

Clean Energy Options for Milton; Taking The Long View

Milton as a Green Community is starting to show exciting results in both Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy, and is on its way to achieving the 25% Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Reduction set by the Massachusetts Clean Energy & Climate Plan for 2020. While this mandate may look aggressive, it underscores the concern on Beacon Hill for combined action on climate change and economic stimulus in the State, with a long view of an 80% reduction target in GHG emissions by 2050.

In December, Milton was awarded \$157,000 by the State Department of Energy Resources (DOER) for this Green Community designation. Details to best utilize the awarded money were submitted in late January. The targeted projects listed below were based on the required Energy Reduction Plan (ERP), coordinated by the Town with specific recommendations by an Energy Service consultant to maximize payback and support the energy baseline reductions of 29.3% the plan outlines for 2008 to 2013.

In this plan, \$15,000 is being allocated for insulation and boiler controls to the Police Station; \$9,300 for Insulation to the Council on Aging; \$35,000 for lighting improvements to the Pierce Middle School; \$6,000 for classroom heating work at Collicot Cunningham School; \$3,600 for motion sensory switching in Town Hall; \$20,000 for new sewer pumps; \$25,200 for retrofitting street lights w/ LCD conversion kits; \$3,000 for setback controls to the East Milton Fire Station; and \$40,000 to help offset costs of the Wind Turbine that will eventually defray over half of the current municipal electrical costs.

The three new Milton Solar Electric installations and the planned Wind Turbine will amount to approximately 27.7 % of the Town's municipal energy use. When added to the 29.3% energy reductions, Milton will be on an accelerated path towards a combined reduction of 57% in fossil fuel generated energy use. (see Town Website for realtime solar monitoring, and photo below??)

While we have made a good start, great opportunities remain for energy savings as our municipal energy footprint is less than 5% of the total energy used by the entire town. The Sustainable Milton / Eco Team incentives to reduce 20% of household energy use now involves over 50 Milton families. Voluntary tools through ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability USA) and the EPA Community Energy Challenge for businesses and institutions can also help Milton maintain its leadership as the Green, desirable and progressive community it strives to be. We are just a generation away from an 80% reduction target in Greenhouse emissions by 2050. The sooner we invest in this green transition, the softer the effects of climate change will be for those we love and who take over after us.

*Henry P. MacLean
Chair, Alternate Energy Committee, Town of Milton*