



CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

TOWN HALL □ 525 WASHINGTON STREET □ WELLESLEY, MA 02482-5992

Sustainable Energy Director: Marybeth Martello

SEC@wellesleyma.gov

SEC Analyst: Janet Mosley

jmosley@wellesleyma.gov

Laura Olton, Chair
Susan Morris, Vice Chair
Cindy Mahr
Ellen Korpi
Martha Collins
Fred Bungler
Lise Olney

CAC Meeting

June 28, 2021

Remote Zoom Meeting

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Laura Olton. Present were Climate Action Committee (CAC) members: Laura Olton (CAC Chair), Sue Morris (CAC Vice Chair), Lise Olney, Fred Bungler, Ellen Korpi, Martha Collins. Also present were Marybeth Martello (Climate Action Director) and Janet Mosley (CAC Analyst) and Kim Lundgren and Mike Steinhoff of Kim Lundgren Associates (KLA). Also attending: Pamela Posey, Mary Gard, Roopa Chandrasekaran. Absent: Cindy Mahr.

Citizen's Speak: None

Discussion on Climate Action Plan (CAP) with Kim Lundgren Associates Support

Discussion led by Marybeth. KLA will provide a detailed instruction package by Wednesday, June 30 with next steps (who, what and when), including description of CAP process and definitions to clarify for all parties and the public. KLA will identify three different categories of actions, confirm pathways and guiding principles.

Marybeth noted that the important work of this summer will be for the Working Groups (WGs) to gather their lists and to prioritize actions. Discussion occurred about the distinction between goals and actions. CAP goals are the broadest statement of what the CAC is trying to accomplish – for example, “All buildings in Wellesley eliminate the use of fossil fuels” and CAP actions describe how to accomplish that goal, with indicators (“smart goals”), and targets with actual numbers defined to keep CAP on track.

Discussion included whether the CAP's primary guiding principle should go beyond reducing greenhouse gases (GHGs). It was noted that going beyond reducing GHGs allows a broader framework for climate action.

The CAC has learned from KLA what actions are must-dos and over what timeframe in order to meet GHG reduction goals for 2030 and beyond. The committee and its working groups are charged with identifying how these actions would play out in Wellesley. Marybeth noted the task ahead to win support starts with framing the problem. She commented that KLA described a steep curve ahead of all

communities; in order to eliminate fossil fuels in new construction by 2025 -- leading to 85% reduction of fossil fuels by 2040 -- regulation (town bylaws) would be the only effective tool for support and compliance.

Discussion continued on essential GHG reduction actions that overlap with broader municipal resilience actions. KLA identified actions that have public health and safety impact, improve municipal resilience, and make use of or contribute to green infrastructure (examples: battery backups, heat pump retrofits, fortifying buildings for extreme weather events). Mechanisms to support actions include regulatory, voluntary standards, incentives and public education.

Kim suggested that a targeted marketing campaign could both educate the public and identify barriers to residents participating in the CAP. She noted that KLA would provide the best tools to get meaningful data – for example, Google Project Sunroof to help identify high potential solar in Wellesley neighborhoods, based on house location and orientation.

Further discussion occurred regarding barriers to implementing and adopting the CAP. KLA will provide a blueprint for WGs in September. The most effective way to create the blueprints is to identify barriers and opportunities and come up with Wellesley-specific strategies to work through them. KLA has identified 7 high impact actions for the Wellesley CAP. It was agreed that surveys will be useful to collect public feedback and understand barriers and opportunities.

The committee also discussed Electric Vehicles (EVs) and ways to promote them.

Mary Gard, who is in the Building WG, noted that embodied carbon will be 50% of emissions by 2030, and asked how the CAP addresses it. Mike Steinhoff of KLA and others commented that this reinforces the point of keeping and retrofitting existing structures – and that embodied carbon is factored into regional emissions, not local GHG measurements. Kim commented that LEED is looking at ways to tackle new construction and major renovations, updating performance standards and rating systems to address this.

Additional Business

Fred motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m., seconded by Sue, *and the Committee voted to adjourn.*