

Presentation from Town Council Meeting held September 2, 2008



My name is Ray Gwozdz, and on behalf of the Enfield Clean Energy Committee, I would like to thank you for having us here tonight. First, I would like to give you a quick update on some of the things we have been up to in the short time since we have been formed by the Council. From our first meeting forward, we took the direction of educating ourselves in the various types of clean energies available, the pros and cons of implementing each depending on the individual situation, the cost benefits and savings potential for the town, and the prospective involvement toward clean energy usage for local businesses and residents.

We have looked at what other towns and municipalities have done to increase clean energy usage, both locally and nationally, and how successful these ventures have been. Town Manager Coppler, our current staff liaison, has provided us with an abundant amount of information to help educate us to go forward in an effective direction, and his enthusiasm for the committee has been greatly appreciated. The same also goes for Councilman Jones, our Council liaison, who constructively assists in keeping a wide range of committee member personalities moving forward as a cohesive unit.

In the near future, we hope to roll out various programs directed to promote efficiency, conservation measures, and clean energy alternatives. We hope an energy audit of town municipal buildings will maximize efficiencies and conversely reduce increasing energy expenses. We hope to increase involvement by spreading understanding of clean energy programs through various media avenues such as seminars, pamphlets, and workshops, to help educate interested parties on alternatives, cost savings, grant awareness, and financial assistance.

We chose not to solely focus on town and municipal buildings, but also plan on working with various town committees and offices to increase involvement with local businesses and residents to help meet our clean energy goals. Many informational and financial programs are currently available within the State to move away from fossil-fuel generated energy and toward clean, renewable energy.

A specific program I would like to discuss in more detail is the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund. This completely voluntary program is highly touted by Gov. Rell and the State Legislature to help stimulate the state by promoting growth and demand for clean renewable energy sources. It has already assisted towns throughout Connecticut which have committed themselves to clean energy campaigns as Enfield has resolved itself to do. We have moved toward qualifying for this program by committing to the “20% by 2010 Clean Energy Campaign.” Once we do qualify, the Connecticut Clean Energy Communities Program would provide the town with various incentives, including solar energy systems from the CCEF. For every 100 resident and local business sign-ups in a community to the CT Clean Energy Options program, each town will earn a solar 1 kW clean energy system. There is no limit to the amount of solar system installations a town can earn as long as funding is still available.

By signing up, each resident or business will resolve to purchase clean energy through their choice of two sources; Community Energy or Sterling Planet. They have the choice of these clean energy utilities to provide either 50% or 100% of their

electricity from clean energy sources. Community Energy uses regional wind and solar generation, and Sterling Planet uses wind, solar, and local hydroelectric. Each voluntary sign-up for 100% clean energy usage counts as one toward the 100 goal, and 50% usage sign-up counts as ½. As of August 12th, the town of Enfield has 85.5 sign-up points for our 100 goal. This equates to a 0.6% of households town wide.

By signing up for this program, there will be an additional cost to residents as a separate line item on their utility bill. The current cost through Community Energy is \$0.013 per kWh used. Sterling Energy is comparable in price. I understand that with our current economic situation, it may be difficult for some residents to comprehend paying more on their electric bill, but I would like everyone to know that the cost is far from extravagant. On average, a typical Connecticut household uses about 700 kWh of electricity per month. A typical resident using this 700 kWh parameter that signs up for the 100% option would pay approximately \$8 more a month while a 50% usage sign-up would pay approximately \$4 a month.

For my own electric bill last month, the additional cost was \$3.04 for 100% clean energy usage, counting as one point toward our goal of 100 users. This revenue is included on my CL&P bill, but is forwarded to my elected clean energy provider to purchase clean energy for the power grid, not CL&P. Personally, I consider this added expense a small sacrifice toward increasing demand for clean energy in the region and moving toward membership in the CT Clean Energy Option as well as reducing the amount of carbon-based fuels burned to supply me with energy.

The members of the Clean Energy Committee have chosen to put their words into action and voluntarily joined the Clean Energy Option. I would like to challenge the members of the Council and any interested residents of the town of Enfield to do the same. Community Energy has provided us with informational brochures which, with your permission, I would like to display in the Town Hall lobby, and eventually also have them available at the public libraries. Any additional information and links to related websites can easily be gained online through the CT Clean Energy Fund website.

The environmental benefits of switching to clean energy sources with the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, combined with a long-term energy cost savings for the town will benefit everyone. As demand for clean energy increases, the cost will lower even more as additional residents and businesses take advantage of this program.

We hope to make any interested residents and local businesses more aware of this voluntary program, and encourage them to get involved.

We hope that by reaching at least our 100 sign-up goal and becoming active in the CT Clean Energy Options program, we can start to realize the advantages of clean energy and help dispel some of the misconceptions and preconceived notions of alternative energy use.

By educating and increasing awareness of the various existing programs through future workshops, seminars, and literature, our involvement will help us successfully reach the “20% by 2010” goal the town has resolved to achieve. Thank you.