

Proposal for a Sunderland Energy Committee
July 2005

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BOS

JUL 18 2005
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REQUESTED TO BE ON 7.25 BOS

Agenda

Background

Geologists and economists predict that oil, the main source of energy for our local and global society, will become increasingly scarce and expensive in coming years. Exactly when this will begin to affect us acutely is not clear.

We believe it is prudent for our community to think ahead and to make changes now. We also believe that preparation for a future in which oil is scarce offers opportunities to encourage local self reliance and a vibrant local economy. In particular, we believe that Sunderland's role in agriculture will become increasingly important.

Switching to renewable energy sources, for example, also provides the added benefit of reducing our community's contribution to global climate change, a goal that has been embraced by national governments around the world as well as by our own governor and several local towns.

Mission

To advise the administrators and citizens of the town of Sunderland about ways to conserve energy, switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy resources, and prepare for a future when oil is scarce.

Goals

We propose a Sunderland Energy Committee that would

- * lead an effort to review Sunderland's current energy situation, including:
 - surveying town residents for opinions and ideas about energy issues;
 - identifying public and private opportunities for energy efficiency and conservation;
 - identifying existing renewable energy resources and the potential for renewable energy use;
 - identifying residents with useful skills, knowledge, and connections relevant to our energy future; and
 - locating practical examples and models in Sunderland that point to a renewable energy future;
- * identify sources of assistance and funding for education, conservation, and renewable energy resource development;
- * assist town government to network with other towns and nongovernmental organizations on energy issues;
- * share energy-related information with town government and citizens;
- * coordinate with citizen groups who organize educational activities or neighborhood efforts;
- * report as needed to the Select Board and to town meeting.

Respectfully submitted by:

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