

 **Executive Director’s Report**

**September and October 2022**

**Two New Staff Members -**We have completed the hiring of two new staff members. Keith Modzelewski has joined as a program manager and will be working with our commercial programs. Keith comes to us from the solar industry but also has experience in economic development. Fritzy Rodrigues is our new office manager. She comes to us with experience in both the private and non-profit sectors.

**SREC Auction –** We completed our 10th Annual SREC auction. This is the first year where small system owners who are Delmarva Power customers had an alternative for selling their SREC’s through participation in the Green Grant Program. Nevertheless, we had good participation. The overall average weighted price was $31 per SREC.

**Strategic Plan –** Unfortunately I must once again report that staff simply did not have the time to focus on completing the Strategic Plan. I feel like all the pieces are there, but finding time to sew them altogether has been alluding us. So much time has been focused on RGGI challenge programs and orienting our new employees. I am still hoping we can complete this task by the end of the year. Our goal is to provide the Board with a draft in January.

**Grid Modernization Study** - The study is principally a survey of Delaware Electric Utilities to assess their capacity and capability for conducting Distribution Planning. Distribution Planning is critical to ensuring the electric grid can meet Delaware’s solar energy production goals. Both Delmarva Power and the Delaware Electric Co-op have completed their surveys. We have some resistance from the members of the Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation (DEMEC). Senator Hansen, Dr. Steve Hegedus (the principal researcher) and I will be meeting with DEMEC to discuss their concerns.

**Offshore Wind Energy Education –** As a part of our effort to step up our education programing we have agreed to sponsor an educational initiative by People for Offshore Wind Energy Resources (POWER) to host a series of hybrid education presentations in Delaware’s shore communities to educate citizens on a variety of offshore wind topics including: View shed/tourism challenges and opportunities; cost of offshore wind, including the possibility of subsidies, commercial and sports fishing issues/opportunities, wildlife and ecological challenges, and possible relationship between the manufacture of green hydrogen and the production of offshore wind power. A Short video will also be produced. We have emphasized that for our support it is necessary to provide a balanced perspective on offshore wind.

**DelDOT Electric Mower Pilot Program –** We have agreed to fund a pilot program for DelDOT to test the use of battery powered mowing equipment at the Smyrna Rest stop. For a little over $20,000 we are funding a 60” zero turn mower with batteries, and 3 pieces of handheld equipment. This will support one mowing crew. DelDOT will periodically report usage and experiences and after 2 full seasons of use will prepare a comparison study.

**Solar Website Design –** The new “Solar Delaware” website is now in operation check it out at www.SolarDelaware.com. More information is found in the Marketing and Communication Activity Report.

**Electric School Buses** – Red Clay School District has invited us to a meeting with state officials to discuss funding of battery powered school buses. Apparently, a lot of money is coming through federal funding to pay for these buses. However, there is no money, so far, set aside for charging stations and infrastructure upgrades. There is concern that districts will not participate in the federal grants because of this. We have been invited to discuss possible assistance in funding the initiative.