

# Vineyard Sustainable Energy Committee

*November 2016*

# Background

- Many towns in the Commonwealth have established energy committees to provide grass-roots leadership for fostering sustainable, renewable, and resilient energy
- Four Vineyard towns currently have energy committees (Tisbury, Oak Bluffs, Edgartown, West Tisbury)
  - Our towns are small, and our voice in regional and state-level matters is limited
  - Our situation and needs are unique
  - Our opportunity for leadership is great
- The Vineyard Sustainable Energy Committee (VSEC) is intended to be an all-island umbrella group accountable to the Towns for sustainable energy activities on the Vineyard
- *The VSEC is not intended to replace or supersede individual Town Energy Committees*

# VSEC Working Group

- Aquinnah (Bill Lake, Mike Hebert)
- Chilmark (Rob Hannemann)
- Edgartown (Paul Pimentel, Barbara Conroy, Jim Oakes)
- Oak Bluffs (Richard Toole)
- Tisbury (Bill Straw, Peter Cabana)
- West Tisbury (Sander Shapiro, Sue Hruby)

# Initial Activities

- Provide an ongoing idea- and information-sharing forum for sustainable energy efforts, in coordination with existing Town Energy Committees
- Develop and maintain an Island-wide sustainable energy master plan, using the Island Plan energy section as the starting point and framework
- Measure and track progress in implementing this plan
- Other projects as requested by the Towns

# Committee Structure

- Each participating town will have at least one, and up to two, representatives (preferably Town Energy Committee members)
- One year renewable terms; appointment is by town selectmen
- Formal approval of participation of at least 4 towns is needed to form the VSEC; approval is by assignment of representative(s)
- The VSEC will hold monthly meetings and issue an annual report
- The VSEC is intended to be sponsored by and will report to the town selectmen

# Organizational Relationships

- The VSEC will work cooperatively and proactively with local and regional energy organizations, such as:
  - Cape Light Compact
  - Cape and Vineyard Electric Cooperative
  - Vineyard Power
  - Vineyard Energy Project
- The MVC has expressed interest in working with and supporting the VSEC
  - Staff support for data gathering and analysis
  - Assistance with publications and PR
  - Support for grant applications and administration
  - Relationship is intended to be informal, at least at the outset

# Resources

- Funding requirements for ordinary committee activities should be minimal
- A working operating budget as well as any requests for support from the Towns will be developed annually
- The committee may at some point propose and carry out programs requiring significant funding; state, federal, or other grants will be sought for such programs