

Energy Efficiency Group

April 27:

Karen Blackburn, Kelly Dupre, Michael OPhelan, Sue Ahrendt, George Wilkes, Stephen Holz, Randy Roberts

Discussion of Upcoming May 4th Public Meeting with SMMPA (Grand Marais PUC) and Arrowhead Electric: Karen asked all members to be present if they can. Karen will ask about energy usage and find out about why rebates exist and if/how they will change in the future.

Weatherization and AEOA: AEOA has some money to do housing renovations – including weatherization projects. They are not doing any for Cook County currently. Nancy Grabko is the Cook and Lake County Housing Coordinator. The Grand Marais EDA hired “half” of her. Stephen Holz will let us know if we can do anything to encourage the use of the “weatherization” program that is initiated through AEOA and the Housing Coordinator.

Energy Star Houses: Does this group want to push Cook County to produce Energy Star Houses or Tax Rebate Houses?

Sustainable Building Education in Cook County: Stephen is interested in educating contractors in Cook County about “green” building. There are two obvious outlets for these types of classes in Cook County: North House and Higher Education. Stephen will call the State of MN and work with Kelly about the possibility of a course, with continuing education credits (all contractors must have continuing education credits each year), being offered at Northhouse. Kelly will follow through at Northhouse and with Stephen.

Building Permit Project: Stephen suggested that the working group support efforts to produce a building code for Cook County that incorporates green building. Although this may be a long process, it does seem that we could pull together information about Energy Star homes and get these out to the home builders for education. At the point of getting a building permit might be too late, but at least the process of education would be begun.

Gunflint Green Up May 1: Karen will be at Gunflint Green Up-representing CCLEP from 1-5 on Friday, May 1st.

State of MN Grant: MN Pollution Control: The City of White Bear Lake has put together a model for educating homeowners on conservation and weatherization. Karen will contact them for information.

Getting CF Light Bulbs and Low Flow Shower heads to the Food Shelf Project: Seems like a good idea – various committee members will do research on making this happen.

Next meeting set for May 18th 6 pm at Community Center.