

Leelanau County Energy Futures Task Force
July 2, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Members present: Joe DeFors, Steve Ruddell, Kama Ross, Lois Bahle, Tom Van Pelt, Russ Packard, Bronwyn Jones, Gwenne Allgaier

Meeting called to order at 9:45 am

Motion to approve June minutes: Minutes approved with one correction: Steve Ruddell circulated a paper on Solar Energy Renewal Credits, not carbon credits.

As task force chair Joe DeFors would be late, Tom Van Pelt gave an overview of his tour of the Palisades Nuclear Energy facility. Palisades will generate 800 megawatts of energy, of which Wolverine Energy will take 60%. Palisades is owned by Holtec, which has plans for two modular reactors, for which it owns patents. Possible opening date is June 2026. Wolverine is also awaiting connection of 2 solar farms.

Chair's comments / general discussion

EFTF was asked to submit a report one year after creation. Joe has begun a draft. After discussion it was agreed to get on the agenda to submit our report at the September BoC meeting. Kama will arrange. Joe will send out his beginning draft report asking each workgroup to prepare a section on their activities.

Discussion followed on what our future should look like.

Joe has asked both Cherryland and Consumers for the numbers of solar/wind installations in Leelanau - Cherryland reported approximately 95 installations, awaiting a report from Consumers.

Steve Ruddell suggested a discussion of biofuels/biomass at a future meeting. Education also needed on Public Act 235.

Tom VanPelt: Michigan Climate Summit in Ann Arbor in Sept.

Leelanau Energy Picnic will be July 24 from 12 - 2 at North Park in Suttons Bay. Task force members welcome.

Sept 12 - Leelanau Energy program will be Dr Hal May speaking on hydrogen/methane energy

Energy Brief: Joe DeFors on Community Solar

Community solar was not included in the Michigan energy legislation that passed in late 2023. As yet, Michigan is not a community solar state, only utilities can offer community solar. A new effort has begun in Lansing to make Michigan a community solar state. Passage questionable this year.

Community solar works when your site is not friendly to solar. Any entity can lease/purchase panels and get \$ credits on their energy bills. Vocabulary discussed: community solar; solar garden; solar farm; microgram; distributed energy resources. Panels can be on rooftops in cities, towns, schools, in fields.

Community solar resources: [Energy.gov](https://www.energy.gov), NREL, SEIA, Wood Mackenzie Community Solar Report.

Work Group Reports:

Russ for Projects, work underway looking into EV chargers for the County Bldg.

Joe for Clean Transportation, related Courtney is working on a grant for charging stations at tribal facilities. Courtney's absence hopefully means her baby has come!

Bronwyn for Energy Efficiency. Another fine article for the Senior Services newsletter. This space is offered for each issue but we can only have this amount of space, cannot be larger. Discussion on making the newsletter content available on the County website in the future.

Kama brought up having educational booths at community events. Leelanau Energy has Done in the past and was disappointed by the response. Admittedly their booth was not fancy. Kama is talking to schools on food waste - is there a possible overlap with EFTF?

Update: Community Energy Grant application for a county wide survey - answer expected in the next month.

Tom Van Pelt stated that Wolverine will soon receive an EPA grant - details unset unknown

Public Comment - none.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30.

Next meeting August 1, 2024