

Town of Ayer

**Green Community
Committee**

Energy Committee

Carolyn McCreary,
presenter

Implemented Initiatives

- **EPG Solar Array (Southbridge, MA)**
 - 20 Year Net Metering Credit Contract
 - Estimated Savings of \$1,000,000 over 20 years
- **Town Hall Automated Controls**
 - 75% reduction in electricity consumption
 - \$5,000 energy rebate
- **WWTP Main Pumping Station Conversion (Oil to Gas)**

3 Successes and Best Practices

- **Awarded Green Community Status**
 - Challenge: stretch code adoption at ATM
 - Best practices:
 - Building code expert on committee
 - Presentations to BOS, Finance, Conservation, citizen groups, etc.
- **20 year SOLAR net metering contract**
 - Challenge: wading through process and regs
 - Best practice: get help from expert
- **Overall Municipal Energy Reduction**
 - Best practice: work with town staff, let others “own” project

Two Lessons Learned

- **Solar**

- 3 false starts
 - About to hire a consultant with criminal background
 - Attempted to engage in a deal that sounded too good to be true until Commonwealth stepped in to stop it
 - Worked with reputable company whose business plan changed and they pulled out
- Lessons: be persistent, get professional help

- **Projects requiring town meeting approval**

- Have good solid information and plan and be prepared to answer questions
- spend lots of time “selling” the idea

Two Plans for Next Year

- **Anaerobic Digester**

- WWTP sludge converted to methane gas which is combusted to produce electricity
- \$40,000 Grant to develop concept
- Electricity produced will be used by Ayer DPW and WWTP

- **LED Street lights**

- Purchase street lights from National Grid
- Conversion to LED

Two Metro West Collaborations

- **Street light conversions to LED**
 - Joint purchase will save money
 - Work together to understand and complete required steps
- **Joint application to Solarize program**
 - Program to promote individual solar projects
 - A multiple-town application is more likely to lead to a successful grant