

Cavendish Energy Committee

For the year ended June 30, 2023

The Cavendish Energy Committee promotes energy conservation at the individual, business and government levels in Cavendish in order to efficiently address ecosystem degeneration while protecting taxpayer resources. The Committee, after thorough research, recommends actions to the municipality that are sustainable, energy efficient, and economically sensible. The Committee engages and educates the Cavendish community on energy efficiency through outreach and the establishment of projects and activities. The Committee partners with other Cavendish groups and with surrounding town energy committees to seek wider solutions to common problems, and to share practices and successes.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 no significant weather events disrupted life in Cavendish. But ten days after the end of the fiscal year the Black River again inundated parts of Proctorsville and Whitesville causing significant damage. The country as a whole saw widespread destruction from weather related events such as fire, flood, wind, and excessive heat during the past fiscal year. The effects of climate change are ever present. Cavendish is still relatively lucky, but always close to the edge as another major catastrophe could be just around the corner.

During the past year the Committee closely monitored use of the two-car electric vehicle charging station installed alongside the Svec Memorial Green in Proctorsville. Use was free for the first few years, but the monthly cost to the town has risen as people take advantage of the location, especially patrons of nearby businesses. Installation cost Cavendish almost nothing since the Committee secured a grant from the Vermont AOT, and while the town does not want to profit from the charging station, at the same time it does not want to lose money. The town began to charge for the station's use on June 1, 2023 so there is insufficient data for the last fiscal year to calculate efficiency or profitability, but Ludlow Electric charged the town \$3,440 for the year. The Energy Committee is monitoring the use, the cost, and the revenue received, and will have a better picture by June 30, 2024.

During the fiscal year ended June 30, 2023 the committee applied for and received a \$4,000 grant under the state of Vermont's Municipal Energy Resilience Program, which the town used to evaluate the town's compliance with the federal and state ADA requirements. We also applied for and received a separate grant to implement a comprehensive evaluation of municipal building energy efficiency. A consultant was hired to evaluate the town office, the wastewater treatment plant and the water filtration facility, and we are waiting for their report. We have also applied for and are awaiting word on a grant to better weatherize our buildings in order to save money on lighting, heating and cooling.

Cavendish's town solar array continued producing electricity and the committee continued analyzing power distribution and KWH savings to maximize the town's use of our own power. In the 12 months ended June 30, 2023 the solar panels produced 183,324 KWH, which converts to \$43,512 electricity cost savings. That's about 79% of the municipal electricity purchased from Green Mountain Power. The town also has seen a steady increase in use of the transfer station's composting facility. During 2024 the town will have substantial compost available for citizens' home yard and garden use. Any residents who do not compost at home can make use of this facility. For more information, just ask at the transfer station.

If you have particular energy saving questions or ideas, please pass them along to a committee member. If you have an interest in energy related issues and are willing to help, please contact the Town Office staff, or call Peter LaBelle at 802-226-7250 or Mary Ormrod at 802-226-7783.

Energy Committee Members: Rick Chambers, Town Energy Coordinator; Peter LaBelle, Committee Chair; Mary Ormrod; Jen Leak; Ron Emig; Bonnie Daya Emig; and Karen Wilson.