Green-energy hub proposed

By Matt Sheley
Daily News staff

The Aquidneck Island Planning Commission is looking to become a one-stop shop for all things renewable and having to do with alternative energy.

Officials said the commission’s goal is to become the key information source on “green” energy to help area residents, businesses and municipalities to save money and the environment. Organizers want to get the program up and running as soon as possible should there be interest and appropriate funding.

Sarah Cookson, the planning commission’s energy coordinator, said the organization is not getting into the business of building solar panels or wind turbines. It hopes to provide pertinent information for anyone looking for more details.

“There is no guarantee we’re going to be able to do this and it’s only in the conceptual phase, but it just makes sense.”

SARAH COOKSON energy coordinator, Aquidneck Island Planning Commission

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“Many times, people or businesses are interested in (green energy), but they’re not sure where to turn,” she said. “We think there’s a role we can fill to help provide information in a timely manner all in one place.”

“It’s an exciting idea, where we could be a hub of renewable energy and alternative energy,” added Tina Dolen, the planning commission’s executive director. “We’re not going to be permitting or constructing anything, but we’d be involved in just about every other segment of energy in Newport and Bristol counties.”

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