

ENERGY COMMITTEE

2010 ACHIEVEMENTS AND 2011 PLANS

In 2010, the Hampton Falls Energy Committee (HFEC) worked to complete a significant energy efficiency and alternative/renewable energy project at the Public Safety Building (PSB) that ***will save the Town thousands of dollars annually*** on our electricity, propane, and fuel oil bills. The Energy Committee is looking forward to 2011 to leverage our past work, much of which culminated in the project at the PSB, to improve how we use energy in town and to plan and prioritize future energy improvements.

The HFEC, comprised of Shawn Hanson, Beverly Mutrie, John Ratigan, Tony Delano, Scott Bieber, Steve Sabatini, and Tom Baker, with the support of Julie LaBranche of the Rockingham Planning Commission has worked since early 2008 on a number of initiatives, including completion of preliminary audits of the school and town buildings, an inventory of the energy uses in Town, development of an energy “road map” for the Town, and completion of the combined heat and power (CHP, or cogeneration) project at the PSB.

The CHP project, which is our most significant accomplishment, was funded through a grant obtained from the U.S. Department of Energy and is a wonderful example of how ***volunteers, residents, Town employees and officials, and other local stakeholders can work together to accomplish amazing things***. One of our priorities this year is to put in place a mechanism to “re-pay” ourselves by investing the savings from the CHP project on additional energy improvements in town.

The CHP project includes installation of a new propane-fired cogeneration boiler that provides hot water for building heat along with the generation of electricity to cover a portion of the building’s electrical demand during the heating months. In addition, solar thermal hot water heating provides for hot water demand. This component of the system, which includes solar panels mounted on the PSB’s southwest facing roof (visible from the library side), will allow the cogeneration boiler to shut down during the summer months, improving efficiency and reducing unnecessary wear and tear. I encourage all interested townspeople to contact the HFEC for more information regarding this project.

In addition to completion of the CHP project, the town is currently benefiting from a program called ETAP, Energy Technical Assistance and Planning, which is administered by the New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning. The HFEC is in the process of working again with Julie LaBranche of the RPC and energy consultants who support ETAP to prioritize potential energy efficiency improvement projects for the school and Town Hall. We expect this document will help decision makers in town (LAS Principal, School Board, Selectmen, and residents) to better incorporate planning for energy efficiency improvements along with other maintenance and repairs that may be planned for these buildings.

The HFEC looks forward to another successful year of energy improvements. Special thanks go to HFEC member ***Shawn Hanson*** for spearheading the CHP project, ***Lori Ruest*** for providing administrative support and coordination, and ***Fire Chief Jay Lord*** for ensuring proper installation of the CHP system.

Tony Delano, Chairperson