Presentation to the Peacham Selectboard by the Energy Committee
November 17, 2021

Members of Peacham Energy Committee (PEC)
- Jock Gill, Chair
- Tom Bryer
- Dave Jacobs
- Harry Vann
- Allison Webster
- Bruce Westcott
- Alternates: Bruce Courtot, Morgan Gold

Presentation of PEC 2021 Accomplishments:

PEC Events
1. How-To Reduce your Carbon Footprint - May 6 (virtual) w/ Efficiency Vermont (EVT)
2. Q&A with Washington Electric Coop - May 10 (virtual) - w/ WEC president and Board Director
3. Peacham Elementary Solar Tracker Fieldtrip - Career Week participation in May - opportunity for K-6 to learn about careers in renewables and sustainability
4. All-Electric-Future Fair - July 11 (Sundays in Peacham) - showcasing electric vehicles, electric bike, and electric yard equipment
5. Q&A with Heat Squad - July 11 (Sundays in Peacham)
6. Peacham Community Solar info sessions - Oct & Nov (virtual and tabling events)

PEC Partnerships
- Connected Peacham Elementary with EVT for free energy walkthrough and also with VT Energy Education Program (VEEP) for hands-on energy learning opportunities
- Collected and analyzed annual electricity usage of Town and all non-profit buildings
  - Led to PCH identifying and addressing out-of-the-ordinary electricity usage in two units
- Support role in effort to install an EV charging station at the Library

PEC Initiatives
1. Peacham Enhanced Energy Plan officially adopted as part of Town Plan - March 2021
   a. Under Act 174 of 2016, towns have the opportunity to submit enhanced energy plans to the Vermont Public Utility Commission that, if approved, receive "substantial deference" (essentially, they carry more weight in the minds of decision makers) on issues of permitting for energy projects. https://vecan.net/act-174-and-municipal-energy-planning/
2. $50 Home Energy Audit Campaign - Launched in spring 2021, up to 20 Peacham homeowners were offered $100 discounted Heat Squad home energy audits
   a. 16 audits already conducted, four remaining are in the pipeline
3. Climate Catalysts Innovation Grant Recipient - This summer, PEC applied for and was awarded $2,000 from the Climate Catalysts Innovation Grant, administered by Vermont Council for Rural Development (VCRD).
   a. The $2,000 is to be divided into four $500 micro-grants to help farming operations in Peacham develop strategies for implementing energy efficiency and weatherization.
4. Peacham Community Solar - 15% reserved, open to all Green Mountain Power customers, goal is for 150 kW solar system to be operational by summer 2022

PEC Posters - Promoted via Facebook, School folders, around town, occasionally FPF
1. Introducing the Peacham Energy Committee, "Save Money, Stay Cozy"
2. DIY Home Energy Projects get $100
3. 2020 Federal Income Tax Credit for Home Energy Work
4. Time to Schedule an Energy Audit (for the love of Bernie)
5. Virtual Energy Visit via ButtonUp/Efficiency VT
6. Electric Heat Pumps - two different posters w/ incentives/rebates
7. Heat Pump Water Heater
8. Hot Water Tank insulation tips
9. 26% Federal Investment Tax Credit
10. Community energy stories collection
11. Cozy & Efficient New Year Resolutions
12. Peacham Community Solar - Local Solar at Less Cost (multiple)

Budget Request for 2022:

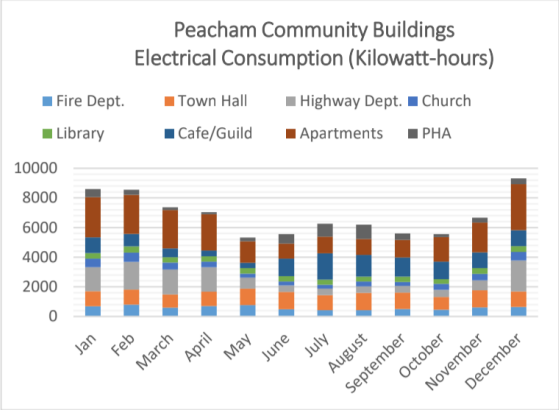
The Committee will ask for a budget of $3,250 (below). These funds will be used for outreach and communications, household mailing campaign, print and digital material, subsidized energy audits. Everyone should have access to clean, affordable energy and a safe, comfortable home. Peacham is committed to helping the state achieve the goals and policies of the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan of 2016. This includes improving the energy efficiency of 25% of homes by 2025 and meeting 90% of all energy needs from renewable resources by 2050 (Peacham Energy Plan, page 62). Peacham will not be able to help meet the statewide energy plan goals without prioritizing the needs of its energy burdened community members. By prioritizing the needs of energy burdened households, through targeted education and outreach, and subsidies and incentives to those that need it most, Peacham can improve its chances that a clean energy future is accessible and inclusive of all.

PEC	**Proposed Energy Committee Budget 2022**	
Community Mailing	Outreach re: energy efficiency, weatherization opportunities / Window Dressers	$750
Energy Audit Campaign	Reach 20 more residences (assumes Heat Squad audit=$150, Town covers $100/audit, household is responsible for $50 ("skin in the game")	$2,000
Window Dressers Campaign	Multi-town community build effort over four days. Volunteers come together to create durable window dresser inserts. In a typical home, the use of 10 window dresser inserts can save an average of 105 gallons of heating fuel per year and pay for themselves in less than two years.	$500
	TOTAL	$3,250

Concerns/Issues:

- Promote complete subscription to Peacham Community Solar (180 shares total)
- Energy/Weatherization support for local Peacham farms
- Municipal Building Energy Audits: In 2022, the Town should budget for and conduct investment-grade energy audits, which can typically identify energy efficiency opportunities with simple paybacks of zero to 6 years, if it has not already. See electricity consumption report for three primary municipal buildings.

2019-2020 Peacham Annual Electric Energy Consumption in Kilowatt-hours (kWh)



I. Annual Electric Energy Consumption in Kilowatt-hours (kWh)

- Combined annual electrical consumption of eight (8) Peacham town buildings: 82,065 kWh
- Estimated Annual cost (@ $0.21/kWh blended rate): $17,233

- Combined annual electrical consumption of all (8) Peacham community buildings: 82,065 kWh
- Average annual electrical consumption of (3) Peacham municipal buildings: 31,370 kWh
- Estimated Annual cost (@ $0.21/kWh blended rate): $17,233

Municipal Buildings	Avg. kWh /yr
Fire Dept.	7,418.5
Town Hall	11,522.5
Highway Dept.	12,428.5
Total Avg kWh /yr	**31,369.5**

During a typical year, the monthly electrical consumption remains relatively steady in six out of eight of the buildings. The wintertime growth in electricity usage in the Highway Department, and in the Apartments accounts for the general wintertime increase in overall electricity consumption.

The most cost effective way to reduce energy costs and reduce carbon footprint is through energy conservation measures, as distinct from green energy production.