

Barre City Energy Committee 2016 Annual Report

The Committee's mission is to reduce energy costs to Barre City residents and benefit the environment. It meets the 1st Friday of the month from 9am-10am.

In the 2015-16 fiscal year, as in recent years, the Barre City Energy Committee's (BCEC's) focus was on increasing energy efficiency of municipal operations, and supporting energy efficiency in the community as Committee time and resources allowed. Activities that were completed during the fiscal year were:

- Held its first energy efficiency workshop series over the winter, covering the topics of Heat Pumps (attended by 50 people), Button Up (weatherization), and Zero Energy Homes (attended by 8 people). The Button Up workshop was taped by local cable access channel CVTV and made available and made available online here: <http://vp.telvue.com/preview?id=T05132&video=267348>.
- Participated in Efficiency Vermont's Barre City Community Visit Day (Oct 7, 2015), during which a team from Efficiency Vermont, including its new Executive Director Liz Gamache, visited with various stakeholders to see how the state's nonprofit energy efficiency utility could better serve the City.

Initiatives that BCEC, with staff and Efficiency Vermont, advanced and have continued to work on in the next fiscal year, were:

- Understanding how to address logistical and liability concerns with Property-Assessed Clean Energy financing (PACE).
- Determining whether the City consumes more energy than is covered by City-owned solar projects under development that still need to be offset, and whether further offsetting is advisable.
- Understanding costs associated with the planned City Hall energy efficiency retrofit. A retrofit would require replacing the roof of the Opera House because the building was designed to release heat that would melt snow on the roof. Reducing heat loss to improve thermal energy efficiency would mean increased snow loads on a roof that was not fortified to bear that much weight.

Finally, related to work that took place last fiscal year, in this fiscal year we learned that the Alumni Hall energy efficiency retrofit supported by BCEC and led by City staff resulted in 1000 gallons less heating oil used than last year. The Committee is pleased to have been part of the City's progress with energy efficiency and is committed to yet more into the next fiscal year in the context of a Barre City Energy Plan aligned with the Regional Energy Plan.

Barre City Energy Committee Members

Phil Cecchini
Schuyler Gould
Elaine Wang
Nancy Wolfe (resigned May 2016)

Participating City Staff

Steve MacKenzie, City Manager
Janet Shatney, Planning Director
Jeff Bergeron, Director of Buildings and Community Services
Nick Landry, Assistant to the City Manager

Advisor

Tim Perrin, Efficiency Vermont