

# ENERGY COMMITTEE

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The Energy Committee's mission is to help our community save energy, save money, and reduce carbon emissions, through the adoption of energy efficiency and renewable energy.

## Education

Education is the key to widespread adoption of energy-saving techniques. In April 2018, we organized our first-ever Energy & Environment Expo, attended by more than 300 people who learned about energy efficiency, solar panels and other topics through a series of exhibits and presentations. The first 50 attendees were each given a free LED light bulb so they could begin saving energy immediately. LED bulbs use one-tenth the energy of incandescent bulbs, they last ten times as long, and they are cheaper today than they have ever been. We are investigating the feasibility of upgrading all town-owned buildings to LED lighting. Some of these upgrades will likely be performed in 2019.

Falling prices for solar panels and electric vehicles will allow many New Londoners to power their homes and cars affordably with 100% clean, renewable energy. To this end, in September 2018 we organized our second Electric Vehicle Expo featuring electric cars, electric bicycles, electric motorcycles, and electric yard equipment such as lawnmowers, snowblowers and chainsaws. More than 400 people came to see the 40 electric cars on display, and many of the participants were able to ride in an electric car for the first time in their life.

## Projects

This fall we laid the groundwork for Solarize-Weatherize Kearsarge, a volunteer initiative that will unfold during 2019. The initiative will take place in two phases. During the Weatherize phase, homeowners will be encouraged to request a comprehensive energy audit, which will indicate where air-sealing and/or insulation is needed. Those who choose to proceed will receive a 50% rebate on all work performed - up to a maximum of \$4000 per home. To further sweeten the deal, there is low-interest (0% to 2%) financing available, a random drawing for a \$500 grand prize, and low-income residents can qualify to have the work done for free.

The Solarize phase, which begins in April, will encourage homeowners and small businesses to install rooftop solar panels during 2019 - because the 30% federal tax credit, the \$1000 New Hampshire state rebate, and a volume-based discount from our certified solar installer will only be available for a limited time.

In 2017 we began to study the feasibility of using solar panels to provide electricity for town-owned buildings. We now have a proposal in hand that, if constructed, will produce as much as 40% of our town facilities' electric needs – at no cost to the taxpayers, and with the potential for significant savings on our monthly electric bills. This will be a big step toward our goal of achieving 100% renewable electricity by 2030.

To accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, we are actively involved in helping local institutions install electric vehicle charging stations. At present New London has two charging stations; the Colby-Sawyer station which opened in September 2018, and the Inn at Pleasant Lake's station, in operation since 2016. We hope to see additional charging infrastructure along our Main Street in the future.

We welcome guests at our monthly meetings, which are held on the first Wednesday of the month at either 5 PM or 7 PM in the Syd Crook Conference Room. Check the Town Calendar for the correct time. Come share your energy and enthusiasm!

Respectfully submitted,

*Jamieson Hess*

Chair



*Hospital Days Parade.*