

2019 West Tisbury Energy Report

The Energy Committee is an advisory body, which oversees, reviews and advises the town regarding the efficient use of energy for municipal needs and also for West Tisbury residents. Our goal is to increase the efficient use of renewable energy technologies and continue to reduce West Tisbury's carbon emissions.

Members include Richard Andre, Nicola Blake, Ron D'Agostino, Sue Hruby (Chair), Rebekah Thomson, Kate Warner representing the Climate Advisory Committee

The committee focuses on a clear, comprehensive energy program for our town. We do this with the town's Climate Action Committee, the Vineyard Sustainable Energy Committee (VSEC), the Cape Light Compact (CLC) and other groups for the Island, such as the Island Climate Action Network (ICAN).

The committee is now focused on an initiative to establish and pursue an aspirational goal for renewable energy for the Town. The committee will be presenting a resolution to establish and affirm the following goals at the annual town meeting: reducing fossil fuel use by 50% by 2040 and increasing the amount of electricity that is from renewable sources by 50% by 2040. For municipal properties in particular, the first priority will be to establish enough solar power with battery backup (vs. generators) to keep functioning regardless of the weather. The Committee is also exploring the possibility of adding two parking chargers at the Library.

In 2019 we spent our last dollars from the Green Communities grant to remove the oil burner at Howes House and replace it with a propane furnace, which will be used principally for backup of the Heat Pumps. We are now eligible to apply for competitive grants.

This year our (weather normalized) energy savings across all buildings was 23% (from our 2011 baseline year) without weather normalization. Unfortunately, vehicle energy consumption is going up. The town

continues to look for the most energy efficient options when a new vehicle is needed.

The Town's solar array at the town landfill produced 715,320 kWh of electricity in FY 2019, the year ending June 30, 2019. This generation resulted in \$119,121 of Net Metering Credits applied to the electric accounts of the town and its partners. Specifically, \$45,654 (38.3%) was applied to town accounts, \$57,438 (48.3%) was applied to accounts at the West Tisbury School, and \$16,028 (13.4%) was applied to other municipal partner accounts. The \$45,654 savings on town accounts is offset by \$20,637 in contracted fees the town paid to the developer and Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative; but the town also received \$5,425 in as its contracted share of the savings of the other municipal partners. This results in a net direct cash benefit to the Town of \$30,442. Since the Town's assessed share of the costs of the West Tisbury School was 72.82%, the town received an additional indirect benefit of about \$22,917 due to savings of the school district. Total direct and indirect benefit to West Tisbury was approximately \$53,359.

While the benefit to the town remains impressive, it should be noted that a mechanical problem at the solar array caused a significant reduction in electricity generated from March 21, 2019 until its repair on July 17th. Since the repair, the array has functioned at full capacity and should return to its normal generation of approximately 900,000 kWh per year.