



BLUER Committee Meeting Minutes November 2, 2007

The meeting began at 1 pm with Dianne Herrin, Courtney Marm, Martin Indars, Scott Tornek, and Jackson Denton attending. Tim Lutz and David Ward were unable to attend.

We welcomed visitors:

Mary Jo Rose, Consultant, Community Energy
Babbie Fulton, Consultant, Community Energy
Joann Cortese Environmental Health & Safety Manager, Sartomer Company
David Mazzocco, borough resident; partner, Schrader Group Architecture LLC,
Philadelphia; member, US Green Building Council
Alicia Surowiec, borough resident
Eileen Day, borough resident
Evelyn Burke, WCU student

Minutes of the October meeting were approved with one modification. Scott Tornek is to be listed as a member rather than a visitor.

Community Energy

Community Energy gave a brief presentation about their efforts to switch municipalities across our region to wind power. Wayne recently switched to 70% wind power.

FYI - Corporations can no longer sign up for local wind through PECO, as this program is currently fully utilized. However, they can sign up directly via Community Energy to obtain national wind power. Residents can still sign up directly with PECO.

Joann asked about the potential for wind turbines to adversely alter local microclimates. BLUER agreed to stay in contact with Community Energy and consider wind power as part of its proposed initiatives to Borough Council. **Action:** Jackson will research the question of how/if wind farms impact local climates. Community Energy will contact us again in Jan 2008, at which time we'll explore this option in greater detail in light of our data findings and assess costs.

Practical Energy Solutions

We briefly reviewed the Energy Star reports produced by Paul Spiegel of Practical Energy Solutions. The energy performance rating -- in the low 30s -- for our Borough Hall is not as poor as other similar buildings, according to Paul. However, there is clearly room for improvement.

Action: Martin will contact Paul so we remain aware of his findings and can support his efforts.

Data

Dianne reported that our Exelon data do not appear to accurately capture the gas and energy usage within our defined geographic boundary. This is likely due to the use of the “zip plus 4” methodology for defining the Borough limits. Our contact at Exelon is now re-running the analysis using the “taxing area” as the defining geographic factor, and preliminary results suggest that this is a more accurate approach.

Dianne also reported that our work with Exelon has helped lay the groundwork for two very recent requests to Exelon for similar types of energy usage data – one from the city of Philadelphia and one from the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission. **Action:** Dianne will continue to follow-through with Exelon.

Henderson High School

Via Peggy Hartzell-Bennett, we learned that Henderson is on board with our efforts, and their facilities manager is gathering the data we requested. This is the result of efforts on the part of the Environmental Club students. These student liaisons will be providing BLUER with status reports.

Peggy has also informed us that the Earth Day Network has offered to host our website. [*Update:* The high school has since received the \$750 3E Incubator Seed Grant from WCU, which they will use to work with BLUER. This is in addition to the \$500 Earth Day grant.]

McCool Development

Dianne reported that the McCool project cannot be added to the EPA’s pilot program for multifamily residential developments. This program is expected to become available to everyone in about two years. In the meantime, EPA suggests following the New York State “Get Energy Smart” program, which is in line with the Energy Star pilot program. Should McCools pursue this option, BLUER can recognize them and provide a plaque for their new building. **Action:** Dianne, Courtney, Martin and David Mazzocco will meet separately to review the New York State program and create a plan for working with McCools.

Energy Star Standards & Criteria (S&C)

Martin reported that the HO S&C ordinance will likely be voted on by Borough Council in December. **Action:** Martin will continue to stay abreast of the status and work to ensure passage of the Energy Star language ASAP.

Martin also provided the group with the first page of a draft document he wrote for developers, which explains the details of the Energy Star program for new commercial development. We also reviewed David Ward's sample tear sheets for developers, which profile relevant energy-efficient construction projects. Since few new construction Energy Star buildings exist, we agreed to include projects that may not be Energy Star labeled but have been designed using the same, holistic energy modeling theory that underlies the Energy Star program. Alicia said she will share some ideas for case studies with the group. **Action:** Martin and David Ward will continue to work on these developer support documents. Martin will have ready for the next Borough Council meeting a 5-page information packet for developers.

“Business Plan”

Scott reported that he, Courtney and Dianne met to begin development of a strategic business plan for BLUER. The intent is to have a document in hand to offer potential sponsors and financial supporters of our initiatives. During this meeting, they also reviewed website content and agreed to come up with a website outline within two weeks. Scott has created a draft outline for the strategic plan, which he, Courtney and Dianne will review and refine, then share it with the Committee for review and comment.

Scott's presentation led to a good discussion of the need to engage students, as well as businesses and landlords, in our mission. Dianne asked all attendees to help evaluate the plan when it is ready, and submit their creative ideas for educating and empowering the community. **Action:** Scott, Dianne and Courtney will finalize the draft plan for BLUER Committee review and will work on a proposed website outline together.

Industrial Sector

Joann informed us that Sartomer has applied for the University of Delaware's Industrial Assessment Center (IAC) program, as a follow-up to last month's meeting with Ralph Nigro. This program begins with an energy audit and is designed to help industrial facilities reduce energy use and emissions, save money, and even improve productivity. BLUER gratefully acknowledges Joann and Sartomer for taking this initiative. **Action:** Dianne and Tim will meet with Joann to discuss data gathering and presentation strategies for the industrial sector.

Dianne reported that she will send a letter to other industrial facilities in the Borough asking for their participation in the BLUER program and introducing them to the IAC program. **Action:** Dianne will finalize and send the letters, with Joann's input.

Other

Wyeth property development: Dianne will follow through with Carolyn and Tom Comitta regarding the Wyeth property development, to explore ways to make this development a sustainable one.

NEXT BLUER MEETING: DECEMBER 7, 2007, 1-3 PM