

Howard County Energy Task Force

Tuesday, April 5, 2016

8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Howard Building: Columbia and Ellicott City Rooms

Attendance:

<b>Task Force Members</b>		<b>Present</b>
Kenneth	Boras	X
Randy	Clayton	
Richard	Deutschman	
Steve	Estomin	
Karen	Galindo-White	
Abdul	Majid	X
Bob	Marietta	X
I. Katherine	Magruder	
Geoff	Mirkin	
Daryl	Paunil	
Janice	Romanosky	
Jeremy	Scharfenberg	X
Rizwan	Siddiqi	X
Diane	Sweeney	X
R. Daniel	Wallace	
Orien	Dalton	X
Ed	Wilson	X
<b>Guests</b>		
Doug	Ruch	X
Bert	Wilson	X
Giselle	Hardy	X
Mark	Thompson	X
Vernon	Thompson	X
Linda	Watts	X
Phil	Nichols	
Laura A.T.	Miller	X

Introduction:

Administrative Items: Members of the Task Force were advised to check their basecamp notifications to ensure they receive documents, including meeting agendas.

Review of Meeting's agenda

Meeting Content:

PACE Discussion-

- Finance and comments on "lien"
  - How it should be addressed and billed
  - Delayed on taxes due to billing date in July
- Keep the program simple, cost effective for property managers to take advantage
- Instrument recordings
  - Anne Arundel County has a requirement for recordings
  - Contact to find out their policies
- Howard County wants local banking communities to get involved.
  - Will not have a preferred lender
  - Bank of America has expressed interest
  - There are also banks in New York and California interested
- Montgomery County had to adjust their program
- Administration Selection
  - No formal process
  - 2-3 possibilities
  - Document for requirements
  - Keep the cost down, compact lending pools, experience, open finance process that can be adjusted for the county
  - Recommendations on how audits are done
- Meeting coming up with DC

Subcommittee Goals-

- This discussion was tabled until the next meeting as only one of the four subcommittee heads was present.

Solar Panel-

- Industry is growing rapidly but hitting a snag due to a gap between when panels are installed and when connection takes place
- HB1106
  - Reduce the waiting time between installation and connection to the grid to no more than 45 days

- Increases the percentage of renewable power supplies to 25% by 2020
- Fire Set Backs
  - When installing on residential homes
  - Path between panels for fire fighters (about 3 feet)
    - Some counties have gotten away with less
  - Only so many panels can be used
- How can the county help?
  - Fire Set Back policy
  - Permitting becoming easier and faster
  - Getting small residential communities as a whole to participate
  - PG County as managed to create fast permitting with no fire set back rules and has had lots of installation
- Residential long term benefits: Financial
- Solar energy on the corporate level
  - Where to put the panels
  - Suggestions: agricultural easements, landfills...
  - Desired: Open field with little shade
- Looking for long-term goals
  - “Solar Energy Pipeline”
  - County could have a standard tax credit policy for solar energy
  - Virtual net metering deals
  - Solar plants
  - Charter Task Force: Help Drive Residential Installation
    - Promote Solar Energy
    - Expedite Permit
    - Fire set back requirements
    - Information on all available companies for installation to ensure best service
- Further discussion on Solar Energy
  - Not resilient on its own (only resilient financially)
  - Requires a back up battery source
  - Cannot restart a grid that has suffered an outage

#### Follow-Up:

- Laura to follow-up on status of Ag Pres/Solar bill
- Internal County PACE team will meet with DC PACE administrator and touch base with AA Co.
- Send Feedback to Ed about meetings
  - Comments/Complaints