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Created in 2005, the Melrose Energy Commission is a group of Melrose citizens who are volunteering their time to help the city and its residents save energy. MEC members have diverse and extensive experience in areas pertaining to energy usage, efficiency and policy.

GOALS

The Commission is working with city officials to:

- Save taxpayers money by helping to reduce energy consumed by city facilities and functions
- Educate Melrose residents about energy savings and efficiency opportunities

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Completion of purchase of City streetlights

After conducting an extensive economic analysis of Melrose's streetlights, the MEC recommended to City officials that the streetlights be purchased directly from National Grid. This purchase was completed in early 2008. By purchasing – rather than leasing – these lights, the City will achieve annual net savings of approximately \$100,000.

Memorial Hall HVAC upgrade

Members of the MEC participated extensively in the design of the new HVAC system for Memorial Hall in order to maximize energy efficiency, performance and comfort within the prescribed project budget. After several iterations, a design that successfully met these criteria was developed, and construction is expected to be completed by the end of 2008.

Professional energy audits of municipal buildings

Members of the MEC successfully obtained and coordinated the performance of detailed professional energy audits of several municipal buildings through participation in National Grid's building commissioning programs. Audits were completed for Melrose City Hall, Melrose High School, Melrose Public Library and the Lincoln Elementary School. These audits will identify opportunities for significant energy efficiency improvements to these buildings, and their completion will facilitate eligibility for utility funding for the installation of efficiency upgrades.

Solar Panels at Melrose Middle School

The MEC worked with city officials to obtain a \$340,000 Massachusetts Technology Collaborative grant for a 30-kilowatt solar photovoltaic panel to be installed at the Middle School. In addition to providing energy to reduce the Middle School's utility bills, the solar panel will serve as an important educational tool for the school.

DEP grant for "smart" electricity meters

The MEC successfully applied for a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to purchase several dozen Kill-A-Watt meters, making them available to all Melrose citizens through a borrowing program administered by the Melrose Public Library. These meters provide an easy-to-use tool for residents to measure the electricity consumption of appliances and

electronic products, enabling them to better understand their energy use and develop strategies to reduce their consumption and energy bills.

Significant additions to *Clean Energy Choice* fund for Melrose

MEC continued to promote enrollment in the state's *Clean Energy Choice* electricity purchasing program, under which Melrose households contribute monthly payments through their electricity bills to support renewable energy. These contributions have earned Melrose more than \$10,000 in matching state funds that will further promote renewable energy through equipment (such as photovoltaic panels), consumer education and building analyses.

Energy education in Melrose Public Schools

Using funds from the Clean Energy Choice matching grant, two Melrose Middle School science teachers – Nancy Naslas and Eric DiAntonio – were able to attend the National Energy Education Development (NEED) curriculum training seminar in Washington, D.C. in July 2007. The teachers reported back to the MEC to explain how they are incorporating the lessons from the training into their existing curricula. The MEC was able to send two more teachers – Jim DiSanto and Marty Morse – to this year's NEED training in July 2008 by using the same source of funds. In addition, the MEC helped secure \$500 from KeySpan Energy to fund the cost of NEED curriculum materials for the public schools.

Melrose Energy Fair

The fifth annual Melrose Energy Fair was held November 15, 2009 at Memorial Hall, drawing a record crowd of more than 250 area residents. Organized and managed by the MEC, the annual Melrose Energy Fair is designed to create public awareness about opportunities for energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy audits and financial assistance for limited-income families by providing hands-on demonstrations and information for consumers. Exhibitors included local retailers, contractors and utility representatives.

Public education

The MEC regularly contributes stories to the Melrose Free Press and Melrose Weekly News about energy-saving opportunities for consumers as well as energy-efficiency projects undertaken by the City. The MEC also gives presentations and provides information about energy efficiency at several local venues, including the Victorian Fair, the Melrose Public Library, the Milano Senior Center and local houses of worship. The MEC has also facilitated free public access to energy-savings documents at City Hall.

Web site

In 2010, the MEC launched its own Web site, www.melroseenergy.org. It includes information about the MEC, its projects, its recent media placements, the *Clean Energy Choice* program and links to energy-efficiency information.

Melrose joins EPA's *Community Energy Challenge* and *U.S. Mayors Climate Agreement*

The MEC worked with Mayor Dolan to enlist Melrose in these EPA and state-sponsored initiatives that provide significant opportunities for energy-efficiency improvements to municipal buildings. Through these programs, Melrose and other New England cities are benchmarking the energy usage of city and school buildings, and then committing to an energy reduction of at least 10 percent.

For further information (or to volunteer), contact the MEC at info@melroseenergy.org or 781-662-2616.