Meeting Minutes
Saco Energy & Sustainability Committee
February 23, 2016

Present: Howard Carter, Charlie Cotsis, Pat Fox, Eric Cote, Alex Mouzas, Andrew Goldberg, James Ferguson, Jacqueline McDonough, Joe Hirsch, John Kerry, Bob Hamblin, Jeff Edelstein, Nathan Johnson and Kevin Sutherland

Saco Energy Fair Update
- Jeff Edelstein gave the committee an overview of his various organizations and the home and business energy fair
- Greater Portland Sustainability Council puts on Portland Greenfest, an event that brings in 5,000 people a year
- Portland, South Portland, Falmouth & Freeport have active energy sustainability councils
- Barry Woods, an attorney at Drummond and Drummond, is working on getting electric car charging stations in Maine, he is starting group called Drive Electric Maine
- EPA created ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, an online tool you can use to measure and track energy and water consumption, as well as greenhouse gas emissions
- Portfolio Manager is also used to benchmark the performance of one building or a whole portfolio of buildings
- Portland & South Portland city councils are looking more into energy benchmarking, possibly mandating energy benchmarking in certain building sizes
- Cities want to see if private building owners will gain something from energy benchmarking
- New effort to make a statewide clean energy group to try to create more communication with regions
- Andrew Goldberg mentioned Department of Energy advanced energy design guides which vary by building size
- Portland, South Portland and Falmouth have full time sustainability coordinators, fairly new position
- Falmouth has a plastic bag ban and participates in energy benchmarking
- The City of Portland works with Siemens
- There is no buy-in to be a member of the Regional Energy Working Group, would just need a rep from Saco to attend meetings every two months
- Portland, South Portland and Falmouth are in group
- Freeport and Brunswick might be joining as well
- Regional Energy Working Group holds meetings every other month on the first Wednesday from 1-3pm
- Saco home and business energy fair:
  - Saturday March 12th
  - 10am-3pm
  - Thornton Academy
Free admission
Open to the public
20-25 exhibitors, ex. pellet boilers, solar, Efficiency Maine, heat pumps
Door prizes, ex. $200 off heat pump install

- Door prize system consists of envelopes on wall, put ticket in envelope of desired door prize then drawing will be held
- Ecomaine is doing paper making and recycling activities
- Garbage to Garden will have kids activities
- Most vendors there are energy related
- Marketing for home and business energy fair:
  - Putting ads in paper
  - Flyers around town
  - Flyers at Thornton Academy
  - Political style signs
- Need approval from Saco council for political style signs to advertise the energy fair
- Bob Hamblin and Andrew Goldberg think signs are ok on Thornton Academy lawn
- Howard Carter said we should consider energy fair signage at the fire station
- Pat Fox mentioned city message boards
- James Ferguson mentioned put on Facebook page
- Andrew Goldberg said we should put a flyer in K-12 school packet, run this by superintendent Dominic DePatsy
- Look into banner over main street for home and business energy fair advertising, work with Saco Main Street
- [www.energyfairs.com](http://www.energyfairs.com) official energy fairs website
- Howard Carter said if anyone wants to staff it we will get a booth
- Alex Mouzas and Kevin Sutherland said they would volunteer to operate the booth
- Kevin Sutherland said Unitil is doing major build out in Saco in the next 3 years, he would like to inform the citizens of Saco about this at the fair
- Howard Carter thinks we should do a city energy information booth
- Jeff Edelstein thinks we should use the booth for a community engagement opportunity
- Pat Fox would like public works to have their recycling brochures at the booth
- Jeff Edelstein can be reached at greaterportlandsustainability@gmail.com

**Siemens Presentation**

- Kevin Sutherland is considering in the budget process an in-house facilities manager for maintenance of buildings and schools
- Goal would be for facilities manager to find enough energy savings for city to cover salary cost
- Kevin Sutherland would like to have a collective map of the city’s buildings and how to maintain them
- Joe Hirsch said it would be nice to have someone who can walk in and know the building
- Andrew Goldberg thinks that the facilities manager can prioritize and take the lead for outside resources
- Pat Fox mentioned there is a capital outlay with Siemens for capital improvements
- Howard Carter thinks we will still need an energy audit at some point
Kevin Sutherland said the facilities manager position is more about prioritizing the work then actually doing the work, more about coordinating
Alex Mouzas is wondering about Siemens references, Mike Garrity met with Oxford Hills regarding their experience with Siemens, committee to follow up with Mike Garrity
Kevin Sutherland said the in-house facilities manager would be there to take care of problems immediately
Kevin Sutherland thinks if we want to be true to reducing our carbon footprint and saving money we need a facilities manager
Andrew Goldberg is wondering if they would be an energy manager or facility manager, Kevin Sutherland mentioned they would be one in the same
Pat Fox thinks we should use Maine Power Options when it comes to buying fuel even if we had a facilities manager
Pat Fox mentioned we should have one cleaning contract instead of six
John Kerry thinks we can save a lot by having a facilities manager, he is also very much in favor of Siemens
John Kerry mentioned the city should hire a facilities manager then bring in Siemens
John Kerry thinks that the city should charge solar and CHP developers a small fee, between 1%-2% of the project cost
Eric Cote doesn’t think we should have a facilities manager position or run natural gas lines due to digging up the roads and highly flammable gas, he thinks we should focus on solar and heat pumps instead
Eric Cote thinks we should focus the bond money on LED's and boilers
Andrew Goldberg doesn’t think one fuel can solve all problems
Pat Fox mentioned public works saved $70,000 in one year by using Maine Power Options
Howard Carter also mentioned the WRRD saved $30,000 in one year by using Maine Power Options

Energy Plan Update
- John Kerry said we need the department heads to review the energy plan and note their suggestions
- Jackie McDonough is working with Dor Bender to gather energy data and enter data into Microsoft Access database

Solar Farm Update
- John Kerry gave update
- Approved for 10 megawatt solar farm in Pittsfield, Maine
- Looking at 100 acres behind middle school, Advanced Solar Products engineers think it’s a good place for a solar farm, between 5-10 megawatts
- Another potential solar farm site near transfer station
- Solar farm energy would cost 8.5 cents per KWH for 20 years
- Solar farm will be 23 million dollar project
- Renewable energy credit can be used
- Solar farm end result for city should be lowered energy cost and lower carbon footprint
- Need to talk to Pat Fox about areas near transfer station
- CHP can be very viable and a private investor can take advantage of accelerated depreciation and energy credits

**Solar Saco Citizen Interest Update**
- Did not address at this meeting

**School Bond Status**
- Did not address at this meeting

**City Bond Status**
- Did not address at this meeting

**Action Items**
- Howard Carter to reach out to department heads to review energy plan and note suggestions
- Ask superintendent Dominic DePatsy if we can include a flyer for the Saco home and business energy fair in the K-12 school packet
- Follow up with Mike Garrity about his meeting with Oxford Hills regarding Siemens
- Pat Fox to look into potential solar farm near transfer station

Next meeting March 29, 2016