

Aug. 18, 2009 meeting

Item 11 E

Energy and Climate Committee Recommendations

-----Original Message-----

From: belfastbikes

Date: 8/11/2009 3:21:16 PM

To: [Roberta L. Fogg, City Clerk](mailto:Roberta.L.Fogg@cityofbelfast.org); jslocum@cityofbelfast.org

Subject: Energy and Climate Committee Recommendations

In the very near future, the Maine Public Utilities Commission will award grants to municipalities for a broad range of energy efficiency projects. Recognizing that deadlines for submissions may follow quickly after the grants are introduced, the Belfast Energy and Climate Committee recommends that the city consider the following projects:

1. Expand the material conservation program (Transfer Station) - Some plastics (e.g.; types 1 & 4) are currently not recycled. Accepting a wider array of plastic types will reduce production of GHG gasses and harmful emissions that are produced when waste is burned. If recycled plastic is used as a stock for the production of new plastic, then the total equivalent energy for production is also reduced.
2. Assess the "building envelope" for City Hall - While energy efficiency improvements in several municipal buildings have already been accomplished, a potential for reducing energy consumption remains for City Hall. Heating and cooling energy can be lost through inadequate insulation and unwanted air infiltration. Previous assessment for energy efficiency at City Hall did not include a building envelope test. An assessment will cost \$1000 or less.
3. Assess the "Building Envelope" for the Boathouse - There may be an opportunity for substantial energy savings at the Boathouse as it consumes about 6% of all of the heating fuel used by the municipality (2007 survey). Paul Shepherd has offered to test the Boathouse building envelope free of charge to the city.
4. Improve the building envelopes per indications by efficiency testing - Since City Hall is in constant use, improvements will immediately reduce financial and energy costs. While not in constant use, the Boathouse is a significant consumer of heating fuel.
5. Fund residential weatherization projects - The Energy and Climate Committee has weatherized Belfast residences at no or little cost to the residents. Projects have been funded through the city and private donations. The estimated cost of weatherization projects for the coming season is \$5000.
6. Retrofit the city pool for solar water heating.

Regards;

Mike McDonald
Energy and Climate Committee chairman

Aug. 18, 2009 meeting

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----- Original Message -----

From: [Roberta L. Fogg, City Clerk](#)

To: [belfastbikes](#)

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2009 5:07 PM

Subject: Re: Energy and Climate Committee Recommendations

Mike -

City Manager Slocum and I want to clarify with you that you want this on the August 18th agenda?, if not the next council agenda is September 1st.

What specifically are you asking the council for, do you want them to provide city staff to write the grants or is someone from your committee going to write them?

Who will represent your group at the council meeting when this is discussed? Who are you proposing to cost these suggested projects out or have you already done proposed costs for each recommended project?

Please let me know as soon as possible, because we are putting the Aug. 18th agenda together now.

Thank you,

Roberta L. Fogg, CMC, City Clerk
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8/12/09 at 5:52pm

Roberta;

The timing of the PUC grant submissions has not been provided, but the submission due dates might be as soon as four to six weeks after the grants are announced. The first round of grants will be "planning grants" and the next round will be "implementation grants". It was our intention to put these projects on the table to consider as candidates for PUC funding, and that the city would manage the grant submissions. Fortunately, the expertise needed to more fully define the projects may be available locally and at short notice.

For project numbered one (below), the recycling committee may have more insight. It was our intention to simply point out the energy benefit of expanding the recycling program. Perhaps a planning grant can be submitted for the planning phase.

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For projects numbered two and three (below); Marina will provide the city council with names of local assessors. The cost for assessment is relatively low, but there may be opportunity to fund assessment through the "planning grants".

The weatherization projects (item 5) fall within the realm of PUC grant descriptions that Joe provided to the committee (Email from Jeffrey Austin dated July 22, 2009) and the committee can certainly participate in writing the grant proposal, though we have no specific expertise in that activity.

Item number 6 was a last minute suggestion and is considered low priority by the committee.

Regards;

Mike McDonald
Energy and Climate Committee chairman