

May 18 2022

All members present

Membership structure discussion

- 7 people, two year appointment
- How do we propose filling vacancies? In any order:
 - Learn of interested member
 - Send email of why interested with background, including resume ideally
 - Board reviews
 - chair meets with applicant
- Ultimately board appoints hoping for buy in from committee

PFH might have a new member to invite

Invite him to next meeting

Open Mtg update: Denis to send zoom link to Town Clerk so she can post on public calendar

Refrigerant Program

The space: two benches installed! With thanks to Doug Strawinski

Three practice refrigerant removal session

- 3 units, 2 units, 4 units
- rate soup to nuts: 10-15 min/unit
- 2 pounds of 410A recovered (4000 pounds of CO₂ eq) at last session
- Record keeping - a google form (take photos of name plate, record type of refrigerant, amount on full charge, which tank used)
- Can we write up as SOP?
 - Includes that we test to see if they work first(?) then what - give away??
- R22 (phased out so lucrative secondary market - pay us \$10-\$13/pound)
- R410a (still being produced so more like \$1.50/pound)
- PFH looking at working with Yale Carbon Containment Lab - starting a project to issue carbon credits for recovering refrigerants, especially HFCs like R410A

Next steps:

Get another person certified (Frances wants to get her certification), TJ is certified along with Denis and PFH

Hold a refrigerant drive (but we still have plenty on hand)

- Volunteers take units apart - plenty to do there
- Host events on Saturdays as part of regular recycle center hours? Nice for eyeballs
- Pick two stand alone dates (June & Sept) not part of recycle center hours?
- Put up a banner? Ask Frances to design
- Call the shed the IceBox?

Heat Pump Projects

Check lead time on heat pumps

PFH "[new construction modeling](#)" sheet

Fuel oil and propane are not competitive with heat pumps

CO₂ emission - assumptions 15 years of usage - f/o and propane bad and ez to make that case

The Natural Gas case is still economically cheaper but we don't have any in Red Hook

2200 square foot house using propane

- emits 4.6 metric tons cCO₂/year

- ~same as buying another car

Annual operating cost makes it super clear heat pumps win
The win is most heavily dependent on what your energy costs are

Big Sheet to smaller sheet

- Remove Natural Gas columns since it doesn't apply
- Get rid of the state average of electricity?
- Turn it into a graphic
- Keep transparency around the costs of fuel
- Do we add maintenance costs?
 - RM pays \$1600 for oil company service contract
 - Geothermal annual service cost is expensive
 - Air source heat pumps service contract? Vacuum the vents
- You also have a separate cost for cooling
- Spreadsheet excludes cooling operating costs - treats it as equivalent
- Only big difference is upfront cost of equipment
- Health risks quantified
- Safety argument - fire?
- Did you know? E.g. GSHP costs you 40% less annual...

What would local legislation look like?

No local authority for putting carbon taxes in place

Starting x date you can no longer do x y z (fuel oil and propane heating)

Impact Fee - what are local developers doing and charge them for that? Fees commensurate with work town costs to administer

Has another jurisdiction written this - NYC phase out, Berkeley prohibited new gas hookups

Put a moratorium? Allow people to apply for exemption

Graphs and pitches - who is target audience?

Next Steps

Energy Cte approach the board with a presentation

- Elevator pitch - we can save money, increase healthy indoor environments and meet NY Climate goals by using electric heat pumps for heating & cooling in new construction
- Did you know? Using electric heat pumps would save you % annually if you had one this year?
- Super detailed backup in hand

Call a contractor - what's the lead time on a heat pump of different sizes and systems

After that mailing campaign - flyers, social

Note: make sure the best / most efficient units are available and endorsed/promoted/required(?!)

Highway Garage

Lots of extra kwh being generated

Do the research on converting the building

Can PCZ look at how much extra is being produced

Could the rec park absorb the extra?

Highway Lights

Study the dimming savings/ give us some dollars

Midnight to 5am, starting next month

Take input on which lights we would not want to dim

100% to 80% not noticeable by human eye. Would like to do 75%

Bard ok with it/ have any preferences?

PCZ good with doing it at Bard b/c bright light doesn't necessarily mean better.

We would not realize any savings normally for reducing the dimming - they give us the wattage times average hours they think it will be on.

DS thinks we don't dim by the cross walks

RM will get more info from NYSERDA (?)

Charging Stations

6x6x6 ground mounted transformer needed if we install charging at the front of the parking lot

We had wanted a pole mount one but it causes leaning and it's ugly

Least cost and most aesthetically appealing solution

- move to back by the gate - highway garage entrance - take the last 3 spaces and hide equipment behind the fence
- Requires a new pole by CH, next to RB Bank pole. Excavation to the gate. Would need an easement

Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

Temporary injunction against Columbia Utilities

Anaerobic Digester

Meeting with Joanna Underwood of Energy Vision 5/19

RHCSD Bruce Martin shared annual usage of diesel for buses (155,000 gallons of diesel / year) - switch to LNG from biogas to power these fleets - minor conversion of diesel engines.