



event would be a good thing to do, so we are getting started on that. For this neighborhood flooding itself likely is less of a problem than roads washed out, loss of power, landslide, or fire . . .

“I also hand-delivered a follow-up note a few days ago (and got to meet a couple of people I had never met before!).”

\*\*\* Susan shared her invitation and follow-up letters for potential use by other neighborhoods.

**3. Heat-pump nightmare story from Vanessa:** For a home in the Boston area she is trying to replace a gas furnace, and is being told that the electric rates will be far higher than the cost of gas. She said, “I don’t see how I can make this transition with the obstacles. The installer I met with was so discouraging I wondered if he’s working for a fossil-fuel company.”

Matt confirmed: this is the present reality. There is a heat pump-favorable rate reduction coming in Massachusetts in 2026, but current electric rates you’re being quoted are really high. New equipment is coming online, and it’s more expensive now, in part because of tariffs, but also because there’s so little competition that installers can charge whatever they want. Current costs for a whole-house heat pump system are about \$30,000, potentially more if you need an electric upgrade or new duct work (which is likely).

Operating costs, electric prices are skyrocketing (due to what’s called “spark rates”), especially in Massachusetts; most of the expense is for transmission surcharges.

Heat pumps are particularly efficient in the cooling season and mostly used at night when the grid demand is much lower. Matt said we’ve all learned to set back temperatures significantly when we’re away or asleep, but with heat pumps the set back should be less so there isn’t as much catch-up.

Jim asked if Vermont has better rates for electricity, in part because of our utilities approach to diversifying sources and storage, instead of building centralized power plants. Vanessa responded that Vermont has outsourced power plants to poor communities out of state, for instance in Connecticut and Massachusetts, burning fossil fuels and also burning trees for “biofuel,” and has misrepresented major supplier Hydro-Quebec as “renewable energy.” She said that Vermont’s “green energy” is a sham.

**3. Matt report on thermal camera:** Matt has roughed out the educational materials. Matt will let us know when he has completed educational material for the thermal camera and when his home is available for a demonstration, etc. **Vanessa, Kaz,** and **Susan** will also participate in some form of community presentation to introduce the new camera. Perhaps this could be done at the library, which is where the camera will be available for loan?. **ACTION ITEM:** To be discussed in December.

**4. Energy-efficient households visits:** This is an idea that needs to be discussed and developed. We could feature one home at a time (for instance, on the first Saturday morning of the month), or we could offer several homes to be visited on a specified day. The idea would be to show a variety of approaches and allow people time to see what choices are available, with time to ask questions. **ACTION ITEM:** To be discussed in December.

**5. EV charger at Barrett Hall:** **Harry Falconer** submitted the grant proposal, but we had no news for this meeting. **ACTION ITEM:** Report from **David** and/or **Harry** on status of project.

**6. Ecogy Energy prospectus for Maclay array:** **ACTION ITEM:** **David** will review this in detail and report back to us at the December meeting. David not present at this meeting to report.

**7. Susan and the Strafford Climate Action group hosted an information table at the Strafford General Store on Saturday, November 8 from 9 to 1.** She was a little disappointed by the activity level: most people who passed by already knew most of what they had to say, but they had some good conversations. For

example, David Celone (of the Vermont Law School) came by the table, and wrote about it in his Substack (with photos!): <https://uppervalleyvt.nh.substack.com/p/vermont-and-a-new-book-for-stick>. David also alerted Susan to a talk about Sustainability given by Charlie Sellars last week, which Susan attended and found very interesting. She is starting to read Sellars's book *What We Can Do: A Climate Optimist's Guide to Sustainable Living* and can loan this when she's done reading.

**8. Discussion of laundry sheets and laundry practices, and also green groceries. ACTION ITEM:** **Dorian** and **Susan** offered to talk with Adam Smith, the new proprietor of the Strafford General Store, about our previous effort to highlight green choices at the store with Energy Committee endorsements.

#### **Announcements:**

**Thursday, November 13**, at 9 AM, on David Zuckerman's radio show on radio station WDEV ([wdevradio.com](http://wdevradio.com)): The first guest will be Jared Duval, the executive director of the Energy Action Network (EAN). We will be talking about the [2025 Annual Progress Report for Vermont on Energy, Affordability, and Emissions](#). Jared is also an appointee to the Vermont Climate Council and a member of the board of directors of the Public Assets Institute. In the following hour, David's guest will be Margaret MacLean, a celebrated educator with over 45 years of experience, a former Vermont Principal of the Year, and a successful international education consultant focusing on the rapidly evolving Education reform created by Governor Scott's massive school district consolidation plan and the ensuing law, Act 73. **Recordings of these programs can be heard here:** <https://blubrry.com/vermontviewpoint/149895893/november-13th-2025-vermont-in-focus-energy-progress-education-reform/>

**Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.      Next meeting is December 9, 2025**