

## BROOKFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEE 2011 REPORT

The Brookfield Energy Committee submits the following report of its activities during the year 2011. Clarification or expansion on any of the projects will be provided if requested. We look forward to receiving feedback on the report.

### COMPLETED AND CURRENT PROJECTS

#### ENERGY EFFICIENCY

##### Portfolio Manager Initiation

Portfolio Manager is free software made available by the Department of Energy. The software is a convenient way to assess the impact of changes in energy policy and projects on energy cost reduction and as a means of tracking energy costs over time. Portfolio Manager has received wide acceptance as a useful tool for this purpose. To be effective, the program needs to be set up with a data base of past energy usage and cost. During the past year we sought to collect the historical data for town buildings which will become the basis for future comparison as policies and programs are implemented to reduce usage.

#### TOWN SUPPORT

##### Filing of grant application

In January of this year the Town of Brookfield was presented with a competitive grant opportunity to file an application for the Municipal Quick Spend Energy Efficiency & Conservation Program Grant under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act 2009. After consulting with Ralph Tedesco the Committee completed and filed the grant application with the Conn. Dept. of Energy and Environmental Protection. Unfortunately Brookfield and many other towns did not receive any of the limited funding.

##### Recommendation to Selectmen concerning cost effective energy related investments

The Energy Committee made a presentation to the Board of Selectmen in which they recommended funding for certain energy savings projects which had low capital cost and a quick return on the capital spent. These projects were selected from a list of energy savings projects identified in a report prepared by HRP Associates. The intent was to reduce the projects identified in the HRP report to a small number which were both practical and certain to provide a quick return. The Board of Selectmen chose not to follow through on these recommendations, most likely because the funding was not available given the uncertain economic times.

#### CLEAN ENERGY

##### Potential clean energy resource

DCS Energy, an energy services company, offered Connecticut towns a solar leasing plan whereby photovoltaic solar energy systems were to be leased to the towns for a five-year term at the end of which the system would be donated to the town. There were to be no leasing or operational costs to the town. The committee provided the information to Ralph Tedesco who followed up on the offer, as did many other towns. Ultimately it was understood that the company did not pursue the offerings.

## OUTREACH

### Library Display

In July 2011, the Committee reserved, planned and implemented a month long visual exhibit during August 2011 at the Brookfield Library of various energy and water conservation methods, devices and information, for the benefit of Brookfield and other area residents. The exhibit featured such items as water conservation fixtures, a miniature solar panel, various types of insulation for the home and/or business, energy saving ideas, voltage meters and sundry other information of interest. Included also were reference books for further information for those interested. We trust our neighbors had the opportunity to view this very informative display.

### Brookfield Energy Website

The Brookfield Energy Committee has developed a website that can be found at [www.BrookfieldEnergyAwareness.org](http://www.BrookfieldEnergyAwareness.org)

The site has been developed to supply information and references for Brookfield residents interested in energy conservation and also has information pertaining to businesses and schools.

The site can also be used to collect surveys or poll topics of interest pertaining to energy and conservation to Brookfield residents.

It is also frequently updated by tracking the actions and plans of the Committee. It contains reports that are presented to the board of selectmen periodically.

It encourages suggestions, participation and support to make Brookfield more sustainable community.

### Brookfield Energy Trifold

The Brookfield Energy Committee has created a two page six panel informative trifold for distribution to Brookfield residents focusing on energy conservation in the town of Brookfield. The trifold contains information about energy-saving measures in the home. It also mentions energy saving programs available through the utility companies and how to acquire the services. Contact information for residents who need help meeting the demands of the rising cost of oil and electricity is detailed.

This brochure also describes the Committee and its goals in brief and encourages the public to contribute and support our cause. It reaches out to the community to visit our website and find more detailed ways support our community by being energy and conservation minded. The handout also points to fun and educational websites for kids.

### Energy Conservation Award

The Brookfield Energy Committee received a Municipal Energy Conservation Award from the Northwest Conservation District at its Annual Dinner on Oct. 18, 2011. The town energy committee awards were presented by Dan Esty, Commissioner of Energy and Environmental Protection in Connecticut.

The Energy Committee has received presentations from the following individuals.

Jack Leahy, Director of the Institute of Sustainable Energy at Eastern Connecticut State University, provided information on the resources and services available through the Institute.

Bruce Hampson and Patrice Gillespie from the Wilton Energy Commission gave us details on the projects that their committee has undertaken.

Tony Mitchell, Energy Coordinator for the Northwest Conservation District, provided status of other energy committees in northwest Connecticut.

## ONGOING AND FUTURE ENDEAVORS

### Portfolio Manager and School Energy Audit

In Dec. 2011 the Committee met with Jay Wahlberg to request his assistance with obtaining monthly energy data for input into Energy Star Portfolio Manager. The program tracks energy costs in town buildings as well as benchmarking them on a national scale. We are hopeful that Mr. Wahlberg will be able to provide this data soon so that the benefits of the energy software program may be realized.

In early 2011 the Committee contacted Art Colley to obtain the results of an energy audit of the school buildings as well as monthly energy data. The Committee looks forward to receiving this information in the near future for input into Portfolio Manager.

The State is offering a newly revised Clean Energy Communities Program for energy efficiency and renewable in towns. The program has been updated with a point system to provide incentives to encourage towns to commit to energy savings. We plan to evaluate Brookfield's participation in this program.

The Committee looks forward to continuing work on both the Municipal and Schools sides and hopes our Brookfield Town Government can appropriate funds for money-saving energy conservation measures throughout all Municipal Buildings as well as our Schools.