

**GWRC Green Government Commission
Green Energy Sub-Committee Meeting: January 23, 2009
Meeting Summary**

Attendees: Chair Bob Bennett, Doris Whitfield, Vern Danielsen, John Broughton, Kevin Byrnes (staff)

1. Review of Mission Statement: The group reviewed the minutes from the GGC meeting of Dec 1, 2008, noting that the GGC Chair had suggested that developing a plan to convert waste to bio-fuel and/or waste-to-energy would be beneficial. Mr. Bennett shared with the group that through his own discussions with Mr. Connors, the sub-committee needed to identify and focus on short-term small-scale projects which would attract public attention and interest, expand public understanding of the importance of conservation and efficiency efforts, while working on a longer term project in the background.

Through discussion, the Sub-Committee members decided that they should focus on:

- a. Project identification which would realize energy conservation and efficiency gains.
- b. Promote public education efforts to support energy conservation and efficiency gains.
- c. Examine and evaluate alternative and renewable energy technologies which could be implemented in the region.
- d. Promotion of “green job” initiatives, including:
 - i) jobs with companies that work directly with environmentally-friendly product manufacturers and
 - ii) jobs with companies that produce energy from alternative and renewable sources.

2. Expansion of Sub-Committee Membership: Kevin Byrnes distributed a list of some potential membership contacts. The sub-committee identified additional sectors from which volunteers should be recruited:

- a. University of Mary Washington
 - i. Interested Faculty (e.g. Environmental Sciences)
 - ii. Administration & Physical Plant
 - iii. Student Body (e.g. Ecology Club)
- b. U.S. Military
 - i. Quantico
 - ii. Fort A.P. Hill
- c. Local Utility Companies
 - i. Northern Neck Electrical Coop
 - ii. Rappahannock Electrical Coop
 - iii. Northern Virginia Electrical Coop
 - iv. Dominion Power
 - v. Commonwealth Gas Company
- d. Alternative & Renewable Energy Producers (e.g. biofuel, wind, solar, geothermal)
- e. Virginia Division of Energy (DMME)

Sub-Committee members agreed to consider possible names and forward these names (with contact phone &/or e-mail) to staff. The Chair offered to call potential sub-committee members for those that might be reluctant.

3. **Project Funding Resources:** John Broughton distributed 2 handouts describing:
 - a. a national energy & environmental block grant (EEBG) program being proposed by the US Conference of Mayors
(see <http://www.usmayors.org/climateprotection/EEBGBackgrounder0507.pdf>)
 - b. The US House of Representatives Energy Stimulus package
(see: <http://greeninc.blogs.nytimes.com/2009/01/15/house-energy-stimulus-unveiled/>)

4. **Near-Term Projects:** The Sub-Committee members discussed various initiatives which would be appropriate to the sub-committee's energy focus. Kevin Byrnes mentioned that the GGC's endorsement of the Virginia Green program led to GWRC's becoming a partner organization and activities related to encouraging conservation and efficiency by the hospitality sector should be considered. Among the ideas suggested were:
 - a. Convening a Regional Public Education Forum/Energy Fair:
 - i. To demonstrate practical & affordable technologies to conserve energy and/or use energy more efficiently.
 - ii. Promote exchange of incandescent light bulbs for compact fluorescent bulbs
 - b. Determining the region's carbon footprint in anticipation of cap & trade legislation
 - c. Working with sample businesses (e.g. hotel) to identify possible savings from adopting green business practices.
 - d. Promoting farm eligibility for 90/10 renewable/alternative energy grants through the USDA.

Each member of the sub-committee agreed to identify three feasible projects and submit these ideas to staff (byrnes@gwregion.org) before the next meeting to be compiled for consideration.

5. Next Meeting: Thursday Feb 19, 8:30 – 9:30 am

Chair Bennett's travel schedule: Mr. Bennett noted that he will be travelling abroad significantly in February and March.

Next GGC Meeting: January 28, 2009