

Thetford Community Solar Update and Resources

Thetford Friends and Neighbors,

We had a great turnout and presentation at last week's forum on community solar power. To summarize, the Thetford Energy Committee is working with the Select Board to develop community "group net metered" solar arrays at 2 possible sites – the former Post Mills landfill and an extension of the Thetford Elementary School array, off Rt. 113, across from Mud Pond Rd. Work remains to secure final permission and develop these sites, but we are hopeful they will both be developed by the end of 2016 at the latest. Once developed, these projects would provide all the town's municipal electric use and allow about 90 Thetford households to get their power from a renewable source at a reduced rate.

We encourage anyone who might be interested in participating in one of these projects to fill out the survey, including the amount of energy you use, at <http://goo.gl/forms/dGmbspmCax> so we can keep you informed of the projects as they develop and so we have a sense of how much energy these sites need to generate for those who are interested. If you filled out the survey at the forum last week, but did not know how much electricity you use, please contact Mike Kiess (michaelkiessvt@gmail.com or 802-785-2438) with that information.

As part of last week's forum, 9 solar contractors involved in developing private group net metered arrays that individuals can buy into, attended the forum and answered several questions about how their projects work. Anyone who might want to check out what these private contractors might have to offer can check out their replies to our questions and find their contact information summarized at <http://www.thetfordvermont.us/wp/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/Thetford-Net-Metering-Community-Solar-Forum-Handout.pdf>

Thanks again to all who have taken steps to reduce your energy use and incorporate renewables, which will not only make you more comfortable and save money, but will help create a more sustainable and livable world for generations to come.

Please feel free to contact me for more information on these projects.

Bob Walker
Thetford Energy Committee
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