

Kent County Renewable Energy Task Force  
30 October 2015  
Meeting Summary

The Kent County 2015 Renewable Energy Task Force (RETF) met on Friday, 30 October 2015 at 9:00 am in the Second Floor Conference room in the R. Clayton Mitchell, Jr. Government Center in Chestertown, MD . The following members attended: Walter Bowie, Bill Cooper, Briggs Cunningham, David Hill, Bob Ingersol, Kim Kohl, Janet Lewis, Sam Shoge, Ed Taylor, Ellyn Vail, and Terry Willis. RETF staff in attendance included Amy G. Moredock, Planning Director.

Ms. Moredock requested comments and approval of the 16 October 2015 meeting summary. The summary was accepted as drafted.

Acreage of solar systems currently installed and pending projects in the County

The members discussed the County and Town systems in place, all of which are less than 5 acres. Members would like to know what percentage of the County's energy costs are offset by renewal energy generation. Staff will provide this data at the next meeting.

Discussion of Small and Utility Scale Solar Energy System provisions

The members began their review of the definitions, provisions, and current conditions with the following comments and questions:

- Should there be an acreage limit per parcel or per zoning district relative to utility scale solar energy system approval. The members need to look at the acreage of land in each zoning district in which utility scale solar energy is or may be permitted. Staff will provide this data at the next meeting.
- Should a section "F" be added to the Employment Center and Industrial Zoning District utility scale solar system provisions limiting such uses (such as no more than 50% of land in each zoning district)?
- Should height limits be increased in order to encourage roof-mounted systems and colocation?
- If utility scale solar energy systems were permitted in agricultural districts, then should soil classification be a limiting factor in terms of siting systems (per MALPF example)? Certainly Class I and II soils should not be bifurcated.
- If utility scale solar projects were to be permitted in the agricultural districts, should they be permitted as primary uses rather than incidental/accessory uses? Should they be special exceptions?
- The wire size and alteration of utility infrastructure was discussed.

Next steps

The members will continue their discussion of small and utility scale solar energy systems and would like the follow items to be provided and/or addressed:

- Percentage of the County's energy costs that are offset by renewal energy generation.
- Acreage of land in each zoning district in which utility scale solar energy is or may be permitted.
- Map displaying soil types, roads, and power line locations.
- Copy of the Blue Star/OneEnergy utility scale site plan.
- Invitation extended to a representative of Delmarva Power who might address wire size and infrastructure alterations required for utility scale energy conveyance.

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