

## **RYE ENERGY COMMITTEE SUMMARY OF INITIATIVES**

### **2007 TO 2019**

The Board of Selectmen established Rye Energy Committee (REC) in 2007

- To assess the energy use of the Town of Rye based on available information
- To evaluate energy conservation and air emission reduction practices recommended by State and Federal agencies and used by other municipalities for the Town of Rye
- To evaluate and recommend energy conservation and emission reduction alternatives for Town residents.

### **Initiatives of REC**

#### Programs for Residents/Homeowners

- Resident Energy Efficiency - informational programs on energy efficiency and programs to assist homeowners with energy audits and efficiency upgrades
- Residential Solar Power – tours of local homes with solar power and other alternative energy sources through Energize 360 program
- Informational programs on energy use and sustainability
- Farmers market

#### Municipal Programs

##### Energy and Lighting Audits

- Elementary school and junior high completed in 2008
- Town Hall, Garage, Public Safety Building and the Library in 2009-2010
- Recommendations for heating and cooling system upgrades, insulation, and air leakage made at these facilities.

**With the help of then State Representative David Borden, a \$377,000 grant was obtained from Community Block Grant.**

##### Energy Efficiency Implementation

- Heating systems for schools, insulation, air leak sealing among recommendations implemented

- A geothermal heating and cooling system was installed at the Town Hall.
- Energy Audits were revisited in 2018 by REC. School maintenance manager Jim Gordon is implementing many new energy saving measures but additional needs remain. Other buildings have updated systems and insulation as well, but additional work remains to be done.
- Eversource completed an audit of lighting at the schools, the public safety building and the library in 2019 at the request of REC and significant cost and energy savings are possible if implemented.

Two **town wide energy reports** were written by REC detailing town building and department energy use and tracking associated carbon emission. We continue to track usage and have developed charts showing energy usage at many town buildings for display.

An energy chapter was added to the **Master Plan** in 2013.

REC and Rye Conservation Commission requested selectman support for **studying offshore wind in the Gulf of Maine with Maine and Massachusetts**. Selectman wrote letter of support to Governor Sununu in 2017 and in 2019 Governor Sununu wrote in support of this effort to US Department of Interior.

Since 2016 REC has researched installation of **solar arrays** at town buildings or properties.

Since formation of the committee in 2007, we have incorporated the goals of energy security and cost savings in our approach to assisting the Town. The Rye Master Plan Energy Chapter calls for reducing the Town's energy use by aligning with the goals of the NH Climate Action Plan. This plan calls for a 20% reduction of carbon dioxide emissions below 1990 levels by 2025. Some progress has been made toward this goal by working to reduce heating and cooling costs through insulation, improved lighting and windows in many town and school buildings and through geothermal system installation at the town hall, but there is more work to be done.

Tonight we will be presenting the findings and recommendations on **solar array installation and the 2019 lighting audit**. Howard Kalet will present on solar array assessment and Tom Pfau will summarize the lighting audit and recommendations.

#### **Rye Energy Committee Members**

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|----------------------|------|
| Danna Truslow, Chair | 2011 |
| Howard Kalet         | 2013 |
| Tom Pfau, Secretary  | 2016 |
| Michael Joyce        | 2017 |
| Matt Marra           | 2018 |
| Carl Nicolino        | 2018 |