

WAITSFIELD ENERGY COMMITTEE 2014 Annual Report

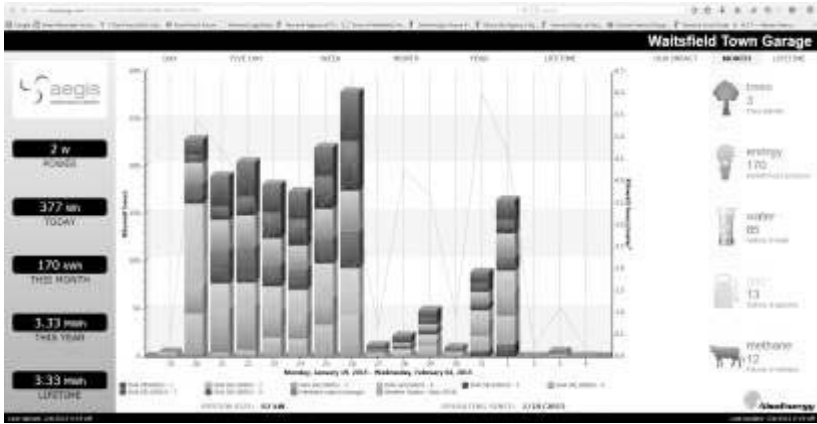
Waitsfield and the Mad River Valley have been fortunate in having what is arguably the highest ratio per capita of renewable, energy efficiency, and land use professionals in the nation. Their individual contributions can be felt in the advancement of progressive town energy plans, energy committees, and new businesses sprouting up in the valley and across the state. On the renewable energy front, local residents are employed at Northern Power Systems, Northern Reliability, Aegis Renewables, SunCommon, TDX Power, Yestermorrow, and many others. In short, the growth of renewables has been a boon for local skilled jobs in the Mad River Valley.

In Waitsfield, the Planning commission, Selectboard, and Energy Committee have collaborated in the development of guidelines for siting solar energy systems in the town energy plan, establishing a framework for a community-scale “solar orchard” and most recently the development of a municipal solar energy system. These municipal efforts have been matched by over 40 individual homeowners and businesses “going solar” – doubling the number of solar systems in Waitsfield since 2011.

The towns of Waitsfield and Warren built two municipal solar energy systems in partnership with Aegis Renewables – a Waitsfield-based company. In Waitsfield, the 102 kilowatt, 330-panel solar array has been sized to provide enough locally-sourced renewable energy to support the Waitsfield Elementary School and what will be Vermont’s 2nd “Net-Zero” Town Office building. Additional generation from the solar array will also help offset electric expenses of the municipal buildings including the Fire Station, Town Garage, Wait House, and Library. This project was made possible through an \$80,000 grant from the state’s Clean Energy Development Fund and Waitsfield voters approving a bond to finance the new town energy plant over the next 20 years.

The Town will be partnering with the Waitsfield Elementary School as a “group net-metered” solar array, building on the energy efficiency improvements made over the last couple of years and providing a secure, sustainable path for the school’s electricity budget. The solar array offers both an educational tool for the school’s curriculum – an example capturing elements of science, engineering and math. Performance of the

array can be found through the [Solar Production and Impact Data](#) link on the Waitsfield home page at www.waitsfieldvt.us.



We look forward to what the next few years will bring and appreciate the state’s support in advancing the Town of Waitsfield and other Mad River Valley town efforts in creating additional renewable energy jobs and a vision for a sustainable and resilient community with locally sourced energy.

Chris Badger, Waitsfield Energy Coordinator



Governor’s Press Conference for Solar Grant

Photo: MRVTV