

EAQAC Minutes

June 6, 2012

Present: Paul Bubbosh, Bernie Bloom, Ken Cantor, Eric Coffman, Steve Gibb, Stephen Shaw, Jim McDonnell, Aaron Cutler, Sam Biondo, Betsy O'Brian

Absent: Tim Whitehouse, Melitta Carter

The May minutes were amended and approved.

Presentation from Outside Group

John Ackerly is the Founder and President of Alliance for Green Heat, a non-profit that promotes cleaner and more efficient residential wood and pellet heating. The alliance is focused on the following:

- Promoting incentives for installation of very clean, modern wood stoves with EPA-certification
- Encouraging Montgomery County to follow Oregon/Wash. State's lead in only allowing EPA-certified stove installation
 - Encouraging county building permits to include a check on new stove certification status
 - Recognizing that there may be a linkage between air quality and insurance coverage so that permits and old stoves linked to fires may not be as eligible for reimbursement
- Getting broader County-level attention to the issue

Discussion

With an estimated 200 homes with wood burning stoves as the only heat source county-wide, with five to ten times that many as secondary heat sources, it's not clear this issue rises to the level of a regulatory concern for the county that offers important risk reduction benefits. The committee will take the information under further advisement and will be pleased to consider additional information if more extensive modeling produces results that warrant adjustments to air quality planning, the protection of susceptible subpopulations or other county concerns.

Commercial and Multi-Family Building Study

Eric Coffman reported that an abbreviated 30-day public comment period will commence in late June 2012. Ownership and behavioral patterns in the county can be complex and additional information on the study will be forwarded to industry officials, landlords, the interviewees contacted previously and other stakeholders. It appears that there is no clear understanding of the composition of the building community and who “controls” energy usage – landlords, property managers, realtors, tenants and/or others in the county – a major finding and factor to be taken into consideration in reducing energy use and greenhouse gas production.

Action Items:

1. EAQAC members are invited to submit the names of potential new Committee members, with a preference for new women members. There are three open positions.
2. Eric will circulate the Washington State language on allowing only EPA-certified stove installation.