

## Tower Grove Heights Neighborhood Association Meeting

July 26, 2011      7:17 p.m.      24 Attendees

The TGHNA meeting was chaired by President Marilyn Browning.

Bill Phelps, an [Ameren Missouri](#) representative, spoke on Ameren's energy efficiency initiatives aimed at bringing down the cost of producing energy. Ameren MO generates and distributes electricity in Missouri. The electricity utility in Illinois is a separate company. MO is more efficient at producing power than is Illinois. The MO average electricity bill is lower than IL and 30% lower than the national average. 54% of MO electricity comes from coal, while 26% is produced from natural gas and 12% is nuclear. Even though nuclear power is the cheapest, it is still expensive to build a nuclear plant. The definition of renewable energy is different in IL than in MO or CA, etc. The MO definition is that it can be from wind, solar, biomass or small hydro plants. Carbon dioxide is the biggest driver of the push for renewable energy—greenhouse gases. The power industry generates 40% of the carbon dioxide while vehicles produce even more. However, regulating vehicles is a less popular alternative than regulating the power industry. Prop C mandated that 2% of retail power needs to come from renewable energy. The percentage increases to 20% in 2021. The cost to generate renewable power is going down. Renewable power is not dependable, for example, wind and sun are not always available and not always at the time needed. A combination of traditional and renewable power is needed to bring costs down. The biggest advantage of solar power is net metering. Ameren will allow solar panels on your house and if you don't use all your power produced, Ameren will buy the power back and will later sell it to you. Solar can't be stored so that's part of the problem. Come to Ameren headquarters on Choteau, to get an appointment to see a demonstration of solar power. [www.amerensolar.com](http://www.amerensolar.com) has more information. This Website tracks electricity produced by the various types of solar power generators. Renewable energy projects produce credits that Ameren can buy back. They can then sell them to other customers as is done in their Pure Power program. In terms of solar power, Arizona has the best sun in country. The sun is better in southern MO than in other parts of the state and the southwest corner is the best place for sun in MO. The best wind is in the northwest corner in MO. Labadie is one of the bigger coal-fired power plants in MO. We would have to have 1200 times the total number of windmills that have been built up to 2010 to get as much power as Labadie. Biomass burns grass or woodchips, etc. Biomass production in the Midwest would be growing a crop to burn in a power plant. The problem is the quantity needed. Coal has more BTUs in it than biomass sources. Growing biomass keeps farmers from growing things like corn for livestock feed. Ameren has some trucks running on natural gas and soy fuels. The voluntary Pure Power program adds up to \$15.00 to your bill per month and Ameren buys credits to reduce users' carbon footprint. It supports infrastructure for increasing renewable sources. They also have a project to get methane from landfills for energy. Ameren Missouri's overall objectives are to cost efficiently satisfy renewal energy standards in MO, prepare for possible federal renewable energy standards, and to incorporate biomass to leverage the coal generation plants, capabilities and regional advantages.

Jennifer Florida, 15<sup>th</sup> Ward Alderman, reported that [National Night Out](#) is scheduled for August 2, 2011 from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. The S. Grand Streetscape 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase was overbid so they are still working through the rebids. There is a problem with the weeds growing in the sites of the future rain gardens, since the gardens won't be planted until fall. Jennifer will look into having the weeds trimmed.

Azhar Shah, a physical therapist who is a former TGH resident and now lives on Shaw, has opened up a practice on 4642 Shenandoah (Kingshighway and Shenandoah). It is called Pro-Motion PT and offers individualized physical therapy. Contact him at [ProMotionTherapySTL@gmail.com](mailto:ProMotionTherapySTL@gmail.com), 314-664-6400.

[MassageLuXe](#), newly opened on 3016 S. Grand, provided a handout with coupons for discounts.

The meeting concluded at 8:25 p.m. The next meeting will be Aug. 22, 2011.

Claudia Seifert, Secretary