program should commence before the end of the year. ETS will want to help publicize these rebate opportunities, perhaps through the Chamber of Commerce and other channels. Erika will attempt to reach out to businesses along Broad Street to see if another DC fast charging structure can be located via EVGo.

Approval of minutes

ETS approved the draft February 6, 2020 minutes.