

CITY OF MONONA
Sustainability Committee
Thursday, July 11, 2019
MINUTES - FINAL

1. **Call to Order**

6:30 PM – Meeting called to order by Alder Molly Grupe

2. **Roll Call**

Members Present: Dan Costello, Molly Grupe, Teresa Radermacher, Susan Vogt

Members Absent: Chair Nancy Moore, Mark Buffat, Pat Howell, Sarah Smith

Staff Present: Brad Bruun, Caitin Hartnett

Guests: None

3. **Approval of June 13th Meeting Minutes**

4. **Public Appearances**

5. **Unfinished Business**

A. Resident Energy Survey Summary Report – Staff Update

The results from the Resident Energy Survey indicate that residents are interested in having solar installations on their own homes, as opposed to buying from a third-party or solar co-op. Overall, there was generous support for renewable energy and energy efficiency. Concerns about potential projects involved questions over return on investments and upfront costs associated with renewable energy and energy efficiency upgrades to their homes.

B. National Night Out Workgroup Update (Teresa, Dan, Mark)

The Energy Showcase at the National Night Out event will take place on August 16, 2019 from 5–7:30 PM.

Teresa reported that the following groups would be attending with relevant demo's and information:

- Electric Cars – 3-4 vehicles will be on display
- Slow Roll – helmets, bikes, and repairs
- Cargo Bike Shop – family style, larger bikes on display
- Electric Lawnmowers – community member demo and test-drives
- Madison Permaculture Group – free drawing for consultation to no-mow lawn
- Madison Gas and Electric – pop up tent, electric vehicles
- RENEW WI / MadiSUN – information available
- Sustainability Committee Table – “brag board,” sign, Monona Transit, OEI grant info, Clean Energy Resolution, Resident Energy Survey

C. Energy Campaign Workgroup Update (Molly, Pat, Susan, Sarah)

After meeting, this workgroup decided that targeted messaging would be the best way to distribute information on sustainable energy consumption in the community. Stratifying information for various audiences will increase the likelihood that individuals will be receptive to the message at hand, and will implement the strategies.

In order to launch the campaign, the workgroup is developing a brand, including logos, phrases, and associated images. Yard signs seemed like a popular option.

A guide for new homebuyers, which would explain various sustainable energy use considerations in addition to outlining the Renew Monona Program, was also brought up again.

D. MadiSUN – Staff Update

Teresa reported that approximately 30 people attended the MadiSUN event held at the Monona Library on June 25 – a record turnout, Heather Allen stated.

E. OEI Update – Staff Update

Early analysis of Monona’s options to increase clean energy consumption has indicated that the City has two primary options moving forward: participating in Madison Gas & Electric’s (MGE) Renewable Energy Rider (RER) program, or opting into a Shared Solar agreement, also with MGE. Both programs have their perks.

Participation in the RER program would give the City a lasting investment, at with a locked-in rate of 6¢ per kWh for 30 years, with a 2% inflation rate. To make the project worthwhile for MGE, 5 MW capacity is a minimum requirement for demand in addition to City ownership of the land to be used for the solar site. Monona has neither the land for this type of project or the necessary energy demand, so this option would require partnering with cities in the area. An example of the RER program is Middleton’s solar installation at their airport.

Shared Solar would expand the City’s capacity to be more flexible in the coming years, as opt-in/out participation is available. Monona would be able to purchase onto MGE shared solar programs where there is space on arrays already built, or scheduled to be built, for example, the Dane County Airport. However, these installations cap out at 50% of the City’s demand, and thus would not be able to satisfy 100% of the City’s energy usage. The going rate for this option is 10.8¢ per kWh with no inflation. 14-15% of the overall capital investment by the City would need to be made up front.

6. **New Business**
7. **Action Items**
8. **Adjournment**

Next Meeting: Thursday, August 8th at 6:30 PM.

Any questions or additions please notify Brad Bruun, bbruun@ci.monona.wi.us – Thank you.