To: Oldenburg Town Council

FR: Claire Whalen, OSF, Chair Oldenburg Renewable Energy Commission (OREC)

RE: October, 2019 Report Oct. 1, 2019

OREC members were happy to see our suggestions for revisions to Oldenburg’s Comprehensive Plan accepted by the steering committee and the county. This volunteer study group created by you last September now has a specific direction for our activities and will be moving toward the goal of “work(*ing*) together as a community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Oldenburg.” (Comp. Plan page 60) We believe the report of the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory we will share with you on November 7th is the first step toward that goal. OREC appreciates your support and guidance in this community venture.

We are also enthusiastic about OTC’s decision to upgrade Oldenburg’s street lights to LEDs. We will use this “good news” as we publicize the results of the GHG Inventory following our presentation to you at your monthly meeting in November. At that time we will need more space for the presentation than the current meeting room provides. Is it possible to use the larger town hall room so we can show powerpoint slides? Also we hope some Oldenburg residents will want to hear our presentation which may call for additional seating.

Mike Cambron will be making the formal request on behalf of OREC on October 7th that I sent you via email on September 24th regarding continued consultation and resources for our study group from ICLEI (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives) now referred to as Local Governments for Sustainability, but still keeps the acronym. ICLEI USA was hired by Indiana University this summer to train and guide the 14 cities/towns in Indiana to do a greenhouse gas emissions inventory. IU’s grant was able to cover most of the membership fee, except for a minimum amount each city/town paid. So instead of the small town fee of $600, Oldenburg was charged just $200. ICLEI is offering Oldenburg an extended 12 months membership fee for just $400 since OTC already paid $200 for the IU 2019 Resilience Cohort program. Because OREC is an all-volunteer study group representing this council, we believe a one-year membership with this organization will offer professional guidance and resources for our follow-up work to continue our efforts towards the goal cited above.

September has been a month of webinar viewing for me personally and for several other OREC members as we learn about resilience efforts by businesses, cities and educational institutions to combat current impacts of climate change and their plans for resilience in the face of future changes. One of the most interesting was Security & Sustainability Forum’s (S&SF) presentation on “killer heat.” IU’s Environmental Resilience Institute (ERI) offered something similar focusing on how the increasing number of extremely hot days is a health hazard in so many ways. Both organizations offer recordings of their webinars on their websites.

Other S&SF webinars dealt with (1) new technology that could remove CO2 from the atmosphere knowing that just reducing carbon emissions may not be enough nor happen soon enough to keep global warming at bay; (2) emerging investment strategies that could allow communities to finance community-based power generation; and (3) latest facts about the Electric Vehicle market and EV-charging station infrastructure.