

FAIRLEE ENERGY COMMITTEE HISTORY

The Fairlee Energy Committee (FEC) was formed in the summer of 2009. It is one of more than 100 town energy committees in Vermont and New Hampshire. Its mission is to assist the townspeople and the Town of Fairlee to improve the energy efficiency of buildings and operations, reduce use of fossil fuels, and increase use of renewable resources.

The 2013 focus was to work with Efficiency Vermont and neighboring towns on a neighbor-to-neighbor Home Energy Challenge to reduce our homes' energy bills and improve their comfort and energy efficiency. See Efficiency Vermont's [website](#) for more information and continued rebates for home weatherization.

The Energy Committee did energy audits of the Town Hall in 2009, the Emergency Building in 2010, and the Library in 2012. In 2012, the energy committee focused on establishing priorities for energy savings in Fairlee's municipal buildings: the Town Hall, the Library and the Emergency Building. Our goal is to reduce the buildings' energy use, and in doing so, reduce the cost of their electricity and heating. The Committee will continue to prioritize and seek funding for municipal building energy saving projects.

In 2012, with a grant from Clean-Air Cool Planet and a Library fund, we had the Library's crawlspace walls insulated and all air sealing done as indicated by the Committee's energy audit. With the January 2013 Town Hall "flood" the Town not only insulated the basement walls of the Town Hall, but also the first floor walls of the Town Hall. These energy saving actions were chosen because the energy audits indicated that these actions would result in the quickest payback and greatest energy savings.

From the spring of 2010 and to the fall of 2011, the FEC worked with Central Vermont Public Service and the Selectboard to upgrade the Town's 46 streetlights and to add two new streetlights -- near the Episcopal Church and at the corner of Clubhouse Road and Lake Morey Road. The new LED fixtures reduced the cost per light from \$203 to \$138 -- resulting in an annual cost savings to the town of approximately \$2,200. Just as importantly, the new streetlights reduce the town's carbon footprint.

We welcome residents' participation in the energy committee. We look forward to working with you to address the many and varied ways to save the Town and its residents money by reducing our electricity and heating costs. Contact barbara.duncan@valley.net for more information about its activities.

Barbara Duncan, Chair
Jon Haehnel, Bill Weale, Bob Wertheimer