

NEW LONDON ENERGY COMMITTEE

Four new members joined the committee in 2014, including Bill Andrews, Bud Dick, Thomas Little, and Tim Paradis) and we very much appreciate the energy and commitment they bring to this worthy cause. The New London Energy Committee's plan for 2014 was to conduct a series of workshops aimed at helping New London residents understand the need and methods to conserve energy. The committee defined a workshop series in January and launched the first session during spring 2014 titled "Button-up New Hampshire." As the committee prepared for a second workshop, we were approached by Sarah Simonds of Vital Communities in White River Junction, Vermont, with a very interesting opportunity.

Solarize Upper Valley and Solarize Kearsarge

Vital Communities was preparing for a second round of its successful *Solarize Upper Valley* campaign and invited New London, Andover and Wilmot to collaborate in applying for participation in round two. The purpose of the campaign is to significantly increase the amount of electricity produced by residential and small business solar photo voltaic (PV) panels. Beginning in June, each town completed an application with the understanding that all three towns would participate as a regional team. The application was accepted and planning began immediately. A large team of volunteers assembled and began work in planning a major launch event and months of marketing communication and reporting. Key accomplishments:

1. Representatives from the New London Energy Committee participated with Andover and Wilmot representatives in the competitive selection of a solar installation partner. The three-town committee selected ReVision Energy to be its solar installation partner for this campaign. Coincidentally, this is the same company that installed 517 solar panels at Colby-Sawyer College.
2. The *Solarize Kearsarge* launch event, held at Colby-Sawyer College, was attended by 148 area residents not including *Solarize Kearsarge* volunteers; 90 residents signed up for site evaluations; an additional 22 site-evaluation requests came from residents outside of New London, Andover and Wilmot. Students from the Colby-Sawyer College Enactus team helped host the event and continued to support the program in a variety of ways. Representatives from the New London Board of Selectmen attended the launch and Janet Kidder spoke of the board's support. Members of the Board of Selectmen, along with Town Administrator Kim Hallquist, were supportive throughout the campaign and the New London Energy Committee very much appreciates their efforts.
3. Committee members Bill Spear and Dave Harris were featured on WNTK on two occasions to explain the purpose of *Solarize Kearsarge* and to promote related events in town.
4. Dave Harris hosted a well-attended solar open house at his home.
5. Multiple newspaper articles were carried by the *Shopper*, *InterTown Record*, and the *Andover Beacon*. We sincerely appreciate the support we received from these quality publications. In addition, local businesses, Colby-Sawyer College, and public venues such as the town offices and the Tracy Memorial Library allowed the committee to post flyers and other promotional materials throughout the campaign. Again, we appreciate all of the support we received from these caring organizations.
6. Results for New London, Andover, and Wilmot (campaign ended January 31, 2015):
 - a. 193 site evaluations requested
 - b. 38 contracts signed and we achieved tier 5 pricing (deepest discount possible)
 - c. 236kW new solar capacity to be installed in 2015 with an average size of 6.21 kW
 - d. Reduced carbon impact of new systems is 204 metric tons of CO₂ equivalent to taking 43 cars off the road

Plans for 2015

1. Wrap-up the *Solarize Kearsarge* campaign and report final results.
2. Conduct a do-it-yourself solar workshop as a natural follow-up to *Solarize Kearsarge*.
3. Working with Vital Communities: a) create a regional energy group hub and b) pilot a new Strategic Energy Action Toolkit.
4. Partner with the Andover Energy Group in hosting an energy-efficient car expo.
5. Pursue grants and incentives for energy conservation and alternative energy for Town-owned facilities. Identify and promote grants and incentives for residential energy conservation and alternative energy.

2015 looks to be another exciting year for the energy committee. We will leverage the knowledge and passion of our members and collaborate with other organizations in New Hampshire to benefit our community. We welcome visitors to our monthly meetings, which are held on the first Wednesday of the month at 7:00 in the Syd Crook Conference Room or the Tracy Memorial Library. Please check the Town's calendar of events to be sure of the location (www.nl-nh.com).

One challenge we face as a committee is that our very talented committee members tend to be in high demand from their careers, other causes, and family events. The committee would benefit from a couple additional members in the coming year. We would welcome volunteers from New London with an interest in energy conservation and energy alternatives and the time to help make a difference. Please contact Kristy Heath at the town offices (office@nl-nh.com or 526-4821 x10) if you are interested in joining us.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Spear

Chair

Committee members:

Bill Andrews

Alan Owens

Leigh Bears

Tim Paradis

Bud Dick

Alison Seward

Dave Harris

Bill Spear

Thomas Little

Margie Weathers

Dave Sauerwein (on sabbatical)