

4/26/10 (4)

Christine Joyce

From: Kate Crosby [kfcrosby@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2010 12:11 AM
To: Board of Selectmen
Cc: John Murray; Green Advisory Board
Subject: Update on Green Community Designation

Dear Selectmen,

We, the members of the Green Advisory Board, look forward to the opportunity to update you at the upcoming April 26th BoS meeting on the status of Acton's application for designation as a Green Community by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources.

This email is being sent as an update in advance of your meeting; additional materials will be included in your packet.

With remarkable effort from town staff, school staff and board members, we were able to successfully meet the **April 21** deadline for submission of a preliminary designation application to the DOER. This preliminary submission will be returned to us with feedback, and will assist us with preparing for the final version of the designation application, which must be submitted by **May 14**.

We are also in the midst of preparing to submit a grant application for a portion of the state funding available to municipalities which achieve Green Community designation. The deadline for this grant application is **May 28**.

Below is a summary of the five criteria that we must accomplish in order to achieve the Green Community designation, as well as an update on where we currently stand with each of them.

CRITERIA ONE: AS-OF-RIGHT SITING for renewable or alternative energy facilities for generation OR manufacturing OR R&D

This criteria was successfully met through approval of a warrant article at Town Meeting in June, 2009

CRITERIA TWO: EXPEDITED PERMITTING under which these same facilities may be sited within the municipality

DOER recently re-structured the requirements necessary to satisfy this criteria. We believe that Acton is in compliance with this criteria, and have submitted a letter from Town Counsel attesting to this with our preliminary application.

CRITERIA THREE: BASELINE ENERGY INVENTORY & PLAN FOR 20% ENERGY USE REDUCTION OVER 5 YEARS

The energy benchmarking for Acton's municipal and school facilities is complete, and town and school staff are now using EPA's Portfolio Manager software as a tool in tracking energy use. A plan for reducing energy use by 20% over five years is near completion, and we look forward to reviewing this with you at the April 26th meeting. This criteria requires that the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee adopt a 20% energy reduction plan as a comprehensive outline of actions to be taken over the next five years, though the plan is non-binding.

CRITERIA FOUR: FUEL-EFFICIENT VEHICLES are to be purchased where practicable and commercially available

4/23/2010

This criteria calls for the adoption of a policy by both the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee in which the Town states that it will purchase fuel-efficient vehicles where practicable and commercially available. Note that several categories of vehicles are exempt: police cruisers, fire trucks, ambulances, and public works trucks. The criteria also calls for submission of a vehicle inventory and a plan specifying the process for replacing vehicles over time.

CRITERIA FIVE: STRETCH ENERGY CODE

This criteria has been successfully met through approval of this warrant article at Town Meeting earlier this month.

We look forward to discussing this further with you at your April 26th meeting. You are warmly encouraged to contact us with any questions or comments that you might have in advance of the formal meeting.

Sincerely,
Kate Crosby
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