

Glen Rock Environmental Commission Meeting of February 18th 2014

Minutes of the Meeting:

Attendees: Scott King, Paul Sharar, Laura Jones (H.S. Senior), Sylvia Rabacchi, Charles Nebbia, Mark McCullough, Gloria Doyle, Mike Mulholland and Scott Fischer from Ciel Power

The meeting was called to order at 7:35pm EST.

Laura Jones reviewed the HS Environmental Club Memo on the proposal to phase out Styrofoam trays and to have a hydration station installed in the cafeteria.

Sylvia read email that Elaine Howe sent to Pomptonian regarding the phase out of Styrofoam trays.

Scott Fisher and Michael Mulholland from Ciel Power discussed the Home Energy Audit. The borough wide program will provide 20% of the points for recertification to Sustainable New Jersey. Ciel has been the prime contractor on several HEA programs including Woodbridge, Princeton and Highland Park NJ. The HEA program is a very effective way to partner with local Environmental Commissions. There are a total of up to \$15,000 worth of incentives available to make upgrades. \$5,000 cash back and \$10,000 (financed at 0% for up to 10 years) for more efficient upgrades. They are an accredited program through ??? The GREC could write a letter for the Mayor to publish in the GR Gazette along with a newspaper article announcing the rollout of the program.

The Ciel reps suggested to kickoff the effort that GREC should invite the media from the Patch, the Gazette, etc to generate buzz and to host information/kickoff meeting at the library etc. Ciel would then send out a mailing on their services (they pay for postage). 10% participation was realized in Woodbridge. Ciel's HEA collects 250 data points on a home. Their engineer then enters data into software provided from NJ Home Performance with Energy Star program. The software generates projected energy savings based on the homeowners bills that they have submitted. There is a different program for commercial enterprises. Mark suggested using the GR Historical Society as there are 30 or 40 marquee properties that could generate more buzz. It is a tiered program: older homes quantify for maximum available incentives. As you migrate to newer homes the incentives are different.

Health and Safety are part of the audit, including checking for asbestos, furnace back-drafting, knob and tube wiring etc. There are additional incentives available for health and safety issues such as knob and tube wiring, failed/leaking combustion appliances, etc. HEA determines how a house loses/wastes energy. Why do houses have such wide seasonal swings. As part of the HEA, a Blower door tests is performed which depressurizes the house (positive pressure outside). They'll use thermal imaging cameras that show, in color where the air is infiltrating the house....they'll know how leaky the house is (if your roof leaks call roofer, if sink leaks, call plumber, but who call if the house leaks? (Ciel). The audit looks at all exposed gas lines for leaks, checks exhaust from all combustion devices, and uses a monometer probe to measure draft out of appliances.

After the audit and number crunching, Ciel presents the report to the homeowner, with recommendations to improve energy efficiency. Ciel does look at the windows (are they one or two panes?) but windows are not a component of the program due to the nominal difference in energy efficiency realized....triple pane argon gas will have 3.5 R factor. It's more efficient to further insulate walls as they occupy a far greater percentage of a house's square footage than windows. In California, they have a certification for HEAs, and they find that houses sell 8-10% higher for comparable house.

Ciel energy audits bring your house up to 2014 specifications. Insulation was an after thought in many old homes. They have nothing to do with the financing which depends on the credit rating. The rebates cover the cost of the work performed most of the time. The house is "tested in", and then it is "tested out"There is a 1 in 10 chance that the state will test after Ciel's audit. Ciel provides reports on both the "test in" and the "test out" to show the efficiency gains. Every PSE&G bill has a fee (public good fee) that is where the money comes from to fund the program. They sell mechanical service (HVAC) but don't uplift the price from their subcontractors. They maintain the standards of building performance institute which are higher than PSE&G standards, (that aren't subject to accrediting agency).

Fiscal year ends 6/30 of every year, and the state program is normally renewed every year. There is a high probability that they will be renewed. The decision will be made the end of MayNext steps:

Next steps for HEA:

1. Come up with logo/slogan
2. Mayor letter
3. Gazette article
4. Kickoff

The meeting was adjourned.