Green Energy Committee 2016 Annual Report

2015 was a very challenging year for the Green Energy Committee. We worked hard but have less to show for our efforts than in previous years. After a successful residential solar photovoltaic installation initiative in 2014, we shifted our focus to solar photovoltaic installations for our Town buildings. Disappointingly, we haven’t been able to install a single solar panel. Stay tuned as we work with the Selectmen, Conservation Commission, Planning Board, and others over the next few years to try to install solar PV panels on town facilities, parking lots, and the town’s capped landfill.

In parallel with our solar installation efforts, we have been investigating opportunities to procure from local and regional renewable energy sources. For a short period we were able to purchase solar electricity from two warehouse rooftops at a 15% discount from our current price. We hope to report back later this year on another procurement opportunity called “community aggregation” that would allow us to offer higher levels of renewable energy for all electric account owners in Lincoln.

Richard Silver loves his new energy efficient boilers at Pierce House. How do you like the new energy efficient LED lights in the Brooks School auditorium? These are both examples of recent competitive grant funded projects supported by MA DOER’s Green Community program and Eversource and National Grid managed energy efficiency programs.

Looking forward, we are thrilled to announce another major residential energy initiative. Sue Klem, Lynne Smith, Bill Stason, and Jennie Morris are spearheading this effort in partnership with an energy service company that we should be able to announce prior to Town Meeting.

Our renewable energy and energy efficiency initiatives will all contribute to our 25% green house gas emissions reduction by 2020 and 80% reduction by 2050 targets legislated by the Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act in 2008. A date that seemed a long way away in 2008 is rapidly approaching, and we have a long way to go to even get close to the 2020 target, let alone meet the 80% reduction by 2050.