

Barre City Energy Committee

Brief History and Mission

For several years, Barre City's government leaders have worked steadily behind the scenes to save taxpayer dollars spent on municipal energy needs. Since 2010, the City has undertaken several energy-saving projects with the invaluable technical and procedural support of Efficiency Vermont, the state energy efficiency utility.

Separately, since 2012, a group of area citizens with a passion for energy efficiency began meeting with the City Manager, the Director of Building and Community Services, and other department heads as needed.

The two efforts above soon joined and now meet monthly as the Barre City Energy Committee, with Efficiency Vermont playing an advisory role and continuing to provide critical support. The group's goal is to reduce energy costs to Barre City residents – with a focus on municipal operations – and benefit the environment.

As this is the Energy Committee's first appearance in the Barre City Annual Report, we offer below a summary list of activity highlights to date:

Energy Committee Activity Highlights 2012-2015

- Supported community 'Eco-BEAR Fair'
 - Inventoried Barre City streetlights for excess fixtures, in preparation for LED retrofit
 - Provided energy efficiency comments to the Barre City Municipal Plan
 - Included ballot item on Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), a way of financing energy efficient home improvements by borrowing money and tying the payments to a property rather than the owner. The ballot measure was passed by voters. Barre City is now exploring whether and how to offer the program. For more information on this mechanism, visit <https://www.encyvermont.com/for-my-home/Financing/Financing/PACE-Overview>
 - Supported Alumni Hall energy efficiency retrofit
 - Supported City Hall energy efficiency audit
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The Energy Committee members are only a few of the people who are working hard to save energy costs for Barre City taxpayers. Other initiatives with measurable savings are noted below, with data tracking, calculations, and compilation provided by Efficiency Vermont:

Barre City and Partner Activity Highlights 2010-2015

- Planned projects at the waste water treatment plan are expected to reduce energy costs by 14 percent (Water Department and Efficiency Vermont)
- LED street light retrofit completed in 2015 is saving 403,000 kWh, enough to power 56 homes for a full year, which resulted in \$37,300 in street lighting tariff savings (City Manager, Energy Committee, Efficiency Vermont and GMP)

- An 8 percent reduction in electricity use by municipal buildings is resulting from energy efficiency investments, including at Alumni Hall (Director of Building and Community Services, Energy Committee, and contractors)
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Barre City residents like you, often supported by community organizations and companies, are also increasingly committed to energy efficiency. Some exciting community-wide results were compiled by Efficiency Vermont below.

Community-wide results 2010-2015

- More than a 5 percent reduction in overall energy use
- Collectively saved \$1,805,698 in electricity, fuel and water costs from installed efficiency projects
- Commercial and industrial customers investments in energy efficiency mean they now use 9 percent less electricity than they otherwise would have
- More than 2 percent of the homes have been weatherized (based upon 4,557 total housing units per 2000 census data)
- 105 Home Performance with ENERGY STAR audits have been completed setting the stage for comprehensive energy efficiency retrofits

In the last decade, Barre City customers have saved more than 19 million kWh of electricity, enough to power 265 average Vermont homes over the same period (assuming 600 kWh per home, per month over the decade).

We look forward to continuing to help Barre City not waste energy dollars, thereby helping the environment and saving that money for community development.

Respectfully submitted by:

Barre City Energy Committee Members

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Participating City Staff

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