

EAC Meeting Minutes
5.28.19

Attendees: Elizabeth Jenkins (Chair), Nancy English, Susan Kelly, Phil Coleman, Matt McCabe, Allen Prindle, Claudia Cueto, Annie Fox, Corey Ullman

Guests: Sue Edwards and David Calloway from the Sierra Club

April Meeting Minutes Approved

Ready for 100 Campaign

- Organized by the Sierra Club.
- Goal: Swarthmore Borough to sign a commitment to 100% renewable electricity by 2035 and 100% renewable energy (including heating and transportation) by 2050.
 - Includes Borough buildings, vehicles, etc. as well as all individual residents.
- Discussion of various aspects of how this might be implemented and what makes sense for Swarthmore.
- In line with the 2017 Mayor's Commitment: Swarthmore will work toward 100% renewable energy (also sponsored by the Sierra Club, but doesn't have a timeline).
- Renewable electricity can include RECs, seems like a doable goal by 2035.
 - Energy Co-Op reached out to Jane Billings to offer to speak to any local organizations.
 - Sierra Club willing to have their volunteer base help sign people up, get the word out, etc.
- What's recommended for renewable heating?
 - Ground source heat pumps/geothermal. Some residents have installed. Some incentives to offset costs but would definitely be expensive. (Social justice must be considered: Must have options in place for people of lesser means)
 - Building envelope/insulation is important so those systems don't have to work as hard.
- Transportation?
 - Electric vehicles for the Borough fleet in 30 years seems doable. Residential piece is less clear.
- Group is in favor of having Borough Council sign on, so long as we have a clear sense of what we need to do in order to make it a success.
 - Build off of the 10 year anniversary of the Borough's Climate Action plan. Redo audit and recommendations, in partnership with Swarthmore College's student sustainability teams? (And the Sunrise movement)
 - Elizabeth will reach out to College. Phil will connect with AFewSteps (already working on a campaign to encourage residents to sign up for local renewable electricity providers). Sue Edwards to the Sierra Club. Annie will start an email with suggestions for a "Five Point Plan" i.e. what we can do in the near term to get these goals accomplished to present to Borough Council with the Ready for 100 resolution.

- Partner with the College re: the purchase of local renewables?
- Want to make sure any press around signing on Ready for 100 is not the “plan for a plan” but what individuals can do to start working toward the goal now.
- Have lawn signs “My home is powered by renewable electricity” to encourage others. Banner at the train station: “Swarthmore is a renewable energy town” etc. Make it a part of our identity.
- Next Meeting: Discuss feedback from stakeholders and what they can contribute. Edit the draft resolution accordingly – what resources do we have, what do we need. Plan when to present to Borough Council.

“Legal Pathways to Deep Decarbonization in the United States” - Analysis by legal experts on technical and policy pathways for reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% from 1990 levels by 2050.

- Annie provided a brief summary of the document and will go into more detail at another meeting. Pages 133-138 detail local community actions. How can the Borough incorporate this resource?

Education – Improve your recycling habits and survey on plastic bag ban/fee and plastic straw ban.

- Great response from people at the Fun Fair and Farmer’s Market on the recycling information.
 - Feedback: Post recycling information on website. Elizabeth to email Borough.
- Plastic Bags and Straws
 - Environment Committee wants us to present at their June meeting. Calculate data from survey and get in touch with local biz community to get their thoughts.
 - Claudia, James, and Corey will take point on reaching out to local businesses.

Curb My Clutter

- Service offering curbside recycling of textiles and electronics to residents. Free to the Borough, residents only have to pay for tvs (\$35) and microwaves (\$10) and can earn rewards which can be donated back to community groups. Environment Committee was very interested in the proposal and is moving forward.
- Allen’s neighbor has a connection to Helpsy, another clothing recycler. Will forward proposal to Lauren but doesn’t pick up curbside or do electronics.