

Brandon Energy Committee
4:30 PM Monday, September 8th, 2025 Meeting
At Town Hall Basement Meeting Room

Agendas are posted on the community bulletin boards located at the Town Office at 49 Center Street & Junction Store & Deli at 2265 Forest Dale Road. The Energy Committee reserves the right to add additional items, at the beginning of the meeting.

Attendees: David Martin, Jack Schneider, Serge Cotnor, Robert Black

Guests: Jeff Dardozzi, Bob West, Shannon Bryant/Director/*Energy Navigator Program*

BEC MEETING NOTES

4:35 DM called meeting to order. Adopt and approve agenda and minutes

This meeting was set and warned as a Special Working Session of the Brandon Energy Committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

WORKSESSION

Intention

To generate a list of practical actions to accomplish Local, State and National Energy Goals through a growing awareness of the BEC's purpose and value to the residents of the greater Brandon community.

Desired Outcomes

- Inspire current BEC members
- Attract new BEC members
- Spark more community interest and participation.

"Group-Think" on Key Projects

Each project was described with its partner group and assessed on the basis of four criteria:

- Public Awareness Rating. Scale 1 (Low)-2-3-4-5 (high)
- Best Idea to Grow Awareness
- Highest Priority Next Step
- Desired Objective by 31DEC25

1. Energy Navigator Program (*Climate Economy Action Center/CEAC*)

Coaching for Homeowners w/Energy Options Report/Next Steps/Resources

- Public Awareness Rating: 1-2
- Ideas to Grow Awareness: Add to Town Website... Use Brandon Buzz, Front Porch Forum... Target outreach to colder time of year (incl. w/GMP billing).
- Next Step/2025 Objective: Engage 15-20 Residents for Energy Navigator coaching.

2. Weatherization Resource Library (*Brandon Free Public Library*)

Based on \$3-4K "Grass Roots" Grant, IR Cam, Energy Monitor, Consumable Materials and Supplies.

- Public Awareness Rating: 0-1 (*Program not officially launched yet*)
- Ideas to Grow Awareness: Partner w/#1, #3, #5... Brand as "Library of Things"... Re-tool the *ToolShip* for off-season (winter) use... display *ToolShip* near BFPL.
- Next Step/2025 Objectives: Create space in BFPL, Post on Substack and BFPL Newsletter.

3. Button-Up Program (*Efficiency Vermont*)

Energy Conservation Alternatives for Homeowners with Coaching, Resources & Funding

- Public Awareness Rating: 2-3
- Ideas to Grow Awareness: Promote w/#2... Promote during Cold Weather... Do new Events (Brandon Senior Center)... Focus on DIY Actions.
- Next Step/2025 Objective: Do 3 Events (Oct/Nov/Early Dec)...Decide Topics & Content

4. ToolShip (*Brandon Free Public Library, ReBHS*)

Mobile Tool Cart for Patrons of BFPL, ToolShip I, ToolShip II (in process). Summer Use (Lawn mower, leaf blower, Trimmer. Maintains Use Date @ BFPL.

- Public Awareness Rating: 4-5
- Ideas to Grow Awareness: Display ToolShip in Winter... Re-purpose for Fall Clean-Up (Leaf blower, rakes, etc.) or for Winter use (snowblower, shovels, etc.)... Reach out to Senior Center...
- Next Step/2025 Objective: Finish ToolShip II, Other TBD, depending on who is available)

5. DIY Solar (*Tim Guiles*)

A local initiative spurred by Tim to help install cost-effective, small scale solar.

- Public Awareness Rating: 3
- Ideas to Grow Awareness: Redo & record Tim's Solarfest workshop... Partner with #3... Do more workshops... Do talks at BFPL...
- Next Step/2025 Objective: Work with Tim to reprise and record his Solarfest workshop.

6. Repair Fair (*ReBHS*)

Workshops to teach and train assist people in making repairs for reuse of a variety of items.

- Public Awareness Rating: 3-4 (*As Events are scheduled and advertised*)
- Ideas to Grow Awareness: Do two Repair Fair events each year... Promote in local media... Enlist more "Repairers".
- Next Step/2025 Objective: Plan next Repair Fair for Spring 2026.

7. Window Dressers (<https://windowdressers.org>)

WindowDressers is a volunteer-driven non-profit organization dedicated to helping Northern New England residents reduce heating costs, fossil fuel consumption.

- Public Awareness Rating: 1
- Ideas to Grow Awareness: Collaborate with #2, #3... Create interest at Solarfest... Invite WD presenters to future BEC meetings... Utilize connections in multi-state WD events & promotions.
- Next Step/2025 Objective: Invite WD to present at BEC meeting in Oct, Nov or Dec 2025.

Marketing & Outreach Discussion (5 Focus Areas):

- Public Events (*Senior Center/BFPL/American Legion/Local Churches*)
- Posters/Brochures/Fliers
- Articles in Local Media
- Social Media Posts
- Videos (*ala “Eve” prototype*)

Comments noted for extended discussion and action at future BEC meetings:

- Design outreach efforts for “high-profile fun”...ala *ToolShip*’s idea and spirit.
- Do more direct engagement of potential constituents.
- Create the experience to be realistic (i.e., “implied, embedded direct, personal, useful”)
- Emphasize a “Library of Things” for a variety of BEC projects to be implemented.
- Consider a “Habitat for Humanity” model with a Lottery Winner getting free, volunteer service.

The above record will be used as a template to guide our work at the three remaining meetings of 2025.

The BEC is seeking additional members as candidates to fill a current vacancy on the Committee. Interested individuals can contact the BEC through the Town Office or Website.

5:45 Review of agreements made.

5:50 Meeting Adjourned

Next meeting October 6 4:30 pm- Town Hall Basement Meeting Room

This meeting is available to attend via ZOOM: Meeting ID 87042220099 It will also be recorded and posted.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert Black/BEC Secretary