

**PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY MAY 8
AT 2:30 IN THE AFTERNOON IN THE SACO CITY HALL**

**SACO ENERGY COMMITTEE
APRIL 9, 2008 MINUTES**

Committee members present: Howard Carter (Treatment Plant Director); Patrick Wiley (Treatment Plant); Eric Cote (Saco City Councilor); Mark Mitchell (Code Enforcement); Ron Rochefort (Police Dept.); David Shaw (Saco Middle School teacher); Ryan Lessard (green builder)

Guests: Richard Rhames (Biddeford Energy Committee); Brett Richardson (student at the Muskie School of Government)

1. EARTH DAY 2008

The April 22 Earth Day celebration will be at the First Parish Church in Saco. Prof. Paul Mayewski will speak at 7:30 in the evening. The City of Saco will have a display table, and the Zenn electric vehicle for showing. Ron Rochefort will coordinate the display. Maggie emailed that the Ferry Beach Ecology School will also have a table.

2. EW15 WIND TURBINE

Howard said that the opening at the base of the tower of the EW15 wind turbine will be covered to try to reduce the noise level. Presently, sandbags are piled around the opening. Howard also said that a school group a week visits Saco's two wind turbines. The South Portland City Administrator came last week, and he said that he would like to put up a wind turbine at each municipal building.

3. THE GOOD EARTH PROJECT

David Shaw said the Saco Middle School Food From Schools Project, has a new name- the Good Earth Project. David has received a lot of interest in the project. Envisioned now is a 16 by 20 building heated by the sun, with LED grow lights in the growing trays. The used Skystream generator that was left at the Treatment Plant, when the new Skystream generator was installed, will be erected at the Middle School. Ryan offered to help with the construction. It was suggested that rain falling on the roof, be captured for irrigation. All food grown by the students will be contributed to local food pantries.

4. WATER CONSERVATION

Howard said the flow through the Saco Treatment Plant has not increased in 20 years despite Saco's growth. This is due to the CSO work, and the work to stop infiltration. Only a small area in the downtown has not had the sewer and storm water lines separated. Pleasant Street is being done now. Saco has 29 pump stations and two are upgraded each year. Howard says the system is in pretty good shape. Howard feels decreasing the flow through the Treatment Plant will increase the sewer user rates.

Eric circulated an outline of a 2003 water conservation program at the LaGuardia Airport in NYC. The investment to install low-flow auto-flush toilets and low-flow auto-flush faucets had an 8 month payback, and reduced water consumption by over 25,000,000 gallons.

5. MICRO HYDRO

Richard lamented that with all the potential electrical generation available in the Saco River, that we are only talking about micro hydro. All agreed. Prior to the next meeting, Ryan and Eric will try to connect with vendors in the micro hydro field.

6. FERRY BEACH ECOLOGY SCHOOL NEWS

Maggie emailed the latest. The Ecology School beside having a table at Saco's Earth Day celebration at the First Parish Church on April 22, will also conduct tours at the Laudholm Farm (Wells Reserve) as part of the Earth Day Event on the 19th.

The School is gearing up for its 9th Annual Saco River Canoe-A-Thon planned for Saturday May 31st. Boats will launch at the Marina and Wastewater Treatment Plant around 9 in the morning and paddle to Camp Ellis and then have a barbecue lunch at the Ecology School afterwards.

7. WELCOME BACK PATRICK

Patrick Wiley finished his masters degree in waste water utilization, and is working again for Saco. This time at the Treatment Plant. Patrick, prior to going to grad school, was Saco's Recycling Coordinator.

8. NEW TREATMENT PLANT PROCESSING BUILDING

On May 1st planning will start on Saco's new Treatment Plant Processing building. By October, a design will go to the City Council. The building will be heated

and cooled by a heat pump in the effluent, and contain many energy efficient features.

9. POLICE STATION

Ron reports that preliminary figures for 7 months, indicate that the electrical consumption in the Saco Police Station has been reduced by 15%.

10. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Thurs. May 8 at 2:30 in the afternoon in the Saco City Hall. The agenda at this time is:

1. Mark's report on the Zenn;
2. Discussion on micro hydro;
3. The Good Earth project;
4. Discussion on water conservation;
5. Howard's report on EW15 wind turbine project;
6. Discussion on further projects.