

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

September 7, 2018

Energy Use Data

Marybeth Martello and Janet Mosley attended MassEnergyInsight (MEI) training sessions on July 30 and August 8, respectively. Janet has been learning MEI and is carefully checking and updating the MEI database from FY16 to the present. Janet has started to get familiar with ICLEI and Marybeth and Janet are beginning to collect municipal data for the FY18 greenhouse gas emission analysis.

Katy Gibson received a response from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regarding differences in the Independent System Operator New England (ISO NE) and eGRID emission factors. In recent years these factors have diverged significantly with a large decrease in eGRID factors. EPA offered the following explanation for the differences:

- ISO-NE and eGRID sub-region New England (NEWE) do not include exactly the same plants.
- ISO-NE does not make combined heat and power (CHP) or biomass adjustments to the CO2 emissions while eGRID does.
- eGRID includes grid-connected hydro, wind, and solar. ISO NE does not.

Janet will be taking a look at the changing percentage of solar, wind, and hydro in the eGRID data for their last three reports to understand the extent to which inclusion of these energy sources explains the growing difference in factors.

Green Communities

On August 2, Marybeth sent a letter to department heads and board chairs inviting ideas for energy conservation measures that could potentially receive Green Communities funding. No responses have come in to date.

Current Green Communities-funded projects involve: (1) a light-emitting diode (LED) retrofit on the Department of Public Works (DPW) campus, and (2) an energy audit of the Town's water and wastewater systems have been underway this summer.

1. The Facilities Management Department (FMD) will be installing 2700 Kelvin LED lights on the DPW campus. Light replacement will not take place in the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP) stockyard or the DPW salt shed areas. The stockyard is no longer in use and the salt shed lights have already been replaced. FMD will solicit labor prices from three Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) certified electrical contractors and will use the same MGL Chapter 25A Section 14 Request for Proposal template that they have successfully used in the past. Allen will soon prepare the photometrics and draft a Request for Proposals.
2. As of August 23, the DPW received invoices totaling approximately 81% of the total project cost for the energy audit of \$35,000. On September 5, Marybeth received a draft front end of the Wright-Pierce report. The draft Executive Summary outlines a number of energy conservation measures that will require significant capital investment, as well as several measures that DPW could carry out at minimal cost.

Idle Reduction Pilot

Melrose and Cambridge have expressed interest in the idle reduction pilot project that Wellesley has been exploring with the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). MAPC aims to send Marybeth a draft Request for Information soon.

Hunnewell School Feasibility Study

On August 28, Marybeth had a very helpful meeting with Joe McDonough, Steve Gagosian, Dick Elliott and Kevin Kennedy to discuss sustainability and the Hunnewell School Feasibility Study. The group discussed the school building process, lessons learned from other projects, the importance of an integrated design approach to Hunnewell, and opportunities for sustainability.

On August 30 the SEC and School Building Committee held a joint session to hear from and pose questions to zero net energy/sustainable building experts, Bill Maclay and Martine Dion. Bill and Martine are part of SMMA's team for the Hunnewell School Feasibility Study. Bill and Martine outlined their process for integrated design and highlighted green building benefits related to occupant health, student performance, environment, fossil fuel use and cost. They also discussed the Eco-Charrette, scheduled for October 15. On September 20, the School Building Committee will hold a public forum to officially launch the Hunnewell School Feasibility Project. The forum will focus on various project elements, including sustainability.

Marybeth has been reading up on zero net energy buildings, and schools in particular, and is reaching out to towns that are pursuing zero net energy.

Sustainable Development Guidelines

Marybeth made changes to the draft Guidelines. Revisions include a new section focused on process.

On August 29, Marybeth met with Michael Zehner and Jeanette Rebecchi in Planning to discuss their initiative on [Design Guidelines](#) and possible overlaps with Sustainable Development Guidelines. The SEC submitted a memorandum to the Design Review Board outlining the Committee's goals for Sustainable Development Guidelines. On September 5, Marybeth attended a Design Review Board meeting which included a presentation by Gamble Associates on the revised Design Guidelines pertaining. The consultant sees sustainability as a cross-cutting theme and would like to meet with members of the SEC

to talk further about the integration of sustainability into these Guidelines, and the coordination of Design Guidelines with Sustainable Development Guidelines.

Transportation

The Transportation Working Group (TWG) will meet with Cynthia Mahr, the new Assistant Superintendent who directly managed the school transportation program in Weston. Ellen will also meet with Selectman Ellen Gibbs to brainstorm about the best way the TWG can complement the transportation work of the Town. The potential housing developments on Barton Road and at the Wellesley Office Park could call for increased attention to public transportation.

Food Rescue

Ellen Korpi, Alison Cross and Matt Delaney are making plans with the EPA to invite at least seven surrounding communities and local private schools to a three-hour demonstration of our food rescue program.

On September 12, the EPA will present an Environmental Merit Award to Wellesley in recognition of the Food Rescue program.

Home Energy Seminars for Seniors

Fred Bunger held a Home Energy Saving Seminar at Tolles-Parsons on August 3, 10:30-11:30am.

The seminar aims to increase participation in the home energy assessments offered by the Wellesley Municipal Light Plan (WMLP) and National Grid. Seminar participants are encouraged to bring their home energy bills so they can compare their costs against a range of costs for very efficient to very inefficient homes. To make it easy to sign up for the home energy assessments, volunteers who have previously experienced audits and home energy improvements will be available as mentors to help seniors with the process.

SEC Administration

Marybeth wrote and submitted the SEC's Annual Report and finalized the SEC's FY19 Work Plan.

On August 22 Marybeth met with Stephanie Hawkinson, new Communications Director, to discuss future communication for the Green Collaborative.

Wellesley Municipal Light Plant

Laura Olton is working with the WMLP to complete Wellesley's application for a SolSmart designation.

On September 4, Laura Olton, Marybeth Martello, Katy Gibson and Ellen Korpi met with Dick Joyce, Debra Healy and Terry Connolly of the WMLP to discuss initiatives of mutual interest. Topics included solar at 900 Worcester, SolSmart, what might be in store with the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program, battery storage opportunities, etc. Marybeth will update Dick on the Hunnewell School Feasibility Study going forward and the SEC will seek input from the WMLP on Sustainable Development Guidelines. Dick invited SEC input on the Analysis Group Phase I findings.

from the MLP Board:

- The WMLP and 900 Worcester have executed a letter of intent to lease roof space to WMLP for the installation of a 900 kWh solar installation
- Recent WMLP advertising has yielded 41 new or increased participants in the voluntary renewable energy program.
- The WMLP is holding a public forum on September 24 to present the Analysis Group study on greenhouse gas emission reduction opportunities.

Commented [LO1]: 900 kW or kwh??? I think it's 900 kW