

Salem Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy

Public Meeting Summary

Salem City Hall Annex, 120 Washington Street

October 20, 2009

On October 20, approximately 15 persons attended the first of two public meetings regarding the creation of the Salem Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy (EECS). The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) is working with an EECS Workgroup established by the city to complete and submit its strategy to the US Department of Energy by the end of December under the EECBG Program

Following introductions, a short overview of the EECBG was given as follows:

Summary of the EECBG

In September, Salem received \$174,300 of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds from the Department of Energy. These funds were directly allocated to the City as a provision in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA). The purpose of the EECBG is to encourage the implementation of projects and programs that will help reduce energy consumption in communities while also stimulating the economy and creating jobs.

The period of performance for the EECBG is 36 months, however the funds should be obligated/committed within 18 months from the effective date of award. For the City of Salem, this obligation date is March 4, 2011.

Key Aspects of the Strategy

As an initial requirement of the EECBG Program, the City must submit to DOE a proposed Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy. This strategy must discuss:

1. Measureable goals and objectives for the use of the EECBG funds that correspond with community-wide goals
2. Summary of activities that will be implemented with the EECBG
3. Description of coordination with surrounding communities and the state
4. Sustainable benefits that extend beyond the EECBG funding

Additionally, the Strategy should attempt to:

- Maximize benefits over the longest possible terms
- Target projects that provide substantial energy savings, job creation and economic stimulus effects.

- Leverage federal funds with other public and private resources
- Ensure oversight, transparency, and accountability for all program activities.

Potential EECS Projects

Draft projects were presented including:

- Traffic light retrofit from incandescent to LED fixtures. City Electrician and EECS Workgroup member John Giardi said that in addition to substantial savings from switching from the 100 watt standard traffic luminaire to the 23 watt LED fixture, the city would see recognize substantial labor savings as the LEDs last 9 years versus 1000 hours for a conventional traffic luminaire. John has identified 525 traffic light lamps and 290 walk signs for replacement at a total cost of \$120,510. National Grid will provide a \$45,000 rebate for this project.
- Paul L'Heureux, Salem School Department Director of Building Services, presented the School Department's energy conservation projects to date, including the retrofitting of the High School gym lights and the proposed retrofits of Exit Signs at the Bentley, Collins and Saltonstall Schools. The schools are seeking \$95,746.43 under the EECBG funding, which reflects a \$69,353 rebate from National Grid. Once all projects are implemented, Salem can anticipate energy savings of \$39,516.67 per year with a projected payback period from energy savings (without DOER funds) of 2.4 years.
- The city is also developing information and seeking proposals about installing photovoltaic panels about two parking garages in conjunction with National Grid.

Public Input and Comments

Public comments reflected support for programs and projects developed by the city and also included a desire to include the development of programs to enable city property owners to perform energy efficiency upgrades, perhaps through the use of a city or state revolving loan fund, energy efficient mortgages or related programs.

Long Range Planning and EECS Themes

Cindy Keegan, Chairman of the Salem Renewable Energy Task Force, reviewed projects completed or underway by the RETF including:

- Winter Island wind turbine- MET tower data study underway
- Drafting and adoption of wind turbine siting ordinance
- Solar panels bonus match at High School awarded by MassTech Collaborative for having the 5th highest GreenUp participation rate in MA
- Member of ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection with completed baseline emissions inventories for 2002 and 2004 with 2008 inventory underway using Salem State College intern
- Member of EPA and Keyspan Community Energy Challenges
- Case studies and press releases published on EE at local schools and waste water facilities

- Created Clean Energy Week program
- Helped establish North Shore Transportation Management Association to promote alternative commuting and transportation options, e.g. city bike path project
- Regional application to MA Green Communities program with Swampscott
- Future: explore possibility of establishing a Cape Light Compact type aggregator on the North Shore for the purchase of energy. The city currently is under a 2009 – 2016 energy purchase contract from the energy broker TransCanada

In addition, the city is completing an RFQ process to interview Energy Services Management Companies (ESCO) and is quite interested in developing a long term energy services management plan if an ESCO is selected.

Themes for the EECS: By consensus, meeting attendees agreed that the overall themes for the EECS should build on the current accomplishments of city staff and the RETF, the strong likelihood that the city will enter into a long-term energy services management plan and the city's commitment to becoming a certified Green Community under the MA Green Community Program.

Summary submitted by Sam Cleaves, MAPC