

Energy Committee Meeting Minutes September 12, 2023

Attendees: Ben James, Barbara Grove, Bob Foley, Fran Riddle, George Alexander, Jim Salvas, Allen Prindle, Peter Lane, Lindsay Eidson.

1. **Agenda Approved**
2. **Minutes approved**
3. **Fall Priorities - 2023:**
4. a) solar power - the administration is working with installers to turn on panels. This will happen this week. Staff will be educated on the controls and operation of the systems. The Energy Committee will request a read out of production, savings (on a monthly basis), the estimate of equivalent services that were achieved (i.e., miles avoided by car, trees planted, etc.). Note that the electricity charges for Kendal-Crosslands consists of a base rate + an additional rate above the base rate;
5. b) Thermostat survey - Warren Gifford has analyzed the data. Some findings: some residents are confident in their understanding and control, some haven't a clue about the operation of the thermostat, and some are living in spaces that require frequent adjustments.
6. The Energy Committee must be prepared to educate our residents on thermostat controls so that they will be able to setback night time settings and for settings when away on vacation. The Bryant systems are set to use the radiant heating function, a less efficient heat source. Energy savings are available if we use settings call for less radiant heat as long as these won't damage the Bryant systems.
7. The peak demand project is successful at engaging our neighbors and reducing peak generation from dirty generating facilities. Crosslands has over 170 residents who have agreed to participate. KAL has about 150 participants.
8. As a suggestion for action next month, the Energy Committee is preparing a petition to those who joined the peak demand reduction effort that says that we are actively engaged and saved the community a total of about \$92,000 over three years. The

Committee needs to make a suggestion on how the community might use this savings and to ask the administration to join with us to help. E.g., Will the community agree to have an energy audit or to replace old refrigerators with more efficient appliances. Jim Salvas reported that a test of electricity consumption by a refrigerator filled with empty bottles and with bottles filled with water showed no difference in consumption.

9. Ben James called for all committee members identify other topics of interest for our attention this fall and start to generate approaches to resolve them such as: induction stove tops, cold water detergents, heat pump hot water heaters, our waste stream, clothes dryer temps, and others.
10. **Climate Resilience Working Group:**
 - CRWG is working through the Culinary Committee to establish kitchen waste composting, beginning at Kendal at Longwood. Staff shortages are limiting progress.
 - CRWG is supporting the Transportation Committee. More drivers have recently been added. Sign up forms for resident transportation needs are in the Reception areas and on the Bulletin Boards.
 - CRWG is encouraging use of the overhead TV screens to encourage better understanding of our impact on environment and actions residents can take to support reducing our personal impact. Peter Lane may have more to discuss on this topic.
 - Over 100 pins “ –Eat For Planet Earth” have been bought by interested residents. Kitchen waste composting will be tested starting with KAL kitchens. At KAC, the Culinary and Food Committees are starting to work on this with John Platt.
11. **SSAFE:** Sue Kelly reports the KAC could have a State focused advocacy program on legislative actions. Idea: develop pictures of the communal effort that summarizes what we do. Are there any gaps in what we do? A contact list of people for residents so that they know what is being done and by whom. Our SSAFE advocacy is

getting more expansive and is shaped by Sue Kelly and Ted Wolner, from Kendal at Oberlin.

12. **Energy Display:** Graphics are improving.
13. **Facilities Report:** An upgrade of lighting in the Library and the Salon to LED bulbs has been completed. Woodman is completed. We discussed ways to reduce lighting overnight in walkway areas by adjusting time controllers. The Kendal at Hanover energy audit will be available soon. The intern (Rick) is involved in data collection (probably 50% complete) to document Independent Living equipment e.g., heat pump, air conditioning, hot water heaters, living space dimensions in sq. ft., models and manufacturers of HVAC equipment. He is providing spreadsheets to Seth and Roy.
14. **Kendal at Longwood:** George Alexander reported on preliminary peak demand actions by residents. Data are not yet available as it takes time to be reported from all points and integrated. Peak numbers will reveal the top 5 hours of energy use. We missed one of the peak days that occurred over the Labor Day Weekend. Data will be available at the next meeting and will report KAL and Xlands usage separately. Also there will be Electric Vehicle charging data. There appears to be a charging pattern in which about 1/2 of all charging occurs by two users. One user is a heavy charger who seems to come from a distance and takes a full charge while the other user charges frequently but does not consume large amounts of energy.

Additional discussion: In a conversation with the CEO of Vermont Power, Ben James verified that our peak demand efforts at KCC are directed at the real problem and that we are reducing the amount of time the dirty generating facilities are