

**PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING WILL BE THURSDAY MAY 29  
AT 2:00 IN THE AFTERNOON IN THE BIDDEFORD CITY HALL**

**SACO ENERGY COMMITTEE  
MAY 8, 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); John Sherman (Deputy Director Parks and Rec.); Travis Peaslee (Treatment Plant Lab. Technician)

Guests: Richard Rhames (Biddeford Energy Committee); Owen Grumbling (Chair. Dept. of Environmental Studies, UNE)

**1. ZENN ELECTRIC CAR**

The newer model Zenn is doing very well. It goes all day on 1 or 2 bars. More people are using the car, which has become a celebrity around town.

**2. EW15 WIND TURBINE**

The base of the tower is going to be buttoned up next week to make it quieter.

**3. TUBULAR SKYLIGHTS**

Two solar tubes are in the process of being installed in the Treatment Plant Lab. It cost \$880 for two installed. Travis figures that the solar tubes will light the lab., allowing 24 light bulbs to be kept off for an average of 8 hours per day. Travis calculates this will result in a 3.1 year return on the investment, and provide healthier natural light.

**4. MICRO-HYDRO**

Richard believes the Biddeford Treatment Plant has micro-hydro potential. Treatment plants in the country consume 3% of the energy used in the country. Treatment plants should be an exporter of energy.

**5. NET METERING**

Richard said the State Legislature is looking at the net metering issue. Richard and Howard would like to see the proximity rules expanded, as well as the size of the renewable energy system. Richard said there is some good land by the old landfill in western Biddeford for a wind turbine, but there is no municipal use nearby. Richard will

try to get a speaker from the PUC at the next meeting.

## **6. UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND**

UNE is looking at wind power and micro-hydro. A long term goal is to have wind power provide the energy for a fleet of electric cars. UNE's new president is green. A parking lot is going to be removed, and new trails are planned. One goal is to reduce the cars kept on campus by providing a zip car for students to use to go back and forth to town. The car will be signed out, and free to students.

Owen described the exciting project to create an energy conservation web page on the City of Biddeford's website. The proposal is described on the following page. Students would abstract the minutes from the different energy committees in Maine, and other sources, and organize the material so a viewer can quickly see the latest on different subjects that are being worked on. Important contact information would be provided.

## **7. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Biddeford Energy Committee Thurs. May 29 at 2:00 in the afternoon in the Biddeford City Hall. The agenda at this time is a discussion with Mitchell Tannenbaum of the Maine Public Utilities Commission on net metering and the issues that municipal generators may face. Macro- and micro-hydro projects may also be discussed.