



## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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### SEC Project Updates

October 5, 2018

#### **Green Communities**

With input from the Facilities Management Department (FMD) and the Department of Public Works (DPW), Marybeth Martello submitted Wellesley's Quarterly Progress Report to the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) on October 4. The Report describes a **Light-emitting Diode (LED) Retrofit on the DPW Campus and the Energy Audit of Municipal Pump Stations and Water Treatment Plants**. FMD has completed the project manual and plans to carry out the project in early-mid November. DPW recently received a draft of the water systems energy audit from Wright-Pierce. The study outlines \$570,000 worth of energy conservation measures (ECMs). If Wellesley were to implement all ECMs the Town stands to save approximately \$90,000/year in operating costs. Marybeth will circulate a draft of the energy audit to the SEC and will submit comments to DPW next week. Marybeth will also schedule a meeting with DPW to discuss which ECMs suggested in the energy audit would be good candidates for Green Communities funding.

#### **ICLEI**

Marybeth and Janet Mosley had two conversations with ICLEI – one with our new ICLEI representative, Kale Roberts and one with an ICLEI technical specialist, Eli Yewdall. They discussed helpful tools within the ClearPath software, ICLEI's new software tool for Contribution Analysis, emissions factors and how ICLEI might support the Sustainable Energy Committee's goals regarding our methods for greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions tracking.

## **Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory**

Janet Mosley has been carefully bringing data in MassEnergyInsight up to date through FY17. Janet is tracking down the very last pieces of info and next week will turn her attention to inputting data to ClearPath. Janet also took a close look at differences between the eGRID and ISO New England emissions factors.

## **Hunnewell**

Several SEC members attended the Hunnewell School Feasibility Study Kick-off meeting on September 20. Sustainability was a prominent part of the presentations and discussions.

## **Sustainable Building Standards**

Marybeth revised Sustainable Building Standards with valuable help from Laura Olton and Fred Bunger. Marybeth also revised her list of Massachusetts-based contacts on zero net energy and will continue to reach out to them.

## **Hardy Hunnewell Upham**

The next step for Hunnewell is the October 15 Eco-Charrette at 5:30 pm. This event is a chance for the community to learn more about the possible sustainability aspects of the new school and provide feedback to the architects.

The next step for Hardy/Upham, assuming that funding is approved at Special Town Meeting this week, is to monitor the drafting of the RFQ for the Feasibility Study and work towards similar sustainability language in the Request for Services documents. Given that part of the charge will be to choose between the Hardy and Upham sites, we are particularly hopeful that the LEED/CHP/Envision-based matrix of site selection criteria we proposed last year will be included. The Massachusetts School Building Authority will control the draft and we are told they use a somewhat standard document. We do not expect this document to be under discussion until early 2019.

## **Design Guidelines**

Marybeth organized a meeting with the Planning Department, their consultant, (Gamble Associates), Sustainable Wellesley and the SEC. That meeting took place on October 3. Marybeth and Fred attended from the SEC. Gamble Associates is integrating sustainability throughout the revised handbook and asked to have a copy of the draft SDS in order to cross reference relevant items. The goal is to write the Design Guidelines so that they encourage sustainable choices.

## **Meeting with Sustainable Wellesley**

On September 13, Laura and Tom met with the leaders of Sustainable Wellesley (SW). We first discussed the different roles of our organizations within the town and the inherent tension that occurs between a grassroots organization pushing for change and a policy-developing town committee. During our conversation, SW recommended a collaborative working group to develop a Clean Energy Plan or GHG Reduction Plan for the Town, similar to Concord's process. Such a working group could be led by the SEC and include people in town government (SEC, FMD, MLP) and residents. This Plan would provide a context for what the Town wants to achieve in terms of carbon reduction, and could provide guidance to the MLP in implementing the alternatives described in the Analysis Group Report. With regard to the Sustainable Building Guidelines that Marybeth has been working on, SW seeks a mandate or commitment for sustainable Town buildings (NZE) and doesn't think Guidelines are enough. With Guidelines, the feeling is that we are going to have to re-advocate with each project that arises. Finally, we discussed having a liaison between SEC and SW and thought that perhaps Fred Bunker would be a good person for this. The thought is that he would check in with SW before SEC's monthly meetings for updates. Informal conversations will also continue to take place among all of us involved in various initiatives.

## **Green Collaborative**

The Green Collaborative met on September 27. Participants included several members of the Hunnewell School Feasibility Study team including Martine Dion of SMMA, Kevin Kennedy of the Facilities Management Department, a representative from Compass, and Sharon Gray (Chair of the School Building Committee).

## **Solsmart Designation**

Laura met with Mike Grant (Building Commissioner) and Michael Zehner (Planning Director) this week to review Permitting and Zoning requirements for solar, needed for the Solsmart designation. Mike Grant is getting additional information to Laura, and Planning is working on an updated memorandum regarding Solar and the Town Bylaws for the Solsmart application. Laura is working on a revised Solar Permit Checklist, website updates, and the Solsmart application.

## **Leading by Example**

Marybeth and Laura received an email from Neal Duffy (our Green Communities Coordinator at DOER) encouraging us to apply for a state Leading by Example award. We reached out to Mike Patskis and Jeff Azano-Brown with the thought that we could submit the Town of Wellesley's Food Recovery Initiatives — both food waste and food rescue — for an award as a Public Entity (as part of their "waste minimization, material reuse, recycling, and/or composting" category).

## **Transportation**

While awaiting the Town's formation of a Mobility Working Group, our SEC Transportation Working Group plans to reschedule our meeting with the School administration and reach out to the local colleges, Council on Aging and the Town of Lexington to do "Listening Meetings" to gather more information.

## **Home Energy Savings Seminars**

Seminars have taken place at the Council on Aging (COA), Rotary and Village Church with eight presentations to 69 total attendees since April.

Next presentations at COA are scheduled for:

Monday October 22nd at 1PM

Wednesday November 14th at 1PM

Wednesday December 19th at 1PM

## **RDF Food Waste Diversion**

1. Pilot started October 2017
2. 600 Households supplied with starter kits
3. 54 Tons diverted from the landfill to date
4. Averaging 1+ ton per week

## **Food Rescue Update**

The Wellesley Area Schools Food Rescue Initiative is up and running at participating schools for the second year. There are some bumps to iron out in some of the colleges, but it otherwise looks like it will be a solid year of donating, continuing on the track to donate 20,000 meals.

The distribution of prepared meals to Mass Bay Community College was piloted at two days a week this past spring, and will be expanded to four days/week this year.

On October 24th, the 3R Working Group will host a Food Waste and Rescue Workshop - to be co-sponsored by the EPA and Food For Free - with surrounding communities in the hopes that they will follow our lead. We will demonstrate food collection and storage; present on the topic of food waste and rescue; and hold a discussion and networking session.

## **School Recycling and Food Rescue**

On September 12 Ellen Korpi, Laura Olton, Marybeth Martello Mike Pakstis, Matt Delaney, Alison Cross, Dorothea Von Herder (Wellesley College) and Ryan Lee (Food For Free) accepted an Environmental Protection Agency Merit Award for the Food Rescue Network through which Wellesley Public Schools and area colleges donate unused cooked food that allow Food For Free

to distribute free meals food insecure people, including students at MassBay Community College.

Marybeth has been working with parent volunteers to keep tabs on the elementary school cafeteria recycling and food recovery and to encourage expansion. Matt Delaney is promoting single-stream recycling in the Wellesley Middle School cafeteria. Michelle Foster is very eager to support Matt's work. Marybeth is in the process of setting up a meeting with Matt, Michelle and a WMS science teacher who said she is willing to help.

### **Gas Leaks**

On October 3, Ellen joined Lise Olney, Dave Hickey and Meghan Jop at a Workshop coordinated by MAPC, HEET and Mothers Out Front to discuss how the communities covered by National Grid could work together to get better cooperation. Besides Wellesley, attendees came from Action, Arlington, Boston, Brookline, Concord, Lexington, Lincoln, Newton, Salem, Somerville and Waltham. There was brainstorming to list the primary challenges and some recommended solutions. There were some good ideas that will be developed into an agenda and a group of 16 communities will seek a meeting with senior National Grid management.

### **WMLP Status Report**

WMLP held a Public Forum on September 24 to solicit public input on the report prepared by Analysis Group on opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the power purchased by the WMLP.

At the Public Forum the WMLP reported that

- This year 16% of the energy purchased by the WMLP is renewable. By 2020 that will increase to 23% based on two initiatives which are currently close to being finalized
  - The WMLP is working on a draft agreement with the developer of 900 Worcester Street to lease the roof of the sports center for solar panels. The WMLP anticipates installing 1 MW solar capacity there.
  - The WMLP is also close to completing an agreement with Granite State Wind in New Hampshire to purchase additional wind power.
- By 2024 the addition of nuclear power from Seabrook will further increase the non-carbon emitting portion of the power portfolio to 40%.
- Obviously the WMLP will continue to work on additional initiatives going forward. As one example, by year-end the state is expected to open a new solar incentive program, the SMART program, to MLPs. When the SMART program is in place, the WMLP working with the SEC could conduct its second solar campaign next year.

The authors of the Analysis Group Report reviewed their analysis of the market opportunities that are likely to be available to the WMLP in the years from now to 2030. They examined a wide range including:

- Additional efforts such as home audits to reduce the demand for electricity
- Additional purchases of wind and hydro power
- Further solar installations
- The opportunity to participate in several state-led initiatives for large-scale off-shore wind and large-scale imports of Canadian hydro.
- The purchase of additional nuclear power
- The purchase of RECs on the open market

They concluded that if the WMLP could take advantage of all the options they identified, 87% of the carbon-emitting portion of the power portfolio could be converted to non-carbon emitting. However a strong caveat on that conclusion is that it depends heavily on the success of the state-led initiatives, specifically to build a new transmission line through New England to bring large amounts of hydro power from Quebec and construction of a second large off-shore wind installation off New Bedford, and on Seabrook obtaining an extension of their operating license, which currently expires in 2030.

The report also cautions about the risk of relying too heavily on any single option.

Both the Analysis Group Report and all the slides used in the Public Forum are available on the WMLP website under the Greenhouse Gas Reduction tab.

Key take-aways from the public comments include:

- General appreciation for the WMLP's initiative to contract Analysis Group and the analysis they did
- Interest in understanding how the public can participate in setting goals for the WMLP's conversion to a carbon-free power portfolio, whether that is the responsibility of the WMLP Board or requires action through Town Meeting
  - Paul Criswell, WMLP Board member, responded that the Board certainly listens to Town Meeting and to ratepayers but the responsibility lies with the Board, and that the Board will be working on this issue through the end of the year. The public is invited to the Board meetings which normally are held at 5:30 on the last Monday of the month.
- A proposal that the Voluntary Renewable Energy Program be converted to an opt-out program.
- A desire for the WMLP to exceed the Town target of a 25% reduction in emissions by 2020 and to set a target date for becoming carbon free

- A desire to know what other MLP towns are doing and how they are achieving their goals