

COUNTY OF ULSTER
P.O. BOX 1800
KINGSTON, NEW YORK 12402

Environmental Committee:

Brian Shapiro, Chairman
Gary Bischoff
Dean J. Fabiano
Richard A. Parete
Laura Petit
Kevin Roberts
Hector Rodriguez



Environmental Committee
County Office Building, Legislative Library
244 Fair Street, Kingston, NY
6:00 PM, 10/15/08 - Minutes

Call to order:

6:05, Brian Shapiro, Chair

Present:

Brian Shapiro, Chairman; Gary Bischoff; Richard A. Parete; Laura Petit; Hector Rodriguez

Guests:

Jill Gruber, Hudson Valley Materials Exchange; Victor J. Melville, Kingston resident; Steve Noble, Chair, UC Environmental Management Council; Martin J. Reisinger, Deputy Coordinator, Ulster County Department of the Environment (DoE); Miriam Strouse, secretary, DoE

Agenda:

Department of the Environment – Martin J. Reisinger, Energy Policy
Old Business: Recycling
Environmental Management Council – Steve Noble, Chair
Hudson Valley Materials Exchange - Jill Gruber, Executive Director
Recycling Oversight Committee
Public comment – Victor Melville, Kingston resident

Department of the Environment:

Martin J. Reisinger distributed copies of the draft Ulster County Government Energy Policy and Ulster County Government Energy Policy Implementation Guidebook. The County Attorney is reviewing the Policy, and County Legislature staff is converting its language into a formal resolution.

The Policy's purpose is "to ensure that energy and resource efficiency are explicitly considered and examined throughout the County government and County decision-making." As mentioned at the September meeting, the Policy was developed with a free technical review, valued at \$5,000, from the US Department of Energy's Technical Assistance Program (TAP). TAP's experts advise state and local governments on "renewable energy and energy efficiency policies and programs." (For details, see September minutes)

The Policy's Implementation Guidebook details standards and strategies to reduce the County government's energy demand. This will benefit the County by reducing energy costs and greenhouse gas (CO₂) emissions.

The Policy also encourages expansion the County's renewable energy use. The Ulster County government already purchases 10% of its electricity in the form of clean and renewable wind energy generated in New York State. The Implementation Guidebook states that "this Energy Policy directs Ulster County Government to increase this purchase to 25% by 2013. This increased procurement of "Green Power" is consistent with the "Renewable Portfolio Standard" adopted by the New York State Public Service Commission on September 22, 2004 that requires 25% of the state's electricity to be supplied from renewable energy sources by 2013."

The Policy would also impact the County's vehicle fleet. Alan Lomita of the County Ways and Means Committee is considering a revised, "greener" fleet policy. By early 2009, there may be grant opportunities available to 'deploy diesel emission reduction technologies" through the EPA's National Clean Diesel Emerging Technologies Program. See www.epa.gov/cleandiesel

Legislators offered comments on the Policy. One recommended changing some of the Policy's *shoulds* to *shalls* to strengthen its recommendations. Another suggested clarifying technical jargon, such as *Green Globe* or *Silver LEED*, by adding a glossary or footnotes.

Ulster County Purchasing is about to release a request for proposals (RFP) for an energy performance contract. Energy Performance Contracting is an innovative financing technique that uses cost savings from reduced energy consumption to repay the cost of installing energy conservation measures. On October 23, Ulster County will be conducting a tour of County facilities for the firms intending to submit bids for the RFP. Once selected, the energy performance contractor would begin by performing a "total evaluation of all [Ulster County] operations and facilities." A performance contract will benefit the County by minimizing the cost and financial risk involved in implementing energy conservation measures. Mr. Reisinger clarified that an energy performance contract would not burden the County with additional costs, and would also insulate the County from escalating energy costs. However, the contract would not reduce County energy bills until the contractor had recouped their initial investment, which may take from 7-15 years. Once the services were paid for, the county would enjoy direct savings from the energy performance contract's measures.

<http://www.energyservicescoalition.org/resources/whatis.htm>

A discussion of the new LEC's prodigious energy use led to discussion of the merits of energy performance contracts relative to floating bonds to fund capital projects.

In response to a question about the role of Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Reisinger explained that they have already demonstrated strong support for energy conservation by implementing measures, including lighting retrofits and programmable thermostats, in many buildings.

Mr. Reisinger also reported that the Department of the Environment has been seeking estimates for photovoltaics (PV's) for the new salt shed planned for the County Fairgrounds. The structure's design includes a south facing roof to maximize the efficiency of any future PV installation. The Department has

been consulting with The Solar Energy Consortium (TSEC) on this project. For background on TSEC, see June '08 and September '08 minutes, and <http://thesolarec.org/>. Brian Shapiro will put the Energy Policy on the November agenda. In response to a question from Jill Gruber, he agreed that there will be a public comment session on the policy.

Old Business:

Recycling hearing officer recruitment:

Brian Shapiro, following up on the September Environmental Committee meeting, spoke with John Sennett and Shane Gallo, who are both open to serving as independent hearing officers. He had also invited Lou Klein to consider this position, but to date has not has a response. Hector Rodriguez will reach out to Andrew Kossover in the Public Defender's office. *Note:* First Assistant County Attorney Bea Havranek, who had briefed the Committee on this topic at the September meeting, was not present tonight.

State Fish and Wildlife Board:

Rich Parete consulted with Joe Liuni, head of Ulster County Federated Sportsmen, after the September Committee meeting. Mr. Liuni declined to serve as the Board representative, but recommended Roger Walters to fill the vacant Ulster County Federated Sportsmen seat on the NYS DEC Region 3 Fish & Wildlife board. Mr. Walters is willing to serve on the Board. Also, William Wiklow has agreed to fill the vacant Ulster County landowner seat on the Board. Richard Parete moved, and Hector Rodriguez seconded, a resolution to appoint Mr. Walters and Mr. Wiklow to the Board. The Resolution passed unanimously.

Environmental Management Council:

Steve Noble reported that, as the new chair of the Environmental Management Council, he intends to continue John Maylie's successful efforts to expand CAC participation in the EMC. In other news, he and several other EMC members will be attending the annual New York State **Conference on the Environment** on October 17-19 in Canton, NY. This year's conference theme is *Citizen Science*. For information, see www.NYSCOE.org.

Recycling Oversight Committee:

Laura Petit requested updated reports from UCRRA on recycling and household hazardous waste collection. She would like to see charts, broken out by recyclable material, comparing the current year's tonnage reports with last year's. She requested a cost analysis of the recent household hazardous waste collection. She also noted that UCCRA's current minutes are not yet available on its website. The Committee asked Steve Noble to bring these requests and concerns back to the Recycling Oversight Committee.

Hudson Valley Materials Exchange (HVME):

Jill Gruber asked the County for assistance finding a truck and driver to spend a couple of hours rearranging the storage (truck body) trailers at HVME's New Paltz site. The Committee agreed to help her access a truck and driver; Brian Shapiro and Steve Noble will liaison with her to facilitate the process.

Public comment:

Victor Melville reported an innovative Poughkeepsie wind power demonstration project. Hudson Valley Center for Innovation client AeroCity will be using funding from a competitive \$1,000,000 NYSERDA grant to bring green jobs and innovation to the region by building more “helix type” turbines. This turbine is appropriate for congested urban settings, as it can take wind from any direction. Ulster County based Fala Tech, a member of TSEC, has the contract to build 25 turbines in Lake Katrine; AeroCity President Bill Jacoby has announced that larger units are in the “visioning” stage. See attached document.

Department of the Environment – draft Environmental Plan Status Report:

In response to a question about the status of the Plan, Mr. Reisinger reported that Amanda LaValle has reviewed the Plan with the Committee, invited additional comments from the coordinated departments, and revised the Plan. In addition, the full Legislature has had an opportunity to comment on the revised Plan. However, no comments have been submitted. Brian Shapiro would like to put Plan approval on the November agenda; Hector Rodriguez will check the Department of the Environment’s enabling resolution to confirm that this is the Plan approval process.

Adjourn:

At 7:25, Brian Shapiro made a resolution to adjourn. Hector Rodriguez seconded the resolution, which passed unanimously.

Minutes prepared by Miriam Strouse