

Progress on Green Communities Designation

Town Council Meeting

March 4, 2021

The Green Community Act (2008)

- Inspire Cities and Towns to undertake additional Energy-Related initiatives
- Improve coordination between Municipal Staff and State Departments,
- Establish money to make available for Communities to foster new renewable projects

Background Information 2010 Seeking Designation

- Work begins by Green Team on preparing to meet five criterion.
- Green Vehicle Plan and Energy Reduction Plan proposed as part of Town Manager Regulations. (Not formally adopted.)
- Issues with adoption of Stretch code due to community concerns. (Not formally adopted.)

Focus Since 2010

- Town focuses on installation of renewables on larger scale through CVEC and Energy Efficient through CLC.
- Renewed effort to push for designation 2019
- Grant funded Consultant through CLC to assist Town contracted in early 2020

- Preliminary approval by DOER/Green Communities for existing solar by-law.
- Will need letter from legal counsel noting that nothing precludes review within 365 days



Criterion 1 – As of right siting and
Criterion 2 – Expedited Permitting (for criterion 1)



Completing baseline information: Done except for FY21 (not complete yet)



Energy Assessments have been completed (65 buildings audited – 6 month effort)



Energy reduction plan is under development – estimated to be completed in late May/early June 2021



Plan must be adopted by both School and Town council with official letters.



Plan is a living document, but must show plan for a 20% reduction over 5 years.

Criterion 3 – Energy Reduction Plan

Criterion 4: Fuel Efficient Vehicle policy



Policy has been drafted



Does not require electric vehicles, just minimum mpg by category



Exempt vehicles include emergency response, vehicles over 8,500 lbs, etc.



Will need letters for adoption by both Town Council and School.



Criterion 5: Stretch code adoption

Building Commissioner effort with BBRS

**Town Council Workshop scheduled for
March 18, 2021**



State moving toward a rolling admission



Applications will be accepted starting July 1 – December 30



Official guidance document has not yet been released

Timing/Schedule