IREC Steering Committee Meeting
August 5, 2021


1. Additions/changes to agenda: Books we are reading/recommend. See endnote.

2. High Impact Projects: Geoff noted that in Year I of the IREC collaboration, many projects that he worked on were town-specific. He and Erica raise the question: In Year II, what can we do to leverage the fact that we have seven towns? Discussion:
   * Concerns: Is our focus residential or municipal? Doc sees solar as being his main focus in Strafford, but since conversion to solar/renewables is doing well, should consider giving more attention to transportation and weatherization? Erica: wood heating being promoted as a positive goal. Elizabeth: forests, carbon sinking capacity, rapid increase in opportunity to enroll in carbon certificate market (similar issues to RECs). General: accuracy of data offered for the Enhanced Energy Plan process by TRORC.
   * Questions: If we chose transportation as a focus, possibly do a survey to get accurate data?

Action: Geoff will send out an email to solicit feedback from us.

3. VLITE — Vermont Low-Income Trust for Electricity. This group awards grants that lessen energy burden and further the goals of the Comprehensive Energy Plan. Geoff raises the question of putting together a proposal: as people need to replace heating systems, vehicles, etc, we would have a pool of funds to cover the incremental difference between the climate choice and the conventional choice. This would be a 0% loan.

Discussion: We agreed that EVT has a role to play. Doc advocates for their sharpening their focus on getting people off fossil fuels. No clear action decided upon.

4. HERS: how to move forward most effectively?

Discussion/ideas: Involve energy committees and planning commissions? Try to move ahead in all IREC towns, or all interested ones, simultaneously? Make this a workshop at the annual VECAN conference?

Actions: 1. Each person find a good central contact in town. 2. Create a FAQ sheet. 3. Geoff will pursue further in 1:1 meetings.

5. Net Metering: Geoff let us know about an opportunity to comment on a low-income community solar program that CEDF is developing. The straw proposal includes 3rd party financing, selling RECs, giving a discount to participants. We have some serious concerns.

Note deadline: August 18.

Actions: 1. Geoff will check with Peter to see if he can comment on behalf of our group; if so, he will draft and circulate a response. 2. Any of us can also submit comments.

6. Endnote: What we are reading and/or recommend:
   
   *Landmarks* and *The Wild Places* by Robert MacFarlane
   *The Ministry of the Future* by Kim Stanley Robinson
   *Limits to Growth* by Dennis and Donella Meadows
   *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson
   *Blood and Treasure: Daniel Boone and the Fight for America’s First Frontier* by Robert Drury and Tom Clavin
   *The Magic Treehouse* (read aloud with son Sol) by Mary Pope Osborne