

## **Mission of the Edgartown Energy Committee**

The Edgartown Energy Committee has a two-fold mission. First, the Committee seeks to assist town government and town residents in reducing energy use and energy cost, saving tax dollars and out-of-pocket costs by town residents. Second, the Committee seeks to mitigate the effects of climate change by reducing the release of greenhouse gases generated by fossil fuel burning. Since much of the energy usage of the town consumes fossil fuels, either directly or indirectly through its electrical supply, the latter objective is concomitant with the first.

Reducing energy use often requires investment. In such cases, the Committee seeks to provide solutions for reducing investment costs, such as identifying incentives offered by federal and state government to replace equipment or devices with new ones that consume less energy. The Committee also works to obtain grants for our municipality that can provide funds directly to pay for such investments. However, even without grants and incentives, these investments generate savings in energy costs that can often pay for the investments within a short span of time, leaving costs savings to continue to accrue for the life of the equipment.

Advancing our mission also requires outreach to town government and town residents. The Committee seeks to offer advice on energy policy to the Town with the goal of continuing to reduce energy costs and increase savings while mitigating climate change. It also seeks to keep town residents informed on incentive programs and new developments in energy-saving technologies. In addition, the Committee seeks to keep the town informed of its activities by reporting to the Select Board at appropriate intervals and communicating to the public through its page on the town web site and presence on social media.

### **Specific Aims**

To carry out its mission, the Committee sees itself as having two constituencies: town government and town residents. Some specific aims for each constituency are shown below.

#### To assist the Town of Edgartown in:

- Obtaining grant funds for investments in municipal energy savings through programs such as the Green Communities Program and Regional Energy Planning Assistance Program of the Mass Department of Energy Resources
- Coordinating the use of incentives for specific energy reduction measures in town buildings identified by engineering surveys
- Developing renewable energy generation facilities that reduce the Town's net municipal energy costs and provide renewable energy to the electric power grid

- Obtaining grant funds to provide infrastructure for electric vehicles used by the public, such as electric chargers, that encourage energy savings and climate mitigation directly by eliminating tailpipe emission of greenhouse gases

To assist residents of Edgartown by:

- Promoting space heating, air conditioning, and domestic hot water heating with energy- and cost-saving heat pumps
- Providing and promoting access to local charging stations for electric vehicles
- Providing information on energy efficiency measures and incentives from such organizations as Cape Light Compact
- Reporting on Island-wide efforts to measure and model future energy use and develop goals for energy use reduction and greenhouse gas mitigation