

Northfield Energy Committee

8/1/17 Special Meeting - Steve Grout, Senior Account Executive, Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) regarding Ag-Grid net metering credits on gas digester in Granville, MA.

Lynn called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m.

Present: Collin Cheek, Julia Blythe, Bob Pasteris, Susan O'Connor, Lynn Hansell, Annie Chappell, and Steve Grout

Steve Grout presented about the opportunity for Northfield to save 15% on $\frac{2}{3}$ of bill (\$.0.85 cents to the dollar) on energy bill for municipal buildings through a net metering credit mechanism. This would be through a gas digester. There are two gas digester projects coming online. The first is in Granville at 3.2 Mw and the second one is in Hatfield at 1.9 Mw.

Since 2011, Northfield has purchased electricity from HCOG, a national supplier/generator. We lock in a fixed rate. Substance of energy source is negotiated in contract. Our current (new) contract is 100% renewable from solar, wind and hydro in different ratios at different times.

Bob asks if the contract is 100% green, why do we need the biogas? Net metering credits on delivery through Eversource which is raising its delivery rates. Susan asks, what other towns are involved with this project? Steve replies that he doesn't have that info now but will get it to us through Julia. Biogas has a steady supply year-round; a big advantage over other renewables. Rockwood Farm in Granville farm will use manure from 600 animals, along with organic material from food processing plants to produce energy through anaerobic digestion. It will produce 3.3 million Kw hours of electricity.

Biodigester has 4 useful byproducts

Methane - Burned onsite for electricity production

Heat - Dairy farm will use the heat from decomposition to for heating barn, home, etc. during heating season to replace oil and wood.

Sterile solid waste used for bedding in cow pens for bedding/mulch

Liquid waste contains nitrogen to fertilize fields.

Significantly lowers the amount of methane put into the environment

A municipality will sign a 10 year agreement, we can adjust participation each year with a 12 month lead time. Steve says we could start at a higher percentage and cut back

later if we want to, but points out that topping our percentage might be harder later on if all of the contracts are topped out.

Julia would like to have Energy Committee support when they have this biogas net metering proposal on their agenda 8/15. If the Selectboard approves the proposal, a letter of intent (with the % of our use we want to contract for) from Selectboard needs to go to HCG. Steve suggests ASAP in order to clinch our spot.

Julia would like the Energy Committee to either attend their meeting on 8/15 or write a letter of support to be sent to the Selectboard in advance.

Do we want to support the proposal to buy in to net this net metering opportunity? If so, at what % of town's annual use buy-in would we recommend? Lynn makes a motion to recommend 80% of 2016 annual town use. Collin seconds.

Discussion. Bob feels that more information is needed. He wants to not jump in before it has been tried and tested first.

Research to do:

1. About HCOG as manager: on credit management
2. Susan calls Jim from DOER
3. Annie talks to CEE
4. Check out AG-grid LLC
5. How much support does farm get on operations?
6. Bob will check with Vermont

Questions to ask:

1. How long has technology been around?
2. What do we know about HCOG as manager?
3. What do we know about AG-grid?
4. What % to go for?

Also talked about:

1. September 19 multi-town meeting. Tim and CEE can do that date
2. Fire station thinking of building facility on same property. We should talk to Town Manager to make sure he gets people to coordinate on this and on NES historical projec