

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

## SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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

SEC Administrator: Marybeth Martello

[SEC@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:SEC@wellesleyma.gov)

SEC Assistant: Janet Mosley

[jmosley@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:jmosley@wellesleyma.gov)

Laura Olton, Chair

Ellen Korpi, Vice Chair

Fred Bungler

Michael D'Ortenzio, Jr.

Katy Gibson

Rob Lamma

Thomas Ulfelder

### SEC Project Updates

December 7, 2018

#### **Leading By Example Award**

Wellesley won a Leading By Example (LBE) Award for its work on sustainability efforts across town including energy conservation/greenhouse gas emissions reductions (e.g., via building improvements, the streetlight retrofit and solar installations), food waste diversion and food rescue, and sustainable materials management. Laura Olton (Sustainable Energy Committee, Chair), Ellen Korpi (Sustainable Energy Committee Vice Chair), Marybeth Martello (Sustainable Energy Administrator), Alison Cross (Food Rescue Leader), Lenny Izzo (Health Department Director), and Jeff Azano-Brown (Recycling and Disposal Facility Superintendent) attended a very nice LBE Awards ceremony at the State House on December 6. Stephanie Hawkinson is working on a press release. Please see pictures, below. The poster that the State put together is currently on display in the side foyer of Town Hall. Marybeth and Stephanie Hawkinson are looking for a place in Town Hall to display the various sustainability awards and designations that the Town has earned





## 2018 Leading by Example Award Recipient

Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs  
Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources  
Massachusetts Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance  
Leading by Example Awards annually recognize outstanding clean energy and environmental efforts among Commonwealth agencies, public colleges/universities, municipalities, and individuals.



### TOWN OF WELLESLEY

The Town of Wellesley was designated a Green Community in 2017, and this town of more than 27,000 people has become a leader in sustainable food waste management and is advancing an array of initiatives across the town, including the addition of solar energy, improving energy efficiency, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



#### Wellesley Highlights

- **Reduced greenhouse gas emissions at municipal buildings over 24%** in the past decade through the collaborative work of the Sustainable Energy Committee and key stakeholders.
  - Wellesley received a \$137,250 DOER Green Communities grant in last year for further efficiency work, including LED lights and a water systems energy audit at a DPW building.
- Implemented an innovative pilot food rescue initiative in public school cafeterias to **recover and distribute approximately 5 tons of surplus food** in less than a year to a local non-profit organization that turned the surplus food into meals for individuals and families in need. The program has been extended to several local universities.
- Launched the residential *More Power to Choose* solar incentive program, that, along with other efforts, has resulted in solar installations on 98 residences, 11 commercial properties, and 3 municipal light plant locations, for a total of nearly **1 MW of installed solar capacity**. Planning is underway to double installed capacity in the next year.
- **Replaced more than 2,800 streetlights with energy-efficient LEDs.** The Wellesley Municipal Light Plant utilized a \$281,000 DOER grant and MLP funding that will annually decrease electricity consumption by 930,000 kWh, save \$125,000 in energy costs, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 310 metric tons.



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## **SolSmart Silver Designation**

Wellesley earned a silver SolSmart designation. According to the SolSmart organization, “This designation is in recognition of all the hard work and leadership your community has shown to reduce soft costs and barriers to going solar.”

## **SEC FY2020 Budget**

Marybeth Martello submitted the SEC’s draft budget and budget narrative to Blythe Robinson and the Finance Department. Marybeth included a memo explaining that the SEC is exploring costs associated with improvements to data and methods for estimating transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions.

## **Green Communities**

### ***Grant Round 11 - DPW Lighting Project and Energy Evaluation of Water and Wastewater Systems***

The lighting project on the Department of Public Works (DPW) campus is complete. Marybeth will schedule a site inspection with the Facilities Management Department (FMD) and Neal Duffy of the Department of Energy Resources (DOER). Marybeth will submit a final report to DOER in the next month.

### ***Grant Round 12***

Meghan Condon of DPW has reached out to consultant JK Muir to obtain more detailed cost and energy use information for the Rosemary and Longfellow pump station upgrades.

DPW may be interested in proposing a lighting project for Green Communities funding in January 2019. Energy New England will conduct a lighting study at Wellesley’s water and wastewater facilities. Meghan will speak with DPW staff to confirm that the timeline for the lighting project works with the Green Communities schedule. Marybeth shared Wellesley’s 2018 proposal for DPW exterior lighting with Meghan.

Marybeth is reviewing the Town’s capital budget for vehicles and other projects that might be good Green Communities candidates.

Dave Cohen (DPW) is updating the Town’s vehicle inventory so that Marybeth can reach out to departments to remind them about the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy.

### ***Grant Round 13***

Marybeth has been in close contact with Joe McDonough of FMD about potential Green Communities projects. FMD has a Wellesley High School lighting project that will fit well into grant round 13 (grant proposal submission in January 2020).

**Commented [MJ1]:** Already defined in sections above

## **Sustainable Building Standards**

Marybeth Martello and Fred Bunger met with Joe McDonough and Steve Gagosian of FMD to discuss the draft Sustainable Building Standards (SBS). Joe and Steve provided a lot of thoughtful input. Steve will provide his written comments on SBS after the Permanent Building Committee meets on December 13. Steve proposed the formation of an SBS Working Group. Fred, Laura and Marybeth have discussed a tentative plan to present the draft SBS to the Board of Selectmen and then hold a series of meetings to present SBS and get feedback from relevant boards and committees.

## **Board of Building Regulations and Standards**

The Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN) will be holding a meeting later in December to discuss work toward a net zero energy stretch code. Marybeth has been invited to attend this meeting.

## **Hunnewell School**

On November 29, SMMA presented ten conceptual options for the Hunnewell School project. Marybeth circulated the slide presentation and documents related to this meeting.

The Massachusetts School Building Authority accepted the Hunnewell Request for Services for the Owner's Project Manager. This document included the Sustainable Energy Committee's (SEC's) sustainability language.

## **Stove Party**

Sustainable Wellesley is planning a Stove Party for January 13 at Jarvis on Route 9. The party will showcase an electrical induction cooking demonstrating as an example of a move toward electrification. Fred participated in the Stove Party conference call.

## **Transportation**

### ***Transportation Working Group***

Ellen met with Babson College administrators to discuss public buses, taxis, the Babson/Olin/Wellesley shuttle, car-pooling apps, zip cars, electric car chargers, bikes, and the shuttle for food service workers.

Ellen plans to focus on Transportation at Wellesley's Green Collaborative meeting the morning of January 24 in the library. Judy Crocker, Outreach Coordinator for Massachusetts Safe Routes to School at the MA Department of Transportation, has agreed to speak. Judy has worked on anti-idling, the promotion of busing, biking and walking to school. She has been a big advocate for bike

and pedestrian safety. Before working for the State, she worked as a volunteer in Lexington where she successfully increased participation in the school bus program.

Ellen also plans to brief the Transportation Working Group (TWG) on the work of the new Mobility Working Group (MWG). In the meantime:

- The Transportation Working Group will have a Listening Meeting with Needham Schools on the morning of January 9 and has a tentative commitment for a Listening Meeting with Lexington that afternoon.
- Ellen has reached out to several people who will hopefully brief the TWG on technology that might be of interest such as apps that help people find appropriate car pools

The Transportation Working Group will meet with Anne Gulati of Needham Public Schools on January 9, 2019.

**Commented [MJ2]:** Is this different than the listening meeting listed in the first bullet point above?

### ***Mobility Working Group***

The Town's Mobility Working Group (MWG) held its first meet on November 29. Participants included Ellen Gibbs and Jack Morgan (Board of Selectmen), Michael Zehner and Jeanette Rebecchi (Planning Department), Marybeth Martello (SEC), Brandon Schmitt (Natural Resources), Albert Berry (Planning Board), Jeffrey Zupan (resident who was former Planning Director at New Jersey Transit), Maura Sullivan (resident and engineer with the MA Department of Transportation), and Denny Nackoney (Trails). Paul Criswell (WMLP/DPW Boards) is a member of the Working Group, but was not present at the meeting.

Notes from the MWG meeting appear below:

- The WMG would benefit from the inclusion of biking and paratransit representatives.
- The WMG will not supplant the Transportation Safety Committee.
- Does the Town want/need bike and sidewalk policies?
- Wellesley tends to address transportation in a fragmented way. This Working Group could help to bring a more coherent approach to the transportation sector by helping to set a vision and priorities and by ensuring long-term maintenance and ongoing support for transportation initiatives.
- The MWG could also support the Town's engagement with regional transportation organizations.
- Technology, such as carpooling apps, could serve as an important tool.
- The TWG, led by Ellen Korpi of the SEC, is investigating opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while also realizing win-win opportunities such as better bus service and reduced traffic. The TWG is gathering lots of useful information from numerous groups within and outside of Wellesley.

### **Data and Methods for Calculating Transportation-Related Emissions**

Marybeth and Leanne Cowley met to discuss next steps for exploring improvements in transportation-related emissions. Leanne followed up with Professor Cutler Cleveland at

Boston University (BU) and learned that BU's methods cannot be made public until their Carbon-free Boston analysis is published next year. Professor Cleveland noted that the Central Transportation Planning Staff (CTPS) data is very difficult to use and recommended we look at Cambridge's transportation emissions work (something that Janet Mosley and Marybeth are already doing). Marybeth and Janet found summary MAPC data from which Marybeth will calculate emissions to compare to Wellesley's past transportation emissions estimates.

#### **Food Waste/Food Rescue/Recycling**

Alison Cross is in conversations with Needham, Natick, Newton and Lexington about putting food rescue programs in place.

Marybeth and Ellen attended the Green Schools Meeting on November 30. Marybeth contacted E.L. Harvey to inquire about school cafeteria carton recycling.

#### **Electricity Emissions Factor**

Janet had a conference call with Energy New England and has developed preliminary findings and a set of questions and next steps to guide continued analysis of ISO-NE, E-Grid and WMLP-specific emission factors.

#### **Climate Action Plan**

Janet submitted a proposal for a University of Michigan Capstone Project. The proposal requests a student team to assist Wellesley in the formulation of a Climate Action Plan.

#### **Wellesley Office Park**

The SEC should wait until zoning matters are resolved before reaching out to the Wellesley Office Park team about sustainability.

#### **Wellesley Municipal Light Plant**

At its November 26 meeting the WMLP Board considered five topics of interest to the SEC:

- Recent efforts by WMLP to increase participation in the Voluntary Renewable Energy Program yielded 33 new participants and 16 participants who increased the level of their participation. According to the most recent EPA report, the WMLP ranks fourth in the nation in terms of participation (10.6%) and eighth in percent of power purchased through the VREP (3.4%).
- Review of the roof lease by the WMLP and the developer at 900 Worcester Street is proceeding apace.

- Energy New England has identified four new projects (biomass, hydro, wind and solar) projected for implementation between 2019 and 2023 that the WMLP can add to its portfolio. Assuming WMLP participation in these four projects and flat demand, the WMLP could achieve 42% renewable energy in its portfolio by 2024 and, including WMLP's purchase of nuclear power, 59% clean (non-carbon) electricity. After that time, WMLP will face the double challenge of renewing or replacing some current renewable energy (RE) contracts as well as continuing to increase RE in its portfolio.
- The WMLP submitted a bid, through Energy New England, for \$115,000 in grants through the SMART program for a community solar campaign. The WMLP must provide matching funds to receive this grant. Requirements to participate in the SMART program include:
  - Installations of 25 kilowatts or less are eligible
  - Municipal rebates cannot exceed \$0.60/watt
  - DOER will match municipal rebates
  - All Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) must be retired
  - DOER funding expires 6/30/2020 or sooner if all program funds (\$2,300,000) are expended.

The Board will consider the specific terms of the WMLP program at a future meeting.

- Paul Criswell presented the Board with a proposed set of principles to guide its efforts to reduce carbon emissions from electricity:
  - The WMLP will continue its primary emphasis on safety and reliability. The WMLP will not compromise either safety or reliability in pursuit of other goals. But it is our belief that greenhouse gas reduction can take place simultaneously with safety and reliability.
  - The WMLP will continue to seek to offer economical rates to its ratepayers. It will be the goal of the WMLP to maintain rates that are significantly lower than surrounding IOUs (Independently Owned Utilities).
  - The WMLP will continue its aggressive pursuit of zero carbon/renewable energy sources. It will use the report produced by the Analysis Group as a general guide, and will pursue on-shore and off-shore wind, hydro, community and commercial solar, nuclear and other sources as they become available. We realize that 1) some of these sources of renewable energy may not become available at the expected time and 2) these sources of energy will probably be more expensive than off-the-grid energy. We will use judgment regarding the expense, but it will be acceptable to prudently use non-operating revenues to subsidize the purchase of renewable energy. The RECs that the WMLP receives from purchasing renewable energy shall be retired, in the ordinary course.

- The WMLP will continue to aggressively pursue, encourage and subsidize local behind-the-meter production and energy conservation. Non-operating revenues may be used to subsidize these programs.
- The WMLP will add a new goal/requirement to its capital planning: it shall seek to have the infrastructure in place to take full advantage and support the arrival of smart grid technology and the electrification of the transportation and building sectors. Non-operating revenues may be used to subsidize the resulting capital programs.
- The WMLP will consider participating, operationally and/or financially, in town projects to aid greenhouse gas reduction in areas outside of the electric sector. Non-operating revenues may be used for this purpose. The WMLP may also fund these projects by selling RECs on the market, but only upon receipt of specific Board approval. All non-electric sector participation will require recommendation by the Director and Board approval.
- The nature of the Voluntary Renewable Program will be changed. Instead of the proceeds from the VREP being used to subsidize the actual purchase of renewable energy by the WMLP, the proceeds of the program will be used to purchase RECs, above and beyond those received from the actual purchase of renewable energy. This will boost the WMLP's renewable portfolio (using the measuring criteria established by state law). If a sufficient number of people participate at sufficient levels, the Town could achieve a 100% renewable portfolio more rapidly than it can by energy purchases alone. In fact, if we receive enough participation, the Town's REC portfolio could actually exceed 100%.