

January 13, 2013 It's High Time: Climate Change Solutions, A Public Forum

ENERGY ACTION Group Summary

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Minutes taken by Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition

This is a good time for Solar and Wind energy.

- Solar Energy
 - Solarize Mass. program encourages small-scale solarization projects.
 - Many companies are teaming together on solar projects.
 - Leasing of solar panels is more often an option now, making home solarization more affordable for many.
 - Net metering in Massachusetts encourages consumers to send the unused clean energy they have generated to the grid, receiving credit toward their energy bill.
 - Individual towns that have been very successful with this program include Arlington and Wayland.
 - Lexington as a state-designated Green Community (in 2010) could make clean energy even more affordable for the community by initiating an RFP for bulk purchase of materials for solarization projects.
- Wind Energy
 - More wind-power projects – new turbines in Gloucester, Scituate, Lynn, and Ipswich, and Cape Wind will soon to be under construction.
 - Onshore wind is the most affordable although we still need offshore.
 - Studies of health impacts from noise and flicker of turbines show
 - negative effects on nearby residents are almost negligible.
 - Avian kill by turbines averages 1-1-1 (bird per turbine per year-within Audubon guidelines).
- Transportation
 - Demand for electric cars is growing, and these will eventually replace hybrids.
 - Efficiency goal is at 52 miles per gallon.
- Green Building
 - Going beyond the standards of above-ground insulation and efficiency components to meet stretch code standards, new construction should include below-ground insulation.
- Carbon limits
 - Levels should be set at \$50 per ton.

- Taxes should be more on carbon emissions than on income.

A more organized approach to energy efficiency and green energy will result when politics catches up with the science.

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Switch to New England GreenStart or New England Wind on energy bill (depending on the desired level) at www.massenergy.org/nstar or call 800-287-3950.