

# BOE on board with Green Energy Committee

## SCHOOLS WILL HAVE RENEWABLE ENERGY

BY MATT SANDERSON  
VILLAGER STAFF WRITER

WOODSTOCK — The Board of Education unanimously approved a measure last Thursday night, Aug. 27, to continue the outreach of the Woodstock Green Energy Committee, and that is to purchase 100 percent renewable energy for the school district.

James Stratos, chairman of the Green Energy Committee, gave a presentation to the education board on how the community is striving to use “green” energy, as well as accumulate “points” to qualify for more alternative energy perks through the Connecticut Clean Energy Program.

In July, the Board of Selectmen approved that the town purchase 100 percent clean renewable energy through Sterling Planet, a renewable energy marketer from

Georgia, and Public Power & Utility (PPU), which set the tone for Woodstock to become the first Quiet Corner town in eastern Connecticut to become invested in the pursuit of “green” energy. This now holds more weight in Woodstock’s education community.

Stratos said that with the town’s commitment and participation in the Connecticut Clean Energy Program, it has qualified Woodstock to receive state grants up to \$4,000, which can be further used to expand public awareness.

“Now, because there is a 30- to 60-day delay in waiting for PPU to kick in, we are going to wait before signing up with Sterling Planet,” said Stratos. “This way there will not be any additional increased costs for the first two months from the purchasing of renewable energy.”

He added that town now has all seven municipal accounts, Woodstock Middle School and Woodstock Elementary School purchasing 100 percent clean renewable energy, which amounts to more than 1.3 million kilowatt hours.

“Hopefully with the amount of kilowatts we generate, we can save between \$8,000 and \$12,000,” said Dr. Francis A. Baran, superintendent of schools. “In a budget, that’s a substantial amount of money.”

Baran said it is obvious that the schools are a large user of electricity, and, according to Stratos’ presentation, it only made sense to align with the environmentally conscious efforts of the Green Energy Committee.

“If we come on board and get a savings, it’s a win-win for everyone,” added Baran. “Now, we monitor the situation.”

Based on kilowatt usage

and records from the school district’s business office, Stratos said the elementary school used 355,760 kilowatts during the 2008-’09 school year, while the middle school used 604,354 kilowatts during that same year, totaling 960,114 kilowatts. He said the school board is paying an average of 12.6 cents per kilowatt, which amounts to over \$120,974 as the “Generation Service Charge” from utility provider Connecticut Light & Power.

He said that since the recent deregulation of utility companies, there are now other companies, like PPU, offering the same services as CL&P, but for a lot less cost.

Stratos said PPU, with corporate offices in Brookfield, guarantees a minimum of 2 cents per kilowatt less than what CL&P charges. PPU is a licensed electricity supplier in the state.

He added that Sterling Planet, which provides the resources for households to purchase 100 percent clean renewable energy all through the Connecticut Clean Energy Program, endorses PPU.

Stratos recommended that the school enroll with PPU as its generation supplier, at a rate of 10.2 cents per kilowatt.

“There are no contracts, and you can cancel at any time if you so desire,” he added.

Stratos noted that there is an additional cost of 1.29 cents per kilowatt for clean renewable energy, and that would be offset by using the 2.4 per kilowatt savings earned by enrolling with PPU. That would give an overall net savings of 1.11 cents per kilowatt, or more than \$10,657, after purchasing clean renewable energy.

In a few months, he added that PPU will be offering a reduced rate of 9 cents per kilowatt. Primarily due to the overall usage, anyone using an average of 20,000 kilowatts per month will qualify for this reduced rate.

“I think that would be the time to make a commitment,” he said. “We are going to see then before approaching the Board of Ed.”

The committee met Tuesday night, Sept. 1, to discuss how to propose this measure to Woodstock Academy, local businesses and the elderly living communities.

For more information, visit [www.woodstockctgreen-team.org](http://www.woodstockctgreen-team.org).

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### Weekly Crossword

By Bill Deasy

**Elementary Words**

**Across**

- Chevy model
- Johnson of “Laugh-In”
- Get misty-eyed
- Private schs.
- Red coin?
- Big name in oil
- Philosophy
- Coal carrier
- Hesitant sounds
- Blunder
- Entered gradually
- Awakening
- Prof.’s helpers
- Text \_\_\_\_\_
- “You said it!”
- Stopping by the Woods on a Snowy Evening rhyme scheme
- + or - item
- Dynasty maker

7. Officiates      46. Give or take