

Clean Energy Fund Recommendations | Fall 2017

Executive Summary

At the fall 2017 Clean Energy Fund Forum, the members of the SRI Advisory Council received seven proposals and invited five of these proposals to present at the Clean Energy Fund Forum. One presentation was vetted by the Infrastructure Committee (see the [Organizational Chart](#) for more details) and three proposals came directly from community members under the ‘Academics and Co-curricular Education’ heading. Evaluation of the proposals centered on metrics developed by the SRI Advisory Council, including alignment with CEF goals, potential for impact and the quality of the overall proposal.

The SRI Advisory Council voted to fund three of the proposals from the fall forum on October 25th, 2017. The SRIAC recommends partial funding of the Bailey Howe Lighting Project and the Renewable Energy Network and full funding of the Bike Share proposal.

The SRI Advisory Council also heard from Zach Borst on the No-Idling proposal from Spring 2017. In the spring, the group requested more information on the No-Idling proposal from Abby Bleything and the Transportation Department. After hearing more details from Zach during a meeting, the group voted to recommend fully funding the project at \$10,000.

Proposal Recommendations

Bailey-Howe Lighting Project

Name of presenter: Aidan Doherty

Proposal summary: The renovation of the Bailey Howe library can include an energy efficiency upgrade of the lighting system. The lighting this project is referring to is the stack lighting above the book shelves on the second and third floors. They are outdated, non-LED/CFL bulbs and are constantly running at the highest wattage. Renovating the lights would allow the school to save up to 80,000 kWh per year. UVM's Energy Manager Rich Wolbach has been involved in advising this project

Recommendation: Initial points highlighted the motivation of the first-year proposer and general support for the effort. Ongoing discussion focused on the details of the project, "this is probably not as easy as it seems". One member proposed a pilot project of sorts and potentially funding half of the project – 1 floor of retrofits instead of 2. The proposal did not discuss the carbon impact of the change, but moving forward, would be a useful metric. Energy reductions are around 80,000 kWh per year.

After further discussion, the group passed a motion to fund one floor of the project at \$38,000. The group agreed that if successful, the CEF would consider funding the second floor.

Bike Share

Name of presenter: Abby Bleything and Jim Barr

Proposal summary: A bike share system was one of the signature project recommendations in the Active Transportation Plan, a feasibility study funded by the CEF in 2015. As part of this effort, UVM and Champlain College, in partnership with [CATMA](#) are planning to launch a pilot bike share system with the intent that it will expand into a regional system throughout Burlington, South Burlington and Winooski communities. Gotcha Bike was chosen to operate the system after an RFP in November 2016. The goal is to transform our region by providing a high quality, convenient and affordable bike share system that will connect people to more places where they live, work, and play in Chittenden County. Students will pay \$25 to be enrolled in the bike share system. The plan is to install 5 hubs with 35 bikes across the spine of the campus at the following locations:

Redstone Lofts
Gutterson Garage
Davis Center
Waterman
Trinity Campus

Recommendation: This proposal was first vetted through the Infrastructure Committee and moved onto the broader SRI Advisory Council. The group deliberated on this proposal extensively and invited Abby and Jim to a meeting to inquire about details. There was concern expressed about the cost to students about the plan to install the infrastructure associated with the bikes. **The group recommends funding this proposal at \$83,000 to cover the cost of bikes, infrastructure on campus to park bikes and the associated tracking system for data collection.**

Renewable Energy Network (REN)

Name of presenter: Jane Stromberg and Holly St. Jean, Co-Presidents of Renewable Energy Network

Proposal summary: The proposal was to bring in 2 honorarium speakers to UVM in the Spring of 2018 as part of our Spring speaker series. The third part of the proposal suggested sending students to conferences focusing on topics of climate change and renewable energy technology, such as the World Energy Forum in New York City, or the GreenBuild Expo in Boston this November.

Recommendation: The group did not feel comfortable funding travel or certification for a small group of students. The Advisory Council did like the idea of funding speakers to come to campus, however. **The group voted in favor of funding two speakers at the cost of \$1,000.**

No-Idling Proposal

Name of presenter: Abby Bleything and Zach Borst from the Transportation Department

Proposal summary: Given the successful pilot of the idle reduction system, IdleRight, with the Burlington Police Department, we propose the purchase and installation of 8 systems for 6 police cruisers (Ford Explorers), 1 Police Service Unit, and 1 Mobile Command Vehicle (Chevy Tahoe). Idling vehicles burn fuel unnecessarily, contribute to tailpipe emissions, and increase a vehicle's wear and tear.

If the IdleRight system reduces idling of each vehicle by two hours a day, the UVM police department will annually save:

2,760 gallons of fuel

32 tons of CO₂

\$6,488 of fuel savings plus additional for reduced maintenance costs**

Given the results of the pilot the payback period for this equipment would be 6 months based on gas savings alone, if the installed equipment costs \$500.

Recommendation: **The group recommends funding this proposal at \$10,000 to ensure that a comprehensive tracking system is included to capture the benefits of these devices on campus.**