

Cavendish Energy Committee

For the year ended June 30, 2022

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.

While 2022 saw a return to normal after the pandemic, it also saw widespread destruction from weather related events such as fire, flood, wind, and excessive heat. 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 summer the Energy Committee held another composting clinic. (See <https://okemovalley.tv/composting-workshop-cavendish>.) The Committee also secured a grant from the Climate Catalysts Innovation Fund at the Vermont Council on Rural Development to study the Transfer Station for redesignation as a resource recovery center. While that doesn't reflect any real change to the operation of the facility it will say a lot about how the facility approaches energy saving through recycling.

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 since the station was opened, but the cost 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. The town does not want to profit from the charging station, but at the same time it does not want to lose money. Therefore, it will soon begin to charge users for electricity at a fair rate.

There has been, and continues to be a regional group of Upper Valley energy committees that cooperate to spread the word about many energy issues. Cavendish fully supports such efforts and communicates with many of these other committees to find cooperative solutions to common problems.

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, 2022 the solar panels produced 150,690 KWH, which converts to \$35,437 electricity cost savings. That's about 81% of the municipal electric use. The town also has seen a steady increase in the use of the transfer station's composting facility. During 2023 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.

The Energy Committee's page of the town's website links to detailed information about cost saving practices and rebates for home improvements, electric cars, tools, bikes, and more. See <https://www.cavendishvt.com/energy-committee> for more information.

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: Brendan McNamara, Town Energy Coordinator; Peter LaBelle, Committee Chair; Mary Ormrod; Stephen Plunkard; Karen Wilson; Diane McNamara.