

Sustainable DC Energy Working Group Meeting Notes
November 29, 2011

Note to participants: These notes are those that were written up at the session. Before the next meeting, a framework will be provided to include these concepts in the vision development exercise and implementation, thereafter.

Attendee Breakout (approximate)

- Residents – 14
- Scientists – 1
- General Energy Businesses – 13
- Solar Energy Businesses – 11
- Advocates/Education – 11
- Federal/Local Government – 8
- Universities – 4
- Utilities/Energy – 5

DISCUSSION:

- Meeting began with a discussion of communication protocols—it was explained that individuals could sign up for the listservs of Sustainable DC topics they were interested in and they would be able to see discussions on those listservs
- Process Discussion
 - Attendee made the point that it is crucial to make sure end-users (homeowners, building owners) are included in discussions around renewables and not just companies
 - Discussion about the importance of bringing grassroots and government institutions to bear in an equal manner to avoid hierarchical structures (was a negative reaction to the term “worker bees” that was used in introduction)
 - Will need to create subgroups when we get to goal setting and implementation recommendations
 - Strategy development, ST, LT plans. Desire that these plans are accompanied by implementation priorities as well.
- The question posed to the group by the moderator was: What are the ways that people analyze energy?
 - Energy Demand
 - Financial incentives
 - Behavioral science (Michael Yambrach mentioned a study where 90+% of folks polled said they were interested in greening/sustainability, but only 32% have acted on interest)

- Utility rate design to drive demand for renewables
- Energy efficiency
- Education & outreach
- Demand curtailment (smart meters, load curtailment)
- Financing & financial incentives
- Competition
- Potential for SETF increase
- Focus on LIHEAP (potential restructuring)
- Make procurement process more efficient
- Focus on water/energy nexus
- Technology opportunities—Smart Grid, etc.
- Energy Supply
 - Cogeneration/distributed generation
 - Microgrids
 - Renewables: PV, wind, geothermal, biomass
 - Removing transaction barriers
 - Financing
 - Standardizing products
 - Incentives/disincentives (one example brought up was in Israel, it's not illegal to not have solar thermal, but you have to fill out a ton of paperwork to avoid it when doing construction)
 - Fuel diversification (balance discussion about electricity and gas)
 - Energy storage
 - Creation of multifamily solar communities
- Obstacles
 - Workforce capacity
 - Split incentives
 - Addressing regulatory hurdles
 - Energy poverty (SETF—“taxing” the poor to pay for rebates for the rich)
 - Transparency
 - Green code enforcement (some mentioned that 40% of building that pass inspection don't actually meet energy codes)
 - Disclosure laws
 - Language—i.e. technobabble
 - Transaction barriers
- Opportunities
 - Green codes advancement
 - Work on getting universities to do educational outreach
 - Focus on the tech schools in the city
 - Brownfield use for energy production
 - Energy extension services (colleges/universities)

- General Discussion
 - Need to immediately build and outreach component, and eventually train leaders to speak to the community
 - Can we videotape sessions to improve outreach?
 - The director of DMPED should have been at the event (they need to be one of the sustainability leaders)Need to engage children
 - LEED doesn't prioritize energy enough
 - Need to discuss jobs/business development
 - Need demonstration projects (create momentum!)
 - Savings "banking"

- Vision
 - Energy independence
 - Leadership in all sectors
 - Convergence of solutions/directions
 - Demand drives supply—need to focus on demand first
 - Need organizational infrastructure for community investment
 - Need to recoup efficiencies for revenue generation (life cycle budgeting practices)Water/Energy nexus

NEXT STEPS:

- Conduct outreach to council members and ANCs for additional workgroup members
- Set up visioning meeting either 12/13 or 12/14 in the evening (possible locations: Reeves Center, Catholic University, DOES offices, Earth Conservation Corps)—interest in having each meeting in a different ward