

Rye Energy Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 3, 2022 2:30 – 4:00 PM

NH Room, Rye Public Library

1. **Attendance** - Carl Nicolino, Tom Pfau, Howard Kalet, Lisa Sweet

2. **March and April Meeting Minutes Approval** - Howard made the motion to accept both sets of minutes; Lisa seconded; motion was approved unanimously.

3. Rye Committee Policies

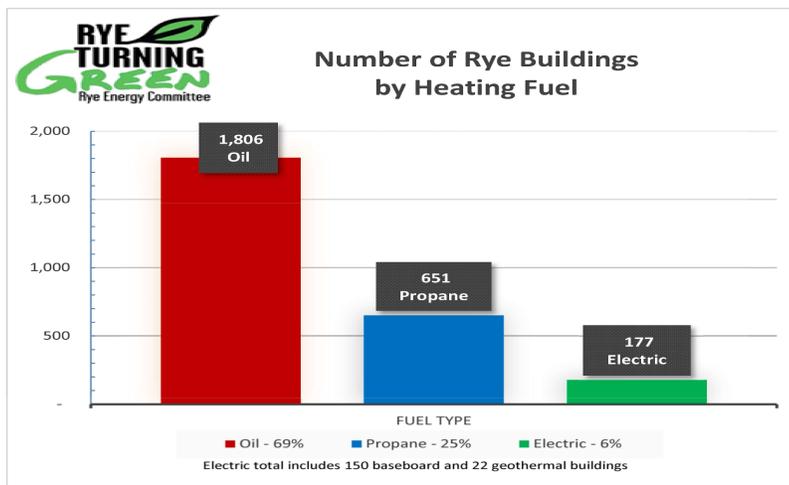
We have unlimited terms. We have openings on the committee. If the committee were full, we will have elections to make sure anyone who would like to serve may do so.

4. Clean Energy NH Dues [VOTE]

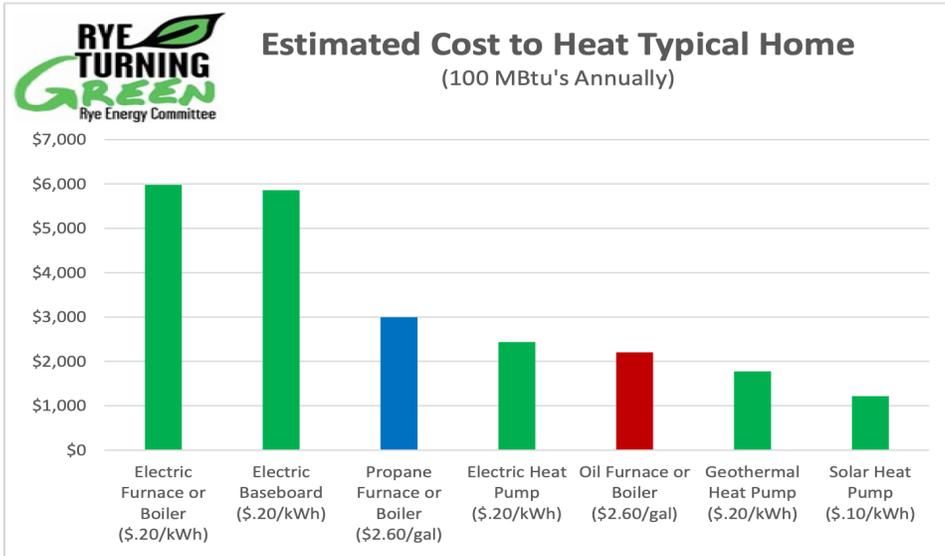
Howard made a motion to continue membership in Clean Energy New Hampshire. Carl seconded the motion The motion was approved unanimously. The dues are \$300 a year.

5. Discussion of heating system emissions and operating costs

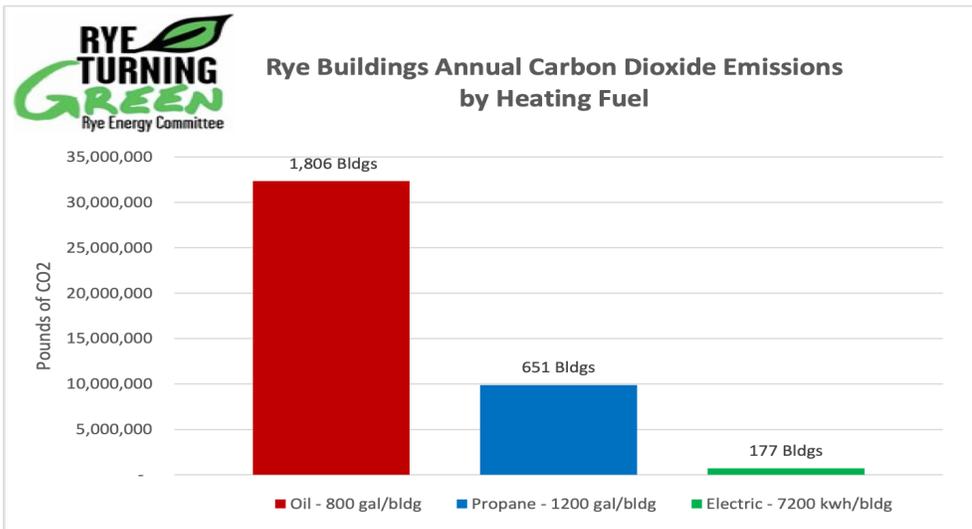
We learned the number of buildings in town and how they are heated from information provided by the Rye Assessing Department. The charts below were created to visually present the information.



This chart shows the number of Rye buildings by type of heating fuel. The few buildings heated by wood and coal were not included.



This shows the average cost to heat a 2,500 sf home by electric furnace or baseboard is the most expensive while heating by propane or oil is less. Heating with a geothermal or solar powered heat pump would be the least expensive.



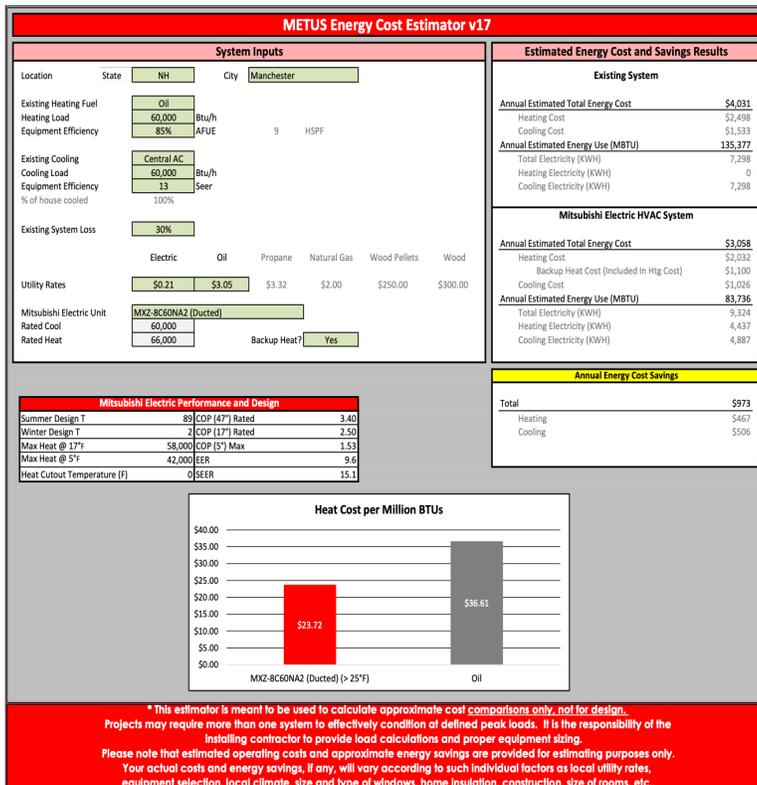
This chart shows the total pounds of CO2 emitted by different types of heating fuels. Assuming an average oil-heated building uses 800 gallons of oil per year, the 1,806 oil-heated buildings produce over 32 million pounds of CO2 per year, while the 651 buildings heated by propane using about 1,200 gallons per year produce almost 10 million pounds of CO2 annually and the 177 buildings heated with electricity produce less than 1 million pounds of CO2 per year.

So the least expensive and cleanest way to heat a building is a solar-powered electric air or ground source heat pump.

These charts show that Rye residents have great potential to reduce their heating costs and CO2 emissions by converting their home heating systems from oil to propane or to electric heat pumps when possible and practical. Forced air furnaces can be converted to ducted heat pump systems. Hot water heat pump systems (radiators or

baseboards) are not yet available in the US, but the technology is available in Europe and will be available in the coming years.

While the installation cost of heat pumps could be 10% higher than conventional boilers and furnaces, the operating costs and the CO2 emissions are significantly lower. Also, heat pumps not only provide warmth in the cold months but also cooling in the hot months.



This chart provided by Mitsubishi compares the estimated operating cost of an air source heat pump to an oil furnace. Using a 5-year average cost of \$3.05 for fuel oil, it shows an estimated annual savings of \$973 to heat and cool an average home.

Actions to consider:

- Invite Mitsubishi rep or HVAC contractor to present at public info session
- Talk to Building Inspector about ways to educate builders and homeowners about heating systems options
- Invite Clean Energy to do a heat pump presentation
- Add info to REC webpage and create some educational materials

6. Building Code Enforcement

The NH residential Building Code has recently changed to require new homes to pass a more stringent blower door test. The previous code allowed homes to have up to 7 Air Changes per Hour while the current code says homes must have fewer than 3 ACH. The Rye Building code says builders must provide results from a blower door test

in order to receive an Certificate of Occupancy. Tom agreed to talk with the Building Inspector to find out whether the Town is enforcing the new requirement.

7. TD Bank Town Hall Annex Update

There was only one bid submitted for renovating the Town Hall Annex and it was rejected based on cost. The contractor was asked to revise their proposal and their response is due on 5/9. Their initial proposal did not include a price for a heat pump, only for a propane furnace. We asked that they include a heat pump estimate in their revised proposal. They may not do so as Town Hall employees report they are cold all the time because the geothermal heat in current Town Hall is apparently not operating properly. The employees use space heaters for supplemental heating. It was news to the Energy Committee that the building is uncomfortable. Energy Committee members will try to do walk-thru with Dowling, the heating contractor.

- We need to get more info on issues at Town Hall. (Tom)
- Continue to monitor the proposal.

8. Community Power/CPCNH Update

8.1 Update on Annual Meeting

New officers were selected. Clifton Below (assistant mayor of Lebanon, former state rep and senator, former PUC chair) will serve as Chair, Chris Parker (assistant manager for Dover) will serve as Vice Chair, Kim Quirk (Revision Energy) as treasurer, Doria Brown (energy manager for Nashua) as secretary, and April Salas (Tuck School of Business, Sustainability Director for Hanover) will serve as Immediate Past Chair.

The RFP for Services and Credit Support was issued on April 25. This is an informative and comprehensive document and those interested are encouraged to read it to learn more about the Community Power Coalition of NH and how it will operate. See cpcn-h.org.

8.2 Rulemaking Update

The PUC is expected to release the final proposal for Community Power rules in the near future. Once they are released, Lebanon plans to re-submit its Energy Aggregation Plan with an appendix providing additional or clarifying information. If this is approved, other members with approved Energy Aggregation Plans will be encouraged to resubmit their plans.

Meanwhile the final proposed rules will head to JLCAR for final review. The finalized rules are expected to be finished this summer.

3. Modifications to Energy Aggregation Plan (EAP) – Technical Appendix

CPCNH is hoping to make revisions/clarifications to approved EAPs as easy as possible for members and their governing bodies. They plan to prepare an appendix providing additional or clarifying information for the PUC.

8.4 Present Modifications to Select Board at May 9 or 23 meeting

This is not needed now. When there is more clarity on the rules, the energy committee will ask the Select Board to review and approve the amended EAP so that it can be submitted to the PUC for approval. Rye is hoping to be poised to commence Rye Community Power in the spring of next year.

Next Tuesday's Member Operations and Engagement Committee meeting will have Samuel Golding presenting on the implementation process.

8.5 Procurement Partner discussion

The energy committee will invite brokers that may be offering to supply power to community power programs to speak at a future meeting(s) so that we can compare procurement providers.

8.6 Ongoing Community Education

Lisa will propose a plan to help educate the community about Community Power before it launches.

There is a NH Network presentation on Community Power on Monday May 9 at 5:30 on Zoom.

Tom will promote on Next Door.

Rye Energy Committee needs to get cost tracking for implementing program started prior to any further legal reviews.

9. Discussion: Breakfast Hill Landfill → Solar: postponed discussion; will check with Clark Fenner to see what deadlines there may be for project

10. New Business

Rye School Board will be getting bids for updating the roofs.

11. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:40. Our next meeting will be June 7, 2022 at the Library.