

Melrose Energy Commission

Status Report to the Board of Aldermen

April 6, 2006

José A. Rotger – Member and Recording Secretary

Review

formed September 2005; first meeting Sept. 28

Diverse membership with extensive energy experience

Consider the MEC as providing free energy

consulting services to the City

Two objectives:

Save taxpayers' money by helping to reduce energy
consumed by City facilities and functions

Educate residents on energy savings and efficiency
opportunities

Accomplishments to date

Organized and held the City's first Energy Fair on
September 4, 2005

Free admission – 8 exhibitors, more than 100 attendees
Information available on energy efficiency home
improvements, energy saving appliances, home
insulation / weatherization materials, financial
assistance for energy bills for low-income residents, and
discount programs for purchasing heating oil and
electricity from renewable resources

Accomplishments to date (continued)

Published articles in *Melrose Free Press* and *Melrose Weekly News* on important energy topics such as:

Energy savings tips (November 2005)

Energy audits for City buildings and other initiatives (December 2005)

Energy efficiency measures at the School Department (January 2006)

Tax breaks for energy efficiency home improvements (February 2006)

Accomplishments to date (continued)

Organized and sponsored presentations on Top 10 Energy Savings Tips from the Sierra Club

Milano Senior Center – March 8, 2006

Melrose Public Library – March 11, 2006

Provided free public access at City Hall to materials and documents on energy savings tips and AAA's Watcher's Guide

Accomplishments to date (continued)

Coordination with School Dept. and Public Works Dept., began inventory of energy consumption at city facilities, with the objective of forming a baseline level of consumption for use in developing energy efficiency and savings opportunities

Seeking a volunteer intern to help compile energy use inventory

Accelerated scheduling of free energy audits for city buildings from KeySpan Energy Delivery

agenda and to-do's

Continue communicating energy savings information to public via monthly articles in Melrose newspapers

Organize Second Annual Energy Fair with more exhibitors free information

Complete City facilities energy consumption inventory and develop recommendations for energy savings

Assist in developing and reviewing design of renovated heating and cooling plant for Memorial Hall (*pro bono* efforts by local HVAC experts and contractors)

agenda (continued)

Investigate feasibility of using renewable energy sources to offset City electricity use

E.g., solar-powered irrigation pumps and lighting for City parks

Seek state funding from Massachusetts Technology Collaborative for on-site renewable energy project

Investigate purchase of City streetlights from Mass. Electric

Opportunity to join more than 40 cities and towns already realizing significant savings resulting from purchasing streetlights

agenda (continued)

Investigate use of alternative transportation fuels (*e.g.* bio-diesel) for Public Works vehicles and for space heating in municipal facilities

Investigate ways to reduce water consumption as an energy-saving measure

Increase energy education and awareness at our schools through the development of curriculum materials

Participate in Melrose Public Schools' Department of Public Works Day at the City Yard on May 3, 2006

Any suggestions?