

## Green Community Update – 12/9/2014

### Objectives

- Status of Green Community activity
- Request authorization to complete activities to obtain Green Community designation

### Background and timeline

At the 9/23 Selectman's meeting, Kelly Brown, our regional Green Communities Coordinator, presented an overview of the Green Communities program and explained why Stow is eligible to be designated a Green Community – while we weren't when the program was first established. The Selectmen requested that Green Community designation be investigated by the Energy Working Group.

To be designated a Green Community, the town must demonstrate it meets the five Green Community criteria. If successful, the town would be awarded an initial grant of approximately \$134,000 and be eligible for annual competitive grants for energy conservation measures. There are no specific costs paid by the town or residents to be designated and remain a Green Community.

Working through Bill Wrigley, a kick-off meeting was held on 10/16 with Kelly Brown, the Planning Board, and the Building Department. At the meeting, the Green Community criteria were discussed in more detail and an overall plan and timeline were agreed to. Since then, work has continued on the five criteria including outreach to most town departments. The current status of each of the criteria is outlined below. Overall, we are confident the town can meet the Green Community criteria by the next submission date – October 2015. The Energy Working Group requests the Selectmen authorize us to continue the process of Green Community designation.

If we proceed with Green Community designation, the timeline would be as follows.

- March/April - Joint meeting of Selectmen and Financial Committee (at regular Selectmen's meeting) on the Stretch Code.
- March/April – Public forum on the Stretch Code.
- May – Approval of warrant article to adopt the Stretch Code.
- June/July – Selectmen approve the Energy Reduction Plan and fuel-efficient vehicle commitment.
- October – Submission of Green Communities documentation to the DOER.

## **Green Community Criteria**

The following is a summary of the five Green Community criteria and the town's current status with respect to each criteria.

### **Criteria 1 and 2 – Provide as-of-right siting for renewable energy generation and expedited permitting**

Karen Kelleher worked with Kelly Brown to have the town's existing Bylaws reviewed by DOER planning staff. DOER found existing Bylaws comply with the as-of-right siting requirement. The next step is to have the Bylaws reviewed by town counsel and obtain a letter of compliance.

### **Criterion 3 – Energy use baseline and plan for reduction of 20% in 5 years**

The energy use baseline for town building, vehicles, and lighting has been established (see attached figures). The town has the choice of including the local regional schools in the baseline. We are recommending the schools not be included. This decision can be revisited subsequent to the town being designated a Green Community. A good start on the Energy Reduction Plan are the energy conservation measure recommended by the energy audit of the Town Building and Police (performed by ECHO and authorized last year by the Selectmen).

The Selectmen must approve the Energy Reduction Plan submitted to DOER.

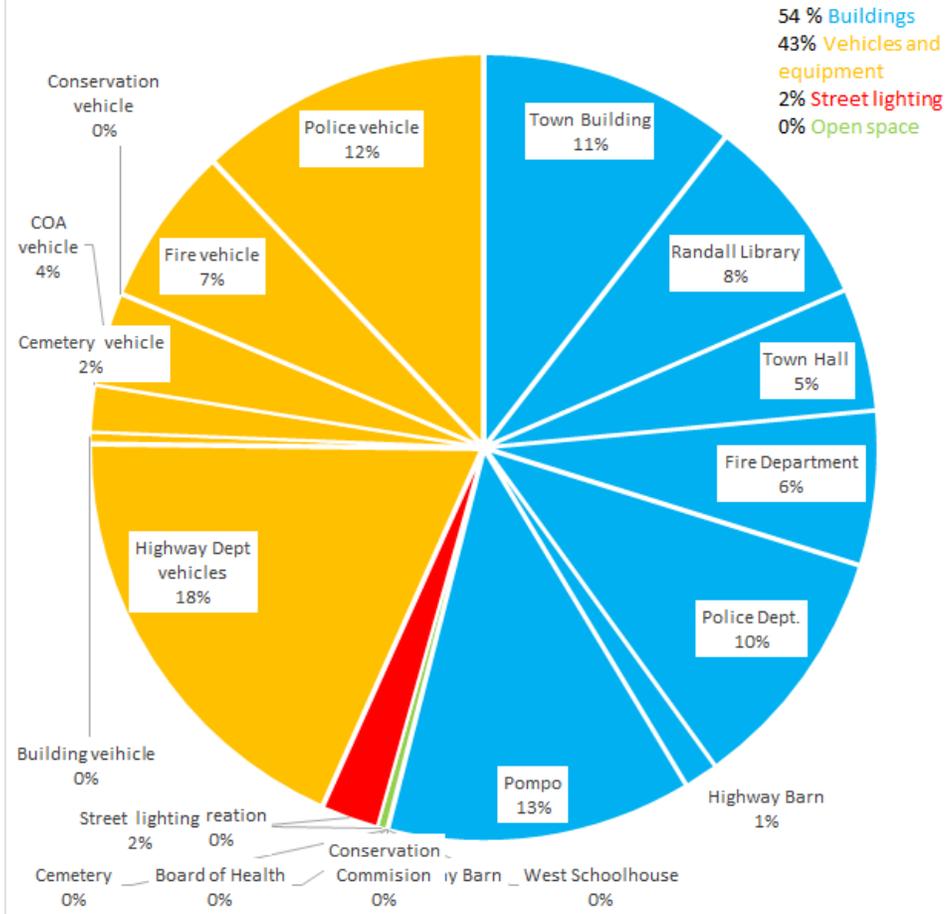
### **Criterion 4 – Purchase fuel-efficient vehicles**

An inventory of town vehicles has been completed and vehicles have been classified as exempt or non-exempt from the fuel-efficient vehicle category. Of 36 vehicles, only four are not exempt – and two of the four meet the fuel efficiency standard. The Selectmen must approve the commitment to purchase fuel-efficient vehicles – when purchasing non-exempt vehicles.

### **Criterion 5 – Stretch Code**

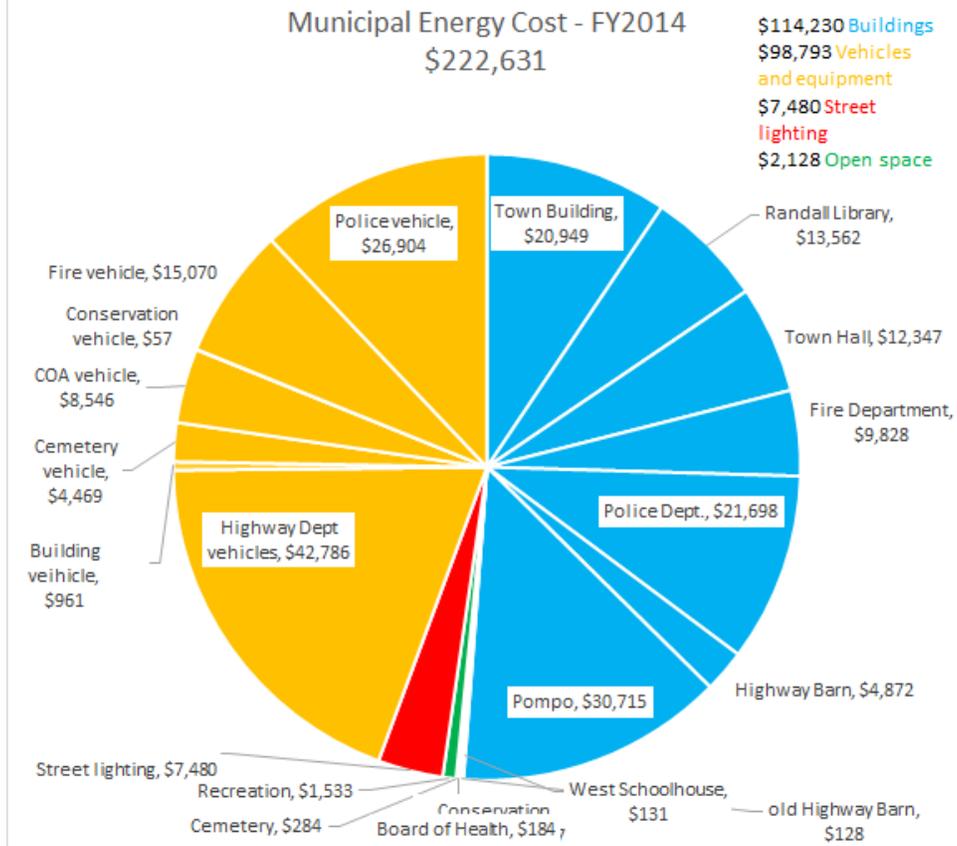
Review of the Stretch Code by Craig and Kelly Brown showed current new construction regulations are similar to the Stretch Code. However, the Stretch Code must be formally adopted at town meeting. A public forum and presentation to the Selectmen and Financial Committee are planned prior to town meeting in May.

### Municipal Energy Use - FY2014

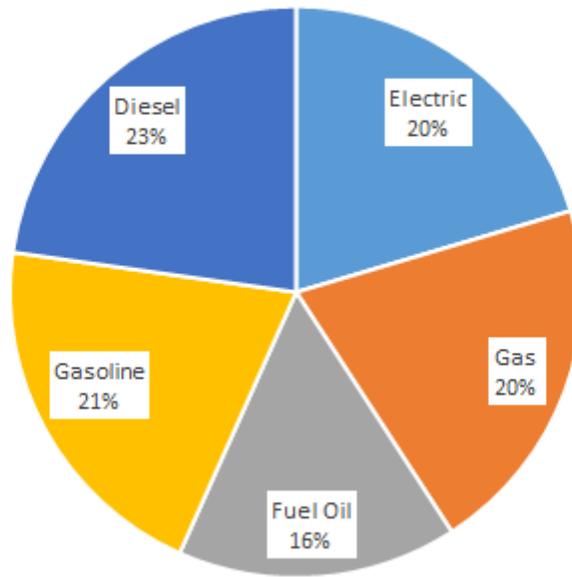


### Municipal Energy Cost - FY2014

\$222,631



Municipal Energy Use by Fuel - FY2014



Municipal Fuel Cost - FY2014

