



**2. Action Item from previous meeting: Review of Committee replacement or addition procedure;** they have helpfully put the onus on the Committee: When we have someone to propose for a new member, we (via Dorian, our chair) are supposed to post on the list-serve an open position; then we choose a prospect and notify the Selectboard. We are presently not at capacity so we can consider additions.

**3. Action Item from previous meeting: David** will ask the Sharon representative on the IREC steering committee what kind of thermal imaging equipment they have that can be checked out from their library.  
**Action Item: David** will follow up.

**4. The Ecogy Energy solar array** at the Maclay property in Strafford, **Jim** contacted Ecogy Energy directly inquiring if the array may be for sale. David recommends that we offer \$100,000 and see what they say. This could be done with a municipal bond for 2%, but then that would be paid off in ten years; after which the energy would be free until the array stopped producing. This is a rare opportunity, David emphasized: Net metering has been killed by the PUC in Vermont, but this project is grandfathered. Why wouldn't anyone who is a GMP customer not want this option to buy the array? Presently the partner-benefactors are only getting 10% off their electric bills; wouldn't they want 100%? Could keep paying the same monthly bill and in ten years would have full ownership. Might the new Strafford Community Trust be interested, as a significant user of electricity? Could the Vermont Law School's Energy Clinic help with the research and development of a proposal? Who has taken over for Kevin Jones? Mark James is listed as current director. Questions for Ecogy: What are the terms of the lease? Would they transfer this to a new owner, or would Rod Maclay create a new lease? **ACTION ITEM:** Could **David** and **Matt** speak with Ecogy about the potential for a sale, to gather back information. **Jim** will reply to Ecogy to tell them our representatives will follow up with them to schedule a meeting.

**5. Harry Falconer's report on public EV charger for park-and-ride:** The Selectboard's response was negative; they don't want to be involved. They may have responded to Harry's follow-up that he may have another approach, whereby we self-fund the project but with their blessing, since this is on town land, but Harry is away until tomorrow, so we don't know if anyone invited more information. If no one has replied, Harry could circle back and ask for their reasoning. Vanessa said that it's important to know their rationale for saying no, "for the record," because this is how we know what our town's priorities are — especially when we've made a resolution to be Net Zero by 2030. We need to remember that we have other potential partners, including the Strafford Athletic Association. We got installation bid down to \$4,000 (Thetford Elementary is paying many times that for charger installation). **ACTION ITEM: Vanessa** will find out if the Selectboard gave a reason for turning down the charger proposal. for our understanding, as we explore other options.

**6. Follow-up on the Flood Forum.** Vanessa and Kaz were going to start working on organizing neighborhood meetings, but they haven't been able to meet yet. They would follow up with people who offered to participate and potentially organize these gatherings. "Walk your watershed," etc. **ACTION ITEM:** Vanessa and Kaz will discuss next steps.

**7. Municipal Summary Worksheet** for TRORC. There are benefits to our committee developing an update for the Enhanced Energy Plan component in the Town Plan. Brian Kovalick has asked us to check their numbers, and when we went through this process the previous time we found they'd simply aggregated data from disparate sources, and even our relatively crude data-collection for household energy initiatives suggests to Dorian that the new figures aren't detailed or solid (these may be "targets" not installations). Discussion of how we could develop more accurate and cumulative information to incorporate in reports like TRORC's new *Municipal Summary Worksheet and Energy Maps*. Discussion of energy sources in Vermont, which are often claimed to be "mostly green" but are very reliant upon HydroQuebec.

Even solar development in Vermont has essentially been halted. And we have a good site and huge array at the Elizabeth Mine that is dumping power on every sunny day, because the substation in Sharon and the transmission lines can't handle full generation from the mine array.

And conservation measures are crucial: Vanessa's home with a thorough weatherstripping upgrade managed to save half of their energy bill. Discussion of ways we could tell the stories of different households: replacing appliances (Jim and Becky's recent switch from propane to efficient-electric refrigerator, replacing a gas generator with an EcoFlo, which are now available at Foggs). Carry over next meeting:

Discussion of whether the efforts we're trying to initiate and support really add up to enough difference to avert catastrophe.

**ACTION ITEM:** Let's discuss in August ways of telling household success stories on energy savings, with several sample households (maybe Vanessa & Scott's, Becky & Jim's, Susan & Tim's, Matt & Kaitlin's, not necessarily named), maybe with a website or little book. We could call these by intriguing names like Strawbale, Off-Grid, Village House, etc.

**ACTION ITEM:** To follow-up with the TROARC's Brian Kovalick: Jim suggested that **Dorian** write to Brian and tell him that the data in this new *Municipal Survey* doesn't seem very specific or current, and share with him our town-level survey. Vanessa added that it's important to insist on transparency to call out invalid claims and data.

#### **8. 2030 Net Zero count-down LISTSERVE POSTS:**

**ACTION ITEM: David** will do a posting about the EcoFlow as a resource to generate power during an outage, or as a preferred-time-of-day management tool for a household. Either in the same post or as a separate one: **David** could let people know that the EV credits are good through September 30. **Matt:** Could you do a brief post explaining that for anyone replacing a water heater, a heat pump version, which we've heard you say? Either in July or in August.

#### **Plan for 2025**

January - heating - MATT

February - transportation - DAVID

March - Lawn & garden

April- Building - MATT

May - Farming/agriculture,food - DORIAN

June-recreation & travel

July - electricity - MATT & DAVID

August - household products & pets

Sept- fashion/fiber - DORIAN

Oct - Forests -

Nov - Garbage & recycling - JIM

Dec - plastics or redo holiday posting - SUSAN H.

**Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.      Next meeting is August 12, 2025**