

Crosslands Energy Committee Meeting 9/14/21

Ben James welcomed members to the in-person meeting at 1:00 pm. The minutes from 6/6/21 were approved. No additions were offered to the agenda.

Ben James read the mission statement and summarized the committee efforts to implement the goals outlined in that statement in conjunction with the Kendal Energy Committee and the KCC staff.

Ben reported on the response of residents to the Peak Day Energy Reduction program during the hot summer weather. Residents signed up to curb electricity use from 4 -6 pm on the days they received an email alert. 103 units in Crosslands and 140 in Kendal responded to the challenge. By reducing energy use during these peak use hours, residents could reduce the cost of electricity for KCC as well as reduce the community's carbon footprint.

Since KCC units are not individually metered, residents are not aware of energy consumption. Bob Whitlock, Cartmel (which does have individual meters) reported on one of the methods for determining where energy losses are, though it is expensive. He arranged with PECO to conduct a blower test in several units in his neighborhood. The results showed a wide variation between units.

We want to measure our carbon footprint reduction from our conservation efforts, but we only know the total energy use for the KCC. The charging of electric cars needs to be assessed as more residents buy these cars and charge them at the stations at the center and in carports. Ben James asked for volunteers to form a sub-committee to investigate resident vehicle use so we can estimate energy in the future. He submitted a rough draft of a Transportation Energy Survey. Spencer Ervin, Pete Lane and Dick Haden will work with Ben on this effort.

Report on installation of LED light bulbs in public spaces of Crosslands campus: There are over 500 fixtures to change over. Residential use of LED bulbs in desk and floor lamps may be hindered by residents' need for brighter light than produced by the more popular LED sizes. Other questions: Would KCC supply 100-150 Watt equivalent LED bulbs to residents? Does PECO now supply LED bulbs on request? The committee will return to these questions next month.

Dick Kline, also a member of the KCC Board - Plant and Stewardship Committee, reported on the plans for installation of solar arrays proposed for the new Woolman building. That committee and the KCC Board Finance Committee will consider the solar panel installation during the next budget cycle. Dick feels such panels would be a visible demonstration of our concern for sustainable living as well as providing renewable energy.

Dick Haden reported for the Climate Resilience Working Group, which is not a committee, but works with and through other committees to raise awareness and encourage action in energy conservation and sustainability, such as:

Less beef consumption, Recycling, Use of LED light bulbs and Electric lawn equipment. They have connections with SSAFE, the Senior Stewards Acting for the Environment. This All Kendal organization provides educational materials, which can be used in developing messages for our Energy Display in the Center.

The meeting adjourned at 2:10. In attendance:

Ben James, Dick Haden, Barbara Grove, Bruce Taggart, Spencer Ervin, Dick Kline, Peter Lane, Bob Whitlock and Steve Madsen.