

Energy & Solid Waste Work Group Core

Meeting Notes of April 11, 2007, 4:00 p.m.

MVC Stone Building, Oak Bluffs

Members Present: Phil Forest (co-chair), David Nash, Paul Pimentel, Sharon Strimling Florio (co-chair), Paul Strauss, Kate Warner, Susan Wasserman (SC liaison)

Members Absent: Don Hatch, Kitt Johnson, Fred Lapiana, Bart Smith, Russell Smith

MVC Staff Present: Bill Veno

Others Present: Chris Fried, Carlene Condon

The meeting started at 4:00

1. Consideration of Energy Production Section of Synthesis Document

The group continued its refinement of each section of the synthesis document before forwarding them to the full Work Group for broader discussion. This meeting considered the Energy Production section.

Goals/Objectives

- Discussion of the magnitude of energy needed to be generated and the limitations for some properties for being able to have their own renewable energy production sources led to the re-ordering of the objectives in terms of priority, placing "Maximize the potential for large-scale generation to benefit the Island" as the first objective instead of "Maximize potential for on-site generation of energy."
- "Increase public understanding of need for local energy generation" is required for all of the other objectives.

Targets

- While the Core had previously concluded that expressing goals or targets in terms such as "doubling" or "tripling" rather than numbers or percentages was a desirable way to make the material more accessible to the public, Kate stated that she had found it difficult to do so, in light of the magnitude of the changes being put forth.
- There remains a fundamental question regarding the basis for the targets. Are they based on building needs? New construction vs. existing? Transportation? Waste? Interrelationships across the different sections are increasing apparent. Paul will take another look at the targets, taking into account the targets identified thus far for all sections.
- This convergence of the sections should be addressed in the preamble to each section or in the entire document's introductory narrative.

Strategies

A discussion of burning Island wood, woodstoves and high-efficiency pellet stoves lead to consideration of a hierarchy of impacts – good, better, best. Strategies for improving the nation's energy future are positive for the Vineyard in a general way, but strategies targeting New England and the state would have a greater positive impact, and Vineyard strategies will potentially have the greatest positive effect. For example, the current generation of pellet stoves are highly efficient and greatly superior to wood stoves with regards to air emissions. The pellets are a renewable energy source, but they must be imported to the island and energy is consumed in the manufacture and transportation of the pellets. However, while renewable energy produced on Island is intrinsically more efficient than energy brought to the Vineyard, use of pellet stoves is an improvement over many heating alternatives now used on the island and provides a practical solution, today, to Vineyarders in their pursuit of energy sustainability.

Offshore wind was moved from Emerging Concepts to the Large-scale Generation section

Additional Observations

- Storage of energy is a pivotal technological issue/barrier to either wind or solar generated power.
- We need to identify who will be responsible for implementing the plan's proposals. This should include prioritization of actions and proposing short, medium and long timeframes for their achievement or commencement.

2. Next Steps

- Tasks
- Paul P. will review the Production targets to better mesh with the Efficiency targets
 - Kate will update the preliminary draft of the Transportation section for the Core to discuss at its next meeting
 - David will draft language addressing geothermal production
 - Sharon and David will develop alternative language concerning biomass
 - Chris Fried will draft language addressing co-generation
 - Bill will focus on the document narrative

Next Meeting: April 18, 2007; 4:00 p.m.

Agenda: Review Transportation section
Reconsider Production and Efficiency targets
Finalize the Energy Production section

The meeting concluded at 6:00 p.m.