

Profile: Shutesbury Energy Committee

In January 2005 David Dann, Shutesbury's Town Administrator, suggested the formation of a town energy committee. The Shutesbury Select Board endorsed the committee in June 2005 and appointed 6 members from a variety of backgrounds: Mark Tuominen, Bruce Davidson, Susan Reyes, Mark Hunter, Clark Sylvester, and Craig Marden.

The purpose of the committee is to:

- Study and recommend energy conservation policies and projects to the Select Board
- Provide recommendations to the town on related energy issues
- Provide assistance/education to residents on how households can implement renewable energy and conservation/efficiency measures in their homes and daily lives



*Solar panels
on Shutesbury Elementary
School earned through*

Energy efficiency initiatives

The committee applied for the DOER energy audit to be scheduled sometime this winter. The Building Committee has been working hard to improve energy efficiencies in all our municipal buildings, including installing insulation on two, with two more buildings scheduled for an insulation upgrade.

Select Board and Town Committees

In both the Finance Committee and Select Board's opinion, the only way to control town budgets and avoid budget overrides is to contain energy costs through reducing the town's use of fossil fuels as much as possible. Selectman Becky Torres challenged the Finance Committee to cut the town budget and apply the savings towards energy efficiency, conservation and or installation of clean energy projects. The Town will be creating a new capital savings account to fund energy conservation or renewable energy production related projects in the Town. The objective is for departments that use energy to be able to use this account for projects that reduce energy costs.

Renewable energy initiatives

A 2.5 kW photovoltaic array on our elementary school with an educational web site was purchased through earned Clean Energy Choice funding and a grant from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. The system is a sign of the town's commitment to sustainable energy and an educational tool as well.

Cities for Climate Protection

Shutesbury is a member of ICLEI

Clean energy campaigns

The Energy Committee has promoted National Grid's GreenUp program through which 71 people - over 10% of the households enrolled. The town has earned over \$25,000 through GreenUp campaigns so far. The committee also promoted a carpooling campaign.

Municipal website: www.shutesbury.org