

Reducing Needham's CO₂ Emissions
Through Energy Efficiency & Sustainable Design:
A Collaboration Between Olin College and the Town of Needham

In Attendance:

Michael Greis, Wendy Surr, Laura Stupin, Dan Kumin, Eleanor Rosellini, David Cournoyer, Ben Salinas, Bennett Chabot, Rachel Nancollas, Allison Weis, Jef Gleckstein, Matt Ritter, Herbert Chang, Robin Maslowski, Mark Healey, Meg Taylor, Bob Lockhart, Gerry Gagnon, Mike Hirsh, Mike Hamblin, Joe Kendall, Darcy Roberts, Jess Crosby.

November 15th Project Concept Review Meeting

On Wednesday, November 15, 2006, twenty-three individuals, representing four groups (*Olin College, Town of Needham, Needham Public Schools, and the League of Women Voters*) came together for a 2nd meeting to prioritize the more than one dozen potential projects that had been submitted by members of the group. The group included both continuing and new members. Some of the new members included several Olin College students, the Chair of the NHS Environmental Group, a Town Meeting member, and a member of the Environmental Group for the Unitarian Church.

Meeting Highlights:

- Michael Greis reviewed the history behind creation of this initiative and its key objectives, from short to longer term (*i.e. to introduce interested groups to each other, to identify and implement an initial project, and to create a lasting collaborative structure for facilitating energy projects in the long-term*).
- The group re-visited the priorities and interests shared at the last meeting and affirmed that these as “**selection criteria**” in reviewing potential projects.
- Needham High School science staff shared more in-depth information regarding the MA State learning standards, NHS science curricular goals, and the varying needs and capabilities of students at different levels. In general, the large number of students taking the core science classes could take advantage of a project that provided ongoing data that could be analyzed in a class context, but would be difficult to organize for work on a project. The advanced science electives have much more flexibility and a group of students from such a class could be involved in working on a project. Clubs (see below) have the greatest flexibility to take advantage of the enthusiasm and energy of the student body
- Dan Kumin, Town Meeting Member and Dave Cournoyer, NHS Environmental Club Chair, shared with the group more detailed information regarding their proposed sustainable energy concepts.
- Each member of the group was given green “dots” so that they could vote on the 3 projects they felt best fit the selection criteria. In addition, each member was given one pink “dot” to allow them to vote for the project they were most excited about.

The “Top 3” projects selected by the group were:

- Conduct a feasibility study for locating a wind turbine in Needham.
- Create a water wheel/generator at Rosemary Lake or other location.

- Challenge a school (*such as Pollard*) to reduce its CO2 emissions to zero through a wide range of energy conservation and alternative energy sources.

Suggested Next Steps:

Sub-committees formed for each of the top 3 projects were encouraged to meet independently during December to refine project concepts, and identify next steps.

Next Steps—Suggestions for Sub-Committee Meeting Objectives:

Each Sub-Committee will be asked to make a presentation to the full group at our next meeting. You may use the following questions as guidelines for preparing your presentation.

1. What changes/refinements, if any, would the Sub-Committee like to suggest be made to this “project concept”?

2. What might the action steps for moving forward with this project look like?

What information would need to be gathered? What questions would need to be answered? What would we need to do to determine the feasibility and costs associated with this project?

What could we reasonably expect to accomplish between January-June 2007?

Who else, outside this group, would we need to engage in order to facilitate the planning and implementation of this project?

Which members (or groups) in our Olin-Needham Collaborative might be involved in these next steps?

3. What do you see as potential opportunities/benefits of this project? What are the challenges or obstacles in moving forward with this project?