

Mt. Ararat Sustainability Subcommittee
DRAFT Meeting Minutes (J. Damon)
2 Nov 2015

Concepts discussed:

LEED – is it the goal of this group to recommend LEED certification? Or should we take a more economical approach and aspire to a “LEED-like” project?

Maine Advanced Buildings <http://www.advancedbuildings.net> mentioned as a research site, more about energy less about sustainability

“Green Globe” - another certification program similar to LEED, perhaps a bit less stringent. <http://greenglobe.com>

Conversation about feasibility/cost of a net zero building

- very expensive
- PV panels have about a 30 year ROI and service life

Power Purchase Agreement (what Bowdoin College has)

- another entity funds the capital investment (PV panels)

Maybe we can design the building to be converted to net zero

LEED takes the certification process “outside the building” – looks at things like transportation

Mechanical systems tend to be the most complicated things in the building, so design site commissioning has become a process to mitigate (requires a commissioning agent, an independent third party, and typically includes training at turnover)

- very early on by reviewing or nearer end
- building envelope commissioning
- charges for service based on scope of work and expertise

White Roof convo...pros and cons

What direction do we want this committee to go in?

LEED – is there a bigger value to actual LEED certification vs a ranking system otherwise?

Biomass boiler is very high tech and can be volatile, but will it be good in the future
If we make the building very efficient we’ll use very little oil

Leavitt HS has done biomass and have reported huge savings over the past 3 years

What is a good system adopt that reaches our sustainability goals?

- Geothermal
- Solar
- Wind
- Natural Gas

Sustainability is the ability to replace electricity (from grid to PV array for example)

So what is the next big thing for energy and institutional design? To help guide our thought process for thinking long term?

16 categories of design and sustainability (*see handout*); split up and research:

- Acoustics: Brad
- Commissioning: Brant
- Daylighting: Chris
- Energy Efficient Building Envelope – Sue
- Green Matierials/ Low VOCs – Jessica
- Storm Water Management – Brad
- Preservation of natural areas – Jessica
- High efficiency HVAC equipment – Mike
- High performance lighting- Chris
- Renewable Energy – Steve
- Superior Indoor air quality – Brant
- Reduce Transportation Impacts- Jane
- Thermal Comfort – Jane
- Visual Comfort- Karen
- Water efficiency- Sue
- Site Selection - Steve