

**PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY DEC. 12  
AT 11 IN THE MORNING IN THE SACO CITY HALL**

**SACO ENERGY COMMITTEE  
NOV. 26, 2007 REPORT**

**1. SACO PURCHASES 100% ELECTRIC VEHICLE**

The Saco City Council voted on November 26 to purchase a Zenn 100% electric powered car. The car is made by the Toronto based Zenn Motor Company, and is manufactured in St. Jerome, Quebec. The car was purchased through Maine Electric Vehicles, 183 Route One, Falmouth. Marketing Director for Maine Electric Vehicles is Kal Rogers tel. 523-8494.

Saco is paying an early bird special price of \$10,700 for the car. This includes an upgrade for the vehicle to go 50 miles on a charge. The car plugs into a regular 110-volt outlet for recharging. The manufacturer claims the car 80% recharges in 4 hours, and is completely recharged in 8 hours. It is estimated that the cost of energy to run the car is about 2 cents per mile.

Saco is replacing an old police cruiser with the Zenn. The old cruiser was used by city hall staff, and was good for only about 12 miles to the gallon, or 25 cents per mile. The city estimates that based on these numbers, the payback is 5 years.

The car, however, has a top speed of 25 miles per hour, and so its use is restricted to downtown. The City Council also voted on Nov. 26 to purchase a Toyota Prius hybrid to replace a second used cruiser. The Prius will be used for trips beyond downtown Saco and Biddeford.

City staff and municipal officials test drove the Zenn for a week before the city decided to make the purchase. It was learned that an electric car actually accelerates

faster than a gas powered car. The heater proved adequate for Maine winters. The car makes no noise when it is running. The headlights work fine. It handles fine. It has no emissions. The car is snug inside, and is modestly built. The city will soon learn how the car does in the snow, and if the range will actually be 50 miles on a charge. The manufacturer claims the electric car has a lower maintenance cost than a gas powered car, because of much fewer moving parts.

With the purchase of the Zenn, the city hopes to learn more about electric cars. A dependable 100% electric car that goes highway speeds for an energy cost of 2 cents per mile would revolutionize transportation in the world. If the electricity the car uses, is produced by renewable energy, the car would produce no emissions. This would be a huge health benefit.

## **2. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be Wed. Dec. 12 at 11 in the morning. This is a change from the previously scheduled date. The agenda at this time is:

1. Mark's report on the Zenn;
2. Ron, John, and Travis' report on the smart strip power strip project;
3. John's report on community center project;
4. Howard's report on EW15 wind turbine project;
5. Travis' report on solar tube project;
5. Discussion on further projects.