

The Broome County Energy Advisory Board met on Tuesday, March 10th, 2009 in the Broome County Library, Binghamton, New York.

Members Present: Jason Garnar, Kathy Bevelecqua, Mike Pandich, Don Cumming, Lou Roma, Les Platt, Dennis Mastro, Chris Burger, Amelia LaDolce, Guy Caroselli, David Westfall, John Smigelski, John Patterson, Mike Lynch, John Smigelski, Ruth Ann White, John Gerty, Sharon Ramsay, Rock Mancini, Mitch Curatold, Paul Ginzalez, Norka Vera, Marcia Ward, Quintin Bullis

The Board meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:00 p.m.

The committee continued their discussion about possible stimulus projects. The idea of a weatherization program for all income levels, initially funded by stimulus dollars, was a topic of much discussion. Sharon Ramsay volunteered to lead a sub-committee to put together a weatherization proposal and officially apply for stimulus dollars for the program. Tompkins County has already started something like this, and the City of Binghamton is also interested. Dennis Mastro stated that it is imperative that any type of program use a systemic and collaborative approach, which would include school and career exploration, and work-force training. Education about these programs is key: there are already existing weatherization programs in the area for low-income residents, but very few people know about them.

Amelia LaDolce said that now that the Federal Energy Block grant will be funded, both the City of Binghamton and Broome County will most likely receive significant amounts of money for alternative energy and energy efficiency projects. Amelia would like to see more money for the county recycling program.

Several people discussed the need for training. Could Broome County be the hub of an energy efficient training center which would train people for the Green Jobs that are expected to be created soon? BCC is a training center for NYSERDA, and they would like to expand their certifications.

There was some discussion about emerging solar panel technology, with the possibility of a company who builds solar panels being interested in expanding to Broome County. One resident discussed methane gas extraction at the county landfill and would like to see the gas used for other purposes, such as fueling buses.

Legislator Garnar presented legislation which would require Broome County adopt energy efficient building practices in new construction and rehabilitation, and in addition would give the department of public works the ability to develop energy efficient policies at each county buildings. The board approved the legislation, which will be introduced in April.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.