

2017 Orleans Renewable Energy Committee (OREC) Report

The Orleans Capped Landfill Solar PV facility has been operational for all of 2016 and 2017. This is a 574 KW(DC) facility and has been producing on average about 56,000 kWh per month or 676,000 kWh annually. The town has been receiving energy credits for the past 2 years. For an up to date report on the electrical output on a monthly basis, log on to www.cvecinc.org/photovoltaic-installation-updates and scroll down to "Orleans capped landfill site".

Orleans has also been receiving Net Metering Credits (NMC) from Borrego Solar's Freetown MA project for the past 2 years. This is a 5.4 MW project and Orleans has signed up for about 10% of the total project or 750,000 kWh. The approximate savings to the town are about \$38,000 per year.

The capital plan for Orleans involves three major projects, which will impact the electrical energy usage for the town in the future. These projects include the new Police Station, the new DPW facility, and the new Waste Water Treatment System. It is estimated that additional electrical energy will be required in the next few years.

New technologies and suppliers of renewable energy are coming on line frequently. The OREC has been actively reviewing the news releases, visiting sites, and investigating the potential for Orleans to create its own solar site(s) in the future. This could be one way to produce increased energy and also reduce our overall energy cost.

The MA Dept of Energy Resources (DOER) initiated the Green Community Program in 2010. Since its inception, 185 out of the 351 towns in MA have become Green Communities. DOER has awarded over \$81M to these Green Community towns, for "energy saving" projects so far. Orleans has been investigating the 5 criterion to become a Green Community. The 5 criterion involve possible changes to the zoning, adoption of the "new" Stretch Code to the Orleans Building Code, an agreement to buy "energy efficient vehicles", and the preparation of an "Energy Reduction Plan" for the next 5 years. Once a town is accepted as a Green Community, it will receive an initial grant of a minimum of \$125,000. We can apply for additional grant funding, in the following years, for projects that are considered energy reducing.

OREC has requested time during an Orleans Citizens Forum to explain the five criterion in detail and request the towns support on 1-2 warrant articles. This forum is expected to be held in late March 2018, in advance of the May 2018 town meeting.

Unlike many of the other, funding articles the town residents will be asked to approve, becoming a Green Community will be bringing money into the town so we appreciate your support during the OCF in March and also at the town meeting.

OREC wishes all of the Orleans town residents a very happy and prosperous New Year.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Hungerford
Chairman