

MADISON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Madison Energy Advisory Committee (MEAC) researched a number of options for saving tax dollars and improving town buildings comfort while reducing energy usage. Improving buildings to reduce energy usage in our town buildings and even in your homes is a step everyone can take that will provide the biggest payback on every dollar spent.

This past year, the MEAC:

- Worked with EMC, Eversource and the Board of Selectmen to apply for rebates for the town hall, the library and highway garages lighting upgrades. The payment for the upgrades will be included in the town electric bill over time equivalent to 100% of the anticipated energy usage savings after the new lighting fixtures and lights are installed until the project is paid for. No funds are required up front for the project.
- Worked with the SAU 13 schools to determine if a Performance Contract for energy efficiency projects (including but not limited to: weatherization, lighting upgrades, air quality and heating controllers) would be feasible. High level building energy audit interviews were conducted at Madison Elementary and Tamworth Brett School by Siemens. Freedom Elementary declined to participate. Siemens compiled a report showing that a performance contract could be feasible if the 3 SAU 13 schools participated, and provided us with a sample Request for Qualification (RFQ). An RFQ would allow the SAU 13 to seek Energy Service Company bids for the energy project, in addition to Siemens. A performance contract combines all energy savings and building improvement projects into one proposal, which are overseen by one service company. When the projects are completed, the receiving entity makes one monthly payment for a period of time to cover the cost of the construction and installation, and partially supported by the realized energy savings.

Performance Contracting has been a proven method for planning and completing an assortment of building improvement projects funded through energy savings for larger towns. Unfortunately, the Tamworth Brett declined to participate. With only Madison Elementary school participating, the Madison school board and the energy committee representatives decided that they could not send out a request for qualification. There would be insufficient project savings from just the one school's projects to justify an acceptable return on investment for an Energy Service Company to respond with a bid. This all happened prior to the notice of the elementary school mold situation.

- The Board of Selectmen have agreed to incorporate the town hall building weatherization upgrades in the building maintenance line of the operating budget for 2018. Quality Insulation of Meredith will perform the work.

If you have an interest in learning more about the MEAC and the committee objectives, please contact a committee member or plan to attend the meetings. (scheduled quarterly on the third Thursday of the month)

Members of the MEAC