

Broome County Energy Advisory Board Minutes
Tuesday, August 8th, 2008

The Broome County Energy Advisory Board met on Tuesday, August 8th, 2008 in the Legislative Conference Room, Sixth Floor, Edwin L. Crawford County Office Building, Binghamton, New York.

Members Present: Chris Burger, Don Cumming, Dennis Mastro, Mike Pandich, Kathy Bevelacqua, John Smigelski, John Gerty, Rick Mancini, Louis Roma, Les Platt, Alan Hertel, Bonny Eberly, Mike Lynch, Ken Kamlet, Bob Pass, Jammie Simmonds, and Jason Garnar.

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

The meeting began with the Board's approval of the previous meeting's minutes.

Report for Facilities Committee:

Discussion focused on how to implement the goals and recommendations of the facilities committee. Some people pointed out that Onondaga County has an "energy czar" position, but many other counties such as Broome County do not, and since we don't have this it is hard to coordinate these efforts across departments. Some members wondered whether the county could offer incentives to departments who achieve certain energy efficiency benchmarks. Nathalie Maxwell answered a number the board's questions regarding how the budget is prepared and how energy efficiencies are factored into the budget. Nathalie said that her department is looking at the recommendations from the sub-committee and have already implemented some of them. Many of these decisions are made on the available of money, which in today's economy is in short supply. The board felt that it would be beneficial to talk to the Director of Planning, Rita Petkash, about how energy efficiencies are factored into the cost of capital projects such as the Binghamton Intermodal Bus Station. Jason will contact Rita and ask her if she is available to meet with the board next month. The board also discussed the possibility of third-party negotiation of energy performance projects.

Report for Transportation Committee:

Jason mentioned that he spoke to the Binghamton Metropolitan Transit Study and that they are interested in developing the "Green Ride" program that was discussed last month.

Report for Energy Sources and Land Use Committee:

The committee reported that a number of communities are now installing solar panels on brownfields. There was also a discussion about urban wind generators how to get funding for them. Windmapping was also discussed, with the possibility of obtaining wind mapping grants from NYSERDA. The county could also look to Assemblywoman Lupardo and State Senator Libous's office for grants, as well.

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

