

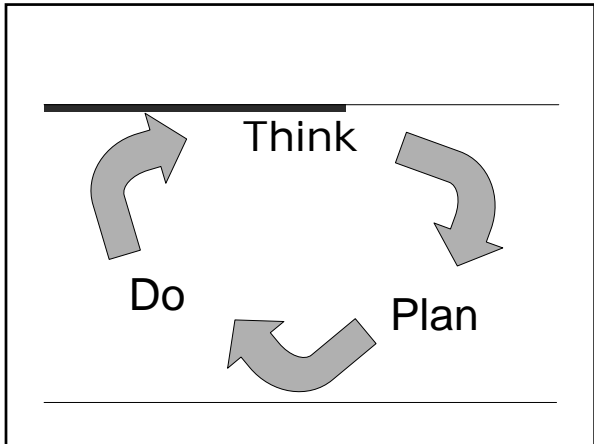
## **Going Green Regionally**

*Regional Energy Savings Project: Catherine Ratt, Pioneer Valley Planning Commission*

*Regional Energy Manager: Denis DiZoglio, Merrimac Valley Planning Commission*

Sept. 2, 2010






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Sustainable Energy in the  
Pioneer Valley—Regional Energy  
Savings plus...

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Catherine Ratte'  
Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

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- 2003 to 2010
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- THINK
  - PLAN
  - DO
- 2003-2004 Inventory & Regulatory Barriers
  - 2005-2007 Pioneer Valley Clean Energy Plan
  - 2008-2010 Plan Adoption & Implementation
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## Implementation

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- Coordinated Regional Action
  - Grant-writing
  - Regional Performance Contracting
  - Green Communities Certification
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## Benefits

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- Energy Saved
  - Clean Energy Generated
  - Green Jobs
  - Greenhouse Gas Emissions reduced
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## Barriers

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- Financing
  - Home Rule/Local Control
  - State Regulation
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**Governance Structure**

- Informal ad hoc voluntary to start
- Increasingly formalized via MOU
- Still Voluntary

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**Assessment/Payment Structure**

- None so far
- Possible portion of Green Communities award?
- Grant writing

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**Lessons Learned**

- Planning is KEY!
- Creativity and Resilience are necessary
- This work is worthwhile

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## Going Green Regionally

“Regional Energy Manager”

Dennis A. DiZoglio

Executive Director

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## Regionalization Through a Regional Approach

“Targeted Regional Strategy”

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## Merrimack Valley Mayors & Managers Coalition

- Merrimack Valley Planning Commission
- Legislative Advocacy
- Procurement
- Regional Health District
- Regional Inspection Program
- Regional Energy Manager

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## Motivators

- Expertise: ESCO, LED, REC, STRETCH, TIC, EAP, EMS, BCAP, **ECEBG**, DOER, ZNEB, EEAC, RGGI, ISO, PPA, AFVs, APS, RPS, LBE
- Capacity: Plant & Facility Manager

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## Purpose

- “Assist participating communities develop strategic energy conservation and generation plans. The manager monitors energy use and expenses for the communities, recommends behavioral changes to reduce energy use, recommends capital equipment upgrades to reduce energy and be the point person for the community and contactors for energy matters”

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## Manager Responsibilities

- Interface with energy committees
- Identify energy audit programs
- Assist communities implement audits
- Prepare energy bill audit and develop benchmarks
- Develop short and long term goals
- Develop Action Plan
- Develop technical specifications for bid packages to implement action plan

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## Administration

- MVPC
  - Vendor Procurement
  - Contracted with Vendor
  - Municipal agreements
  - Billing and Payments
- Municipalities
  - Funding: Clean Energy Choice, EECBG, Collins Center grant writing assistance and local funds
  - Provide supervision and direction to vendor
  - Provide access to energy data

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## Targeted Regional Strategies

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESCO           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 9 Communities &amp; 2 Regional School Districts</li> <li>– Joint procurement</li> <li>– Technical specifications &amp; energy data</li> <li>– Shared overhead</li> <li>– “Allows a small community to think big”</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “BRIGHTFIELDS”           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 8 Communities &amp; 1 private landfill</li> <li>– “Fatal Flaw” Analysis</li> <li>– Identify &amp; Organize Options</li> <li>– Joint procurement of Solar Farm developer</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
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## Future Efforts

- Merrimack Valley Clean Energy Plan
- Regional Renewable Energy Options & Opportunities
  - Energy Conservation & Efficiencies
  - Wind Power
  - Hydropower
  - Solar Electric Photovoltaic & Thermal Hot Water
  - Landfill Gas/Co-generation
  - Biomass
  - Biofuels
  - Geothermal

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**I. REGIONAL PLANNING AGENCY:** Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC)**II. PROJECT NAME:** Regional Energy Manager**III. CATEGORY OF PROJECT:**  Existing Regional Service  New Regional Service in Development**IV. PURPOSE:** Assist participating communities develop strategic energy conservation and generation plans. As part of this effort the manager will monitor energy use and expenses for the participating communities, recommend behavioral changes to reduce energy use, recommend capital equipment upgrades to reduce energy and be the point person for the community and contractors for energy matters.**V. COMMUNITIES SERVED/PARTICIPATING:** Technical Assistance/ Amesbury, Haverhill, Lawrence, Methuen, North Andover & Salisbury: Programming/ Amesbury, Boxford, Georgetown, Haverhill, Lawrence, Merrimac, Methuen, Newburyport, North Andover and Pentucket Regional School District and Greater Lawrence Technical High School.**VI. SUMMARY OF PROJECT SCOPE:**

- Meet with local officials and their Energy Commissions, Committees or Boards to become familiar with current efforts, goals and initiatives;
- Identify energy audit programs most suited for each community, including no-cost or low cost audits offered through state and federal programs, utility companies and/or energy services companies;
- Assist community with implementation of energy audits, including coordinating between auditor and Municipalities, assisting in data gathering or organization, and submission of information;
- Perform energy audit on all energy bills and other available information develop benchmarks, and comparative analysis with information available through Energy Star, Department of Energy Resources and other sources;
- Working with community leaders develop short and long term goals for energy savings and efficiencies;
- Develop action plan for community including identifying policies, capital investments and funding opportunities to achieve goals. Opportunities may include federal and state funding, energy service contracting companies, utility company rebates, and other programs.
- Identify and assess the value of renewable energy credits (REC's) and identify potential REC purchase contracts;
- Develop an energy management and conservation plan for municipal buildings. The proposed plan shall produce anticipated savings that can be reliably measured with accepted engineering methods over the life of the conservation measure.
- Attend the Energy Committee meetings to discuss the project and methodology to be used, progress updates, presentation of the final report to the Mayor/Manager, as necessary.
- Where desired, assist the Municipality in developing the technical specifications for the bid packages needed to implement action plan.

**VII. BUDGET AND TIMETABLE:** The communities are using various funding sources to pay for these services: Clean Energy Choice Grants, Energy Efficiency & Energy Conservation Block Grants and municipal funds. Each community budget is based on the amount of hours each community desires and is billed at a rate of \$150/hour. Current funding allocated to this program is \$58,000 and continues through January 2011.**VIII. EXPECTED COST SAVINGS TO COMMUNITIES:** Savings will vary depending on the energy savings generated from any improvements implemented.

**IX. OTHER BENEFITS TO COMMUNITIES:** Very few communities have available staff time or expertise to develop a community wide energy plan. Having a regional energy manager brings a resource that an individual community may not have the luxury to obtain. Joint procurement of the consultant and the ability to tailor make an energy plan that meets the individual needs of the community.

**X. KEY PROJECT OBSTACLES/CHALLENGES:** None

**XI. CONTACT NAME(S) AND INFORMATION FOR LEAD RPA STAFF:**

Name: Dennis DiZoglio \_\_\_\_\_ Title: Executive Director \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

RPA: Merrimack Valley Planning Commission (MVPC) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: 160 Main Street, Haverhill, MA 01844

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Email: ddizoglio@mvpc.org \_\_\_\_\_

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