



## **BLUER Committee Meeting November 7, 2008 Minutes**

The meeting began at 1 pm with Dianne Herrin, Tim Lutz, Courtney Marm, Scott Tornek, Drew McDowell, David Mazocco, Bill Ronayne, Dan Price, Jim Wylie attending; Martin Indars and David Ward were not able to attend.

### *BLUER COMMITTEE BUSINESS*

#### **Discussion of BLUER's strategy to present our CAP to Borough Council**

Dianne explained the rationale for a phased introduction of initiatives and handed out an outline of Phase I initiatives (attachment to the minutes). She led discussion of the following items:

##### Energy-efficient new construction

We discussed the important need to incentivize energy efficient new construction, as a way to rationalize the need for our expanded ENERGY STAR ordinance. **Action:** *Courtney and Dianne will research financial incentives for new and existing commercial and residential construction.*

##### Residential improvements

We discussed mechanisms to fund the up-front costs of improvements; for example, municipal bond-like investments, or a fee built into parking fees to pay off bond. Various other financing options need to be researched. **Action:** *Dianne to set up a sub-committee meeting to finalize the strategy.*

##### Progressive purchasing program for wind power

We discussed means of converting the energy savings generated by efficiency upgrades of the municipal building (Practical Energy Solutions) into funding residents for wind energy or efficiency upgrades. The Committee agreed that we will recommend an outright wind power purchase irrespective of the energy savings. The Committee also agreed that we will recommend a structure for reinvesting these savings into broader energy efficiency improvements Borough-wide. **Action:** *Jim Wylie and Dianne to finalize wind power purchasing recommendation.*

##### Borough fleet

**Action:** Courtney will investigate recommendations for proposing a new energy efficiency requirement for Borough vehicles.

### Public outreach

Penn Future will likely help fund BLUER's business awards; we discussed potential criteria for selecting recipients. **Action:** *Dianne to follow through with Malcolm and PennFuture to finalize the awards plan. Part of this plan will include an educational component for presentation to the business community.*

Tim and Dianne reported on a meeting with WCU's provost; two avenues for communication and cooperation are opening: a university-wide sustainability committee (Tim is a participant) and the Borough/University Officials Group (BUOG). **Action:** *Tim will participate in WCU's new campus-wide sustainability committee as a BLUER representative and report back to the Committee.*

We agreed that our public outreach effort will focus on conservation first, energy efficiency second, and alternative energy third. We agreed that our BLUER newsletter will focus on conservation. **Action:** *Dianne and Scott will meet to map out an outreach//marketing strategy for reaching residents.*

### **Mosteller Garage/BID resolution**

Dianne explained the BID resolution for "greening" the Mosteller garage. After discussion, the consensus was that BLUER members will help promote 'greening' of individual projects as needs arise and as individuals are available. We will seek to focus our Committee's time and efforts on the completion of our Climate Action Plan and a broad strategic vision of greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability.

**NEXT BLUER MEETING DEC 5, 1 pm – 3 pm, ROOM 240**