

Town of Wallingford Energy Conservation Committee
Wallingford Public Library Community Conference Room
Minutes of Meeting of February 12, 2009

Members Present: Bruce Blakey, John Bradley, Mike Brodinsky, John Lynch, Ben Martin, Bill Pursell, Dan LeGrand, Mike Spiteri, Sharon Mooney, Mary Mushinsky, Bob Avery

Guests: Lee Grannis, Don Roe, Roger Palermo, Craig Peters

Meeting was begun and 6:34 with a presentation from Lee Grannis, with assistance from Craig Peters on behalf of the Greater New Haven Clean Cities Coalition on clean cars, trucks and fuels that are available to Connecticut towns.

Grants have been available to cover the “differential” cost for high mileage cars and vehicles, and also for retrofits to reduce emissions, in vehicles like school buses. There has always been grant money for applicants wanting to buy eligible cars which are listed in the state’s website. The state has a contract with several dealers for cars at favorable prices. Once a grant has been approved, the municipality selects the eligible car, pays for it, and then applies for reimbursement. But, the window is tight and there is not a lot of notice when the grants are announced. They should be coming soon.

Mr. Grannis gave Don Roe a copy of the application form and he said that he would notify us as soon as the grants were announced.

The advantages of biodiesel fuel were also discussed.

The Clean Cities Coalition is a group of organizations that assists towns and cities in qualifying for "Clean City" designation through the use of grants and programs from the Department of Energy. They are also supported by the National Renewable Energy Lab in Colorado. The presentation was geared toward lowering emissions and pollution from automobiles and did not deal with building emissions. The main alternate fuels they recommended were Natural Gas(Liquefied & Compressed) and Bio-diesel although a few electric vehicles were mentioned. Highlights of the presentation:

- More info can be found on the website : <http://www1.eere.energy.gov/cleancities/>
- Trucks burn 1 gallon of fuel per minute idling
- CMEEC has a \$2 million grant available for incremental costs of clean vehicles
- Application window is coming up soon and is 4 - 6 weeks long
- State has a contract to buy green cars that Wallingford could use
- A few other towns are using Natural Gas utility vehicles: Bridgeport, Fairfield, Glastonbury, Norwich
- LNG(Liquefied Natural Gas) is suitable for larger trucks(utility trucks, snowplows) and CNG(Compressed Natural Gas) is suitable for smaller vehicles
- The cost of a Natural Gas charging station depends on how you plan to use it: \$4000 for 1 or 2 small vehicles, \$15,000 for filling large trucks
- The cost of fuel compares to between \$1.39 & \$1.79 per gallon
- Boone Pickens will install a natural gas filling station if a certain load is guaranteed.
- Contact in cities that use Natural Gas : Ed Bauman (Fairfield), [Pete Polubiatko](#) (Norwich)
- Biodiesel can be purchased from East River Energy <http://www.eastriverenergy.com/index.html>
- Biodiesel contact at Department of Transportation: Dick Baron
- New Haven is selling the electric trolley buses they using downtown

- Wallingford might require school bus contractor to install emission retrofits which will be paid for by state grant.

After the presentation concluded around 8:15, the commission met to discuss updates on ongoing projects. Mike reported that the school data should be complete and have been submitted to Bill Leahy at the Institute for Sustainable Energy. This data should be enough to identify the least efficient schools so we can take advantage of the free audits to have the most effect. Mike also contacted Mike Cassella, Director of Energy Efficiency Services with CMEEC about giving a presentation to the commission in conjunction with the PUC. The PUC needs to adopt some policy changes in order to make any projects we recommend possible. Mary Mushinsky commented that Groton, which is also a CMEEC member, has installed windmills for power generation. She also suggested that our commission should write up any grant proposals for Don Roe to certify and submit as he is very busy. The commission needs to find out what cars the town plans on buying this fiscal year so we can identify when the town needs can be supplied by cleaner cars. Some on the commission commented that the water department has some trucks in need of replacement. The easiest project to push forward will be the school bus retrofits for reducing the engine emissions. The school and parents will be very receptive to this and with the state grant there will be no cost to the town. Mike Brodinsky will contact superintendent Dale Wilson about dealing with the contracted bus company.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 due to the library closure.

Draft minutes prepared by Ben Martin and Mike Brodinsky
And signed electronically 3/6/09