

## Portland Clean Energy Timeline

**March 2004** – Citizens petition Board of Selectmen for Clean Energy. The Board unanimously passes a resolution endorsing research into the 20% by 2010 Clean Energy Campaign.

**November 2004** – BOS becomes the 2nd town (New Haven was the first) to commit Portland to the 20% by 2010 Clean Energy Campaign, unanimously passing the resolution.

**March 2005** – Portland Clean Energy Task Force formed, and meets officially for the first time on April 6, 2005.

**April 2005** – The DPUC (Dept. of Public Utility Control) approved CT Clean Energy Options program lets any ratepayer support clean energy systems to account for the electricity they use.

**September 2005** – Portland becomes the 1st municipality to buy clean energy through CT Clean Energy Options when the BOS unanimously votes to contract with Sterling Planet, a clean energy supplier.

**November 2005** – Portland Clean Energy Task Force presents to the Portland Board of Education the idea for a 100 Kilowatt solar array for a school building. Using a power purchase agreement, there would be no costs to Portland, and the town would buy electricity from the array at a reduced rate, saving money while reducing harmful emissions. The BOE opts not to go forward with the proposal.

**May 2006** – With its 87th sign up, Portland achieves a 2.5% per capita CT Clean Energy Options program sign up rate. This will earn the town a free 1 Kilowatt solar photovoltaic panel as soon as Portland becomes a Clean Energy Community.

**June 2006** – 126 Portland residents and businesses enroll (resulting in 110 points) with the CT Clean Energy Options program. By getting 100 points

worth of sign ups, Portland achieves the status as a “Clean Energy Community” and thus earns a free solar photovoltaic panel. The free panel comes as an incentive from the CT Clean Energy Fund. Also, the Portland Clean Energy Task Force receives from the CT Clean Energy Fund \$5000 to disseminate as ‘Community Innovations’ grants to local groups to promote clean energy activities and enrollments in the CT Clean Energy Options program.

**August 2006** - Portland Boy Scout Troop 2 receives first Community Innovations grant and staffs clean energy tables at the Brownstone Quarry Festival in September and the Portland Fair in October.

**October 2006** – Portland Clean Energy Task Force releases “The Case For Clean Energy” a 15 minute video detailing how clean energy has the potential to address essentially all the challenges facing our current fossil fuel and nuclear based energy system.

**October 2006** – Bauer/Schnurman house uses CT Clean Energy Fund 50% rebate to install solar photovoltaic (PV) array. Price per watt of installed solar: \$8.52.

**October 2006** – Dozens more clean energy sign ups place Portland just over 4% per capita enrolled in the CT Clean Energy Options

**November 2006** – Solar Consultant advises town on possible sites for solar array. The Portland Library, Fire House #2, Valley View School and the Buck/Foreman building all get assessed for solar.

**November 2006** – Official tally of Portland’s CT Clean Energy Option enrollees reaches 169, giving the town 142.5 points and a 4.79% per capita sign up rate.

**December 2006** – Official tally of Portland’s CT Clean Energy Options enrollees reaches 212, giving the town 184.5 points and a 6% per capita sign up rate. Passing the 5% mark earns Portland another array, and reaching the

5% mark first (along with Bethany, CT) earns Portland a 2 Kilowatt bonus.  
**February 2007** – CCEF (CT Clean Energy Fund) approved solar installers visit Valley View to prepare estimates for a 5 Kilowatt solar array.

**April 2007** – Portland Clean Energy Task Force hosts free showing of “An Inconvenient Truth” with over 60 in attendance. Colin Bennett of Clean Water Action speaks afterward.

**June 2007** – Portland Clean Energy Task Force hosts four CCEF approved installers (Akeena Solar, Solar Wrights, Solar Works, and PVSquared). Over 80 in attendance.

**August 2007** – Portland Clean Energy Sign Up points climb to 201, qualifying the town for an additional 1 kilowatt of solar panels.

**September 2007** – Portland Clean Energy Task Force at the Brownstone Quarry Festival host a Hybrid car show-and-tell.

**September 2007** – Portland Clean Energy Task Force at the Portland Fair with CT approved solar photovoltaic (PV) installer Solar Wrights.

**November 2007** – Portland BOS unanimously approves first of its kind 'hybrid' photovoltaic installation for Valley View School. Using the free five kilowatts (Kw) of PV earned through the Clean Energy Communities program, the town elects to take advantage the CT Clean Energy Fund 50% PV Rebate program to install another 5 Kw of PV. The \$83,000 total value of the system requires an outlay of just \$14,000, with an estimated payback period of 5.5 years.

**December 2007** – Portland Clean Energy Task Force hosts geothermal installer Siverio Mechanical at Portland Library.

**December 2007** – Rooney house uses CT Clean Energy Fund 50% rebate to install solar (PV) array. Price per watt of installed solar: \$8.35

**January 2008** – Portland's clean energy sign ups pass 240 for a 7% per capita sign up rate.

**May 2008** – Precision Plastics becomes the first Portland business to use the CT Clean Energy Fund's 50% rebate to install an 80 KW solar (PV) array.

**June 2008** – Portland Clean Energy Task Force hosts two CCEF approved installers (GroSolar, Sunlight Solar). Over 80 in attendance.

**July 2008** - Portland Clean Energy Task Force recommends taking the EPA Energy Efficiency Challenge which the Board of Selectmen unanimously approve.

**August 2008** – AltPower (a CT CEF approved installer) begins installation of PV array on Valley View school.

**September 2008** – Portland Clean Energy Task Force at the Brownstone Quarry Festival unveils CT Solar Lease program that gets residents a PV system on their house for no increase in electricity bills (lease payments are subtracted from utility bill).

**October 2008** – Bransfield house installs solar (PV) array.

**November 2008** – Valley View receives final OK from CL&P and starts to provide energy to the school. At maximum output, the array will power 50 computers.

**March 2009** - Portland Clean Energy Task Force presents Energy Plan to Board of Selectmen who unanimously approve it.

**June 2009** - Portland reaches 276 enrollments for the CT Clean Energy Options (a 7.6% sign up rate)

**August 2009** - Portland begins 'benchmarking' energy use for town facilities in order to prioritize energy projects.

**September 2009** - Portland is one of three finalists for an Energy Conservation award from the Hartford Business Journal.

**September 2009** - With help from Clean Water Action and CL&P, Portland Clean Energy Task Force starts promoting Home Energy Solutions to residents. Any town residents who enroll are entered into a drawing for an Energy Star laptop computer (good till 12/31/2009). Two HES contractors, Lantern Energy and New England Conservation Services, offer to rebate back to the town's Energy Efficiency Programs account \$25 for each HES done. The account will be used to fund energy efficiency measures for the community and town facilities.

**October 2009** - Pear house installs solar PV array. Price per watt of installed solar: \$7.11

**November 2009** - Portland Clean Energy Task Force unanimously approves joining with the Community Energy Saving Project, a 14 town pilot program that seeks to use ARRA funds for energy efficiency. This will later be known as the Neighbor to Neighbor Energy Efficiency Challenge. With the possibility of receiving assistance for residential energy efficiency that includes online tracking software, an energy efficiency revolving loan fund, and various other support mechanisms for activities the Task Force promotes anyway, the Task Force wholeheartedly endorses Portland's participation in this project to the Board of Selectmen.

**December 2009** - Over 70 town residents have a HES done on their homes, reducing emissions and saving money. Portland Clean Energy Task Force extends promotion to Earth Day, April 22, 2010.

**January 2010** - Portland Clean Energy Task Force collaborates with Lantern Energy, New England Conservation Services, and CL&P to offer a coupon good for \$50 off the \$75 HES fee.

**February 2010** - Portland Clean Energy Task Force partners with Sideliners, Portland School PTO's, and Portland Garden Club to help spread the word about the HES. In return, the Task Force will split the \$25 bonus with them.

**February 2010** - Lantern Energy and New England Conservation Services present mid-term checks totaling \$1,825 to Portland's Energy Efficiency Programs account.

**April 2010** – Portland Clean Energy coordinates with St. Clements Castle to host an Energy Expo.

**April 2010** – Portland Clean Energy endorses PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) and sends a letter to Rep. O'Rourke and Senator Daily to also support PACE. This eventually passes in the state legislature.

**June 2012** – Portland bids for and is selected to be one of four CT towns to pilot CEFIA's SolarizeCT program, where each town works closely with a solar installer to promote residential installation of solar panels. The Task Force and volunteers provide outreach and grassroots support, the installer offers a lower-than-market rate (approximately \$5 per watt of installed solar) for arrays.

**August 2012** – Portland chooses to partner with Real Goods Solar for SolarizeCT Portland.

**September 2012** - 72 People attend the public launch of SolarizeCT Portland at the Portland Public Library.

**January 2013** – At the conclusion of the program, forty five residents elect to go solar with SolarizeCT Portland. Price per watt of installed solar: \$3.61.

Of note: as the price for solar has dropped, so have state subsidies for solar steadily decreased. Financial institutions, seeing the remarkably solid rate of return for solar, make funding available for lease and power purchase

agreement options. This enables homeowners to go solar with no money down.

**April 2013** – All installations completed. In total, approximately \$1,250,000 is spent by Portland residents on domestic solar energy (eg, not spent on foreign fuels) to a regional business supporting local jobs. Through SolarizeCT Portland, Portland residents who went solar collectively save over \$500,000 off the installation costs by participating in this program. Each home not only drastically slashes harmful emissions like carbon dioxide but also saves money off their monthly electric bill (in some cases resulting in an annual net electric bill of close to zero).

**April 2013** – The Task Force is proud to announce that to date, Portland neighbors who have had an HES and then implemented their customized recommendations (new appliances, insulation, heat pumps, etc.) have averaged individual annual savings of \$1,100 and have cumulatively saved a quarter of a million dollars each year.

**May 2013** – Portland Clean Energy hosts Next Step Living at the Portland Library. NSL presents a variety of residential home energy upgrades including HES, Ductless Heat Pumps (aka TCC or Total Climate Control), and solar. Over 60 residents attend.

**June 2013** – Joanne Luppi, beloved town resident, former Portland Middle School Teacher, and Clean Energy Task Force member passes away. Task Force Chair Andy Bauer credits Joanne with mentoring him on the vital task of environmental stewardship.

**September 2013** – The Portland Board of Selectmen approve participation in CPACE (Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy). When a town participates in CPACE, local businesses are able to access funds for clean energy and energy efficiency to improve their facilities (this is for a cost in excess of \$100,000), reducing emissions and saving money at the same time. CPACE allows for no-money-down projects that the business then pays off in monthly installments added on to their local tax payments. Since the

upgrades save money, the payments are no more than what they were paying anyway. Once fully paid for, the business enjoys the savings.

**December 2013** - Portland bids for and is selected to be one of four CT towns to pilot a CEFIA Thermal Imaging program, where residents home are thermal imaged for free.

**February 2014** - PortlandHasEnergy.com is launched. Through this website, residents can request the Thermal Image of their home, sign up for a HES visit, and get quotes for insulation and solar power.

**March 2014** - Portland Clean Energy recognizes the Girl Scouts of Portland for their energy assessment of and advocacy for improvements to the Portland Senior Center.

**March 2014** - March 2014 - Portland Clean Energy Chair Andy Bauer receives a Ralph 'Mickey' Paley Spirit of Portland for volunteerism.

**April 2014** - Portland receives a \$5000 Bright Ideas grant from EnergizeCT for its efforts to promote clean energy and energy efficiency. The money is for the Town to do similar projects.

**June 2014** - Next Step Living canvasses Portland neighborhoods, explaining Home Energy Solutions, Solar, and Ductless Heat Pumps.

**October 2014** - The Portland BOS accepts the Task Force's recommendation to have Devin Schleidt conduct energy assessments of town facilities to investigate potential savings.

**November 2014** - Jen Siskind of Food & Water Watch details the negative impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing for natural gas and oil. The waste from fracking is laced with carcinogens and radioactive material. The Task Force discusses how to keep those pollutants out of Portland.

**March 2015** - The CT Green Bank restructures how towns can use award monies accrued through clean energy/energy efficiency progress (Portland



has earned (\$13,500 to date). The Task Force begins outreach to the community for ideas.

**June 2015** - \$5000 Bright Ideas Grant used to engage Celtic Energy, an energy services companies to help analyze energy performance of some town buildings and make recommendations.

**December 2015** - Task Force approves \$4,500 to the Brownstone Quorum for energy efficient lighting at the Brownstone Park.

**December 2015** - Task Force speaks to the Portland BOS of their findings on the threat of fracking waste coming to CT and presents a draft for a ban on this waste on Portland roads and property.

**January 2016** - Portland receives a second \$5000 Bright Ideas Grant.

**January 2016** – Task Force holds a public presentation on Fracking waste and its dangers. 29 residents attend.

**May 2016** – Beloved resident and member Fran Schoell passes away. In February, Fran had written a letter to the Portland BOS in favor of a Fracking waste ban.

**June 2016** – Portland Board of Selectmen unanimously passes ordinance banning Fracking waste, becoming the 4<sup>th</sup> CT town to do so.

**June 2016** – Portland Board of Selectmen unanimously support agreement to facilitate Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE). This would enable Portland businesses to do energy efficiency measures and clean energy installations for no upfront cost, and then make monthly/quarterly payments on their utility bills.

**June 2016** – The 2016 CT Municipal Scorecard ranks Portland 17<sup>th</sup> out of 169 towns for residential solar adoption.

**July 2016** – Task Force votes unanimously to team up with East Hampton’s Energy Committee and conduct a 2<sup>nd</sup> round of SolarizeCT. Portland BOS endorses the town’s participation.

**August 2016** – Portland selects Ross Solar as our vendor partner for SolarizeCT.

**September 2016** – SolarizeCT kick off event at St. Clement’s Marina.

**September 2016** – Task Force endorses Eversource’s plan to replace existing 4000K LED streetlights with 3000K LED fixtures. The LED’s save money, and the lower spectrum lights have less blue light in them, reducing eye strain.

**December 2016** - Another two dozen households in Portland and East Hampton participate in the SolarizeCT program.

**April 2017** – Portland Clean Energy contacts legislative officials in support of a statewide ban on fracking waste, and also a residential program (RPACE) that would allow residents to get energy efficiency and clean energy installed for no money down, then make payments on their utility bills.

**June 2017** – Portland Clean Energy Tables at Brownstone Park.

**August 2017** – Portland Clean Energy calls upon the Public Utility Regulatory Authority (PURA) to reduce the electrical service charge fee from \$19.25 to \$10. This rewards residents who have spend money to make their homes more efficient.

**September 2017** – Portland Clean Energy joins East Hampton Clean Energy to sponsor an Electric Vehicle show at Lake Pocotopaug.

**September 2017** – Portland First Selectwoman Susan Bransfield initiates discussion on sustainability.

**February 2018** – Portland Clean Energy hears a presentation from Susan Young of PosiGen on the “Solar for All” initiative.

**April 2018** - Portland Clean Energy hosts Nobel recipient and Portland resident Dr. Gary Yohe, Huffington Foundation Professor of Economics and

Environmental Studies at Wesleyan, who presents ‘Climate Change, Separating Science from Spin’.

**June 2018** – Portland Clean Energy coordinates a presentation on how to deal with firefighter safety on a house with a solar array to Portland Fire Department.

**January 2019** – Task Force reaches out to Portland BOE concerning solar on schools. BOE readily agrees to hear the presentation.

**February 2019** – Portland BOS unanimously passes Resolution supporting S.B. No. 753 AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE-WIDE BAN ON FRACKING WASTE.

**March 2019** – Task Force presents solar scenarios to BOE. BOE votes unanimously to create an ad-hoc committee to examine school facilities for solar. That committee meets and develops a Solar Task Force proposal for BOE to consider.

**April 2019** – Ad-hoc committee members tour school facilities.

**May 2019** – After Task Force initiates contact, the CT Green Bank invites Portland to join a solar development program (later to be named the Municipal Assistance Program, or MAP). Benefits include pre-vetted consultants and vendors who can offer comprehensive technical assistance on behalf of the town at no cost.

Portland partners with Commercial Solar Works (CSW), who identify 9 potential solar sites (some non-school).

**June 2019** – On behalf of Portland, the CT Green Bank submits two applications covering 5 sites to the ZREC program.

**July 2019** – Eversource approves 4 of the sites. The BOE decides to continue the process for Gildersleeve school, which ultimately is not tenable due to roof issues.

**October 2019** – Ad Hoc Solar committee looks next to BIS as a solar site.

**November 2019** – Site visit completed for Brownstone Intermediate School solar.

**November 2019** – Portland Clean Energy supports Portland’s Diversity Group, “Given that the Task Force promotes actions that benefit all populations, including groups typically underserved, we strongly approve of the goals and activities of the Diversity Group. We offer our support in any future endeavors.”

**January 2020** – Preliminary details for Brownstone Intermediate School solar look promising.

**February 2020** – Portland Clean Energy contacts state and legislative leaders to deny permits for the unnecessary natural gas power plant in Killingly CT. The plant would add greenhouse gas emissions and require new pipelines through CT. It was originally proposed in Rhode Island where it was rejected.

**April 2020** – As life starts to move on in a CoVid world, the Brownstone Intermediate School solar proposal starts to move.

**June 2020** – BIS solar bids received.

**August 2020** – Portland BOS unanimously endorses an agreement with Klee Energy Associates and CSW Energy to explore the potential for a large solar array at the closed Portland Landfill and other Portland facilities.

**December 2020** – Portland BOS unanimously passes Resolution to go forward with the BIS solar project. Funded by the Green Bank, the Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) stipulates that Portland will pay \$0.073 cents per Kw for electricity generated by the array.

**January 2021** – Portland Clean Energy Chair Andy Bauer joins citizens and officials in Portland and Middletown in opposition to extending the fossil fuel based operation of the former ‘Sooty Six’ power plant on River Road in Middletown.

**March 2021** – Portland BOS unanimously passes Resolution asking Middletown to redirect the former ‘Sooty Six’ power plant to renewable energy.

**June 2021** – Portland BOS chooses DSD Energy as solar vendor for Landfill solar project.

**June 2021** – Late changes to rules governing the installation of solar on sloped land scuttle this proposal for the Landfill solar array.

**October 2021** – Blue Earth Composting presents options to haul away Portland’s food waste to their facility in Southington. The waste would be composted, and methane captured from this process can be used as a Class 1 energy source for power generation.

**November 2021** – Portland attains Silver level recognition by Sustainable CT. Only 27 towns in CT have earned this.

**December 2021** – Portland BOS approved Portland Clean Energy resolution to take advantage of funding mechanisms for the Rt. 17 Sports/Water Park facility.

**February 2022** – Sustainable CT offers technical assistance for installation of EV chargers.

**June 2022** – Portland Clean Energy tables at the Portland Library’s anniversary celebration.

**September 2022** – Portland/East Hampton Electric Vehicle show held at EHHS and is well attended

**September 2022** – Brownstone Intermediate School solar array installation completed, awaiting final inspection from Eversource.

**December 2022** – Portland landfill solar array proposals received.

**February 2023** – Greenskies is selected by Portland as the vendor to install the solar array proposal for the Portland landfill. The proposal is just under

one Megawatt in size. Should the project earn a bid, it will have the potential to save the town \$100,000 annually.

**February 2023** – Senator Needleman and Rep. Carpino asked to support the return of co-opted energy efficiency funds as that program is oversubscribed. Also endorsed is a \$2B-over-5-years request specifically towards low and middle income households for energy efficiency and renewable energy systems.

**March 2023** – Brownstone Intermediate School solar array energized. At the start of this project, the expected annual savings was \$10,000. With the recent doubling of utility electricity, those savings will increase.

**June 2023** – The Task Force begins the process to take free, 2<sup>nd</sup> hand solar panels and put them to use on a town facility.

**August 2023** – Portland Clean Energy reaches out to the Portland Housing Authority about the concept of solar + storage at no cost to residents of Quarry Heights. This is an initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson charitable foundation.

**August 2023** – The Landfill Solar project is not selected in this round of competitive Non-residential Renewable Energy Solutions (NRES) funding. The next round opens for applications in September, with announcements expected in early December.

**November 2023** - Landfill Solar project awarded NRES funding.