

BLUER Committee Meeting
March 7, 2008
Minutes

The meeting began at 1 pm with Dianne Herrin, Martin Indars, Tim Lutz, Courtney Marm, Scott Tornek, and David Ward attending.

February Minutes approved.

Energy Star Update:

- Dianne distributed the press release about the borough ordinance and we discussed articles in the Daily Local News, on the DEP website, and forthcoming in the Sunday Inquirer.
- Dianne brought us up to date on the Energy Star Training Sessions to be held March 20 in WCU's Graduate Business Center. The morning session will focus on new commercial construction; the afternoon session on how to convert existing buildings. Update: the sessions were well attended and a survey of attendees has been distributed.
- Martin explained his research into the Borough becoming an Energy Star Partner: there are no legal or fiscal responsibilities; it requires promotion of Energy Star efficiency & programs and an action plan for the Borough's own buildings to become "as energy efficient as possible." **Action**: Presentation of the proposal to the PREP committee on 3/10 was approved. Update: Borough Council has since approved Energy Star partnership.

Emissions Inventory:

- Tim reported on the latest findings and assumptions involved in the Borough's greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory; tables and charts were provided to give an overview of the results. He explained the limitations of the data we recently received from Exelon and suggested that the current inventory is the best that can be accomplished without greatly increasing the scope and detail of the analysis. The committee agreed that it was time to move on to consideration of action items rather than continuing the inventory process.
- We discussed the need to repeat the inventory process in the future to assess GHG reductions. **Action**: Dianne will call our Exelon contact to obtain a description of the methodology used to create the data summary passed to BLUER (e.g., a 'job aid'). Update: PECO will not provide a job aid at this time but one may become available later.

Website:

- Courtney and Scott described the efforts to create the 'skeleton' website prepared by a junior at Henderson HS., which looks great. **Action**: Martin will do initial edit of proposed web materials to provide consistent format. Everyone should forward materials to him.
- The committee brainstormed various options for converting the inventory information formats on the website that the public can understand. We discussed some options that Tim suggested based on carbon stored in trees. It was suggested that GHG emissions be converted into amounts and volumes that would be more visible and intuitive, such as buildings. Update: A visualization as a mass of coal in Marshall Park is being created.

WCU:

WCU Students in Dr. Andrews class presented their findings and asked for advice on the following items:

- Partnering of Philly Car share and WCU
- An investigation of the energy efficiency of rental vs. non-rental properties
- A survey of restaurants to determine their energy consumption and efficiency, recycling, etc.

Presentation to PREP on Monday Mar 10, 6:30 pm:

Dianne requested BLUERs to attend to help with the following items:

- GHG inventory
- Energy Star partnership
- Budget for BLUER

Update: BLUERs request for budgetary support was denied; however, we can seek to raise funds from donations, grants and other activities.

NEXT BLUER MEETING APRIL 4, 1 pm – 3 pm, ROOM 240