

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

May 3, 2019

Green Communities

The Department of Energy Resources (DOER) approved \$10,000 in Green Communities Designation Grant funding to support a Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP) light-emitting diode (LED) Flood Light Project (\$21,345) and sustainability work detailed in the Town Hall Annex Feasibility Study. This leaves approximately \$30,000 in Designation grant funds remaining. We expect approval of a Department of Public Works (DPW) LED retrofit project at the Town's Water Treatment Plants (\$23,223). DPW is also exploring the possible installation of solar on its salt shed.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and Energy Use Tracking

Janet assisted Quentin Prideaux in getting data needed for Wellesley High School greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory. Quentin's work will yield helpful information for the Sustainable Energy Committee (SEC) regarding WHS operations and energy use (e.g. regarding the geothermal system, school transportation and refrigerants).

Janet also

- Created a customized bar graph of Town of Wellesley building Energy Use Intensity.
- Updated to MassEnergyInsight software with data on building square footage, FY18 energy use and FY19 electricity use.
- Developed a matrix listing recommended improvements for Wellesley's GHG inventory and resources needed
- Begin to review requirements for Green Communities report in the fall

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan

On April 23, Leanne Cowley and Marybeth Martello had a phone call with Concord, MA's Sustainability Director, Kate Hanley. They discussed Concord's greenhouse gas inventory, their Climate Action Plan and their sustainability work, generally. KLA, a sustainability consulting firm, assisted Concord with this work over the past two years. Concord developed an electricity emissions factor that reflects their light plant's energy purchases. They also analyzed ISO-NE and eGRID emissions factors and choose to proceed with ISO-NE.

On May 1 Laura Olton, Richard Lee, Pamela Posey, Leanne Cowley, Janet Mosley and Marybeth Martello met to discuss a possible greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction plan for Wellesley.

Background

Leanne, with input from Janet and Marybeth, reviewed GHG inventory frameworks and Climate Action Plans in several MA towns and cities. Communities, somewhat similar to Wellesley. Communities with the most developed climate change programs are Somerville, Concord and Lexington.

Development of a new greenhouse gas emissions goal and plan for reaching this goal fits squarely within the SEC mission outlined in Article 12. See text from Article 12, below.

12.3 **General Duties.** The Committee shall propose sustainable energy goals, to reduce Town greenhouse gas emissions from the municipal, residential, commercial, industrial and institutional sectors, to Town Meeting. The Committee shall prepare a multiyear action plan to achieve the Town sustainable energy goals and shall revise it as needed. The Committee shall work with municipal departments, businesses, institutions, and civic and volunteer organizations to initiate and carry out actions to achieve these goals and shall coordinate municipal activity with initiatives of these other organizations. The Committee shall prepare an annual Townwide emissions inventory and develop an annual action plan that includes significant planned initiatives by both municipal and community organizations.

A Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan (GHG Plan) offers an opportunity to set out a short-term (five- year) and long-term (10, 20, 30-year) strategic plan for the SEC. As we've learned from other towns, creation of a GHG reduction plan also offers opportunities to engage (and encourage a sense of ownership among) community members and departments across town in decisions about goals, pathways and timelines.

Elements

GHG Plan development should include:

- An overarching set of greenhouse gas reduction targets (e.g., for 2030, 2040 and 2050) – (e.g. carbon neutrality or 80% carbon neutrality by 2050).
- Improvements (especially in the area of transportation) to the data and methods we currently use to estimate Wellesley's GHG emissions.

- A framework that includes goals, strategies and a timeline for reaching milestones in specific sectors. A framework could address areas (borrowed from Somerville) such as:
 - Buildings (Fred has drafted a detailed outline of how a GHG Plan can address buildings)
 - Mobility
 - Environment (including tree canopy and water-related emissions)
 - Community (communication (including outreach, new web interfaces, etc.), engagement and equity considerations)
 - Leadership (municipality leading by example, Wellesley's efforts to advocate for things at the state, and international level – e.g., the International Building Code)
 - Governance (identifies implications for Wellesley government including SEC membership/mission, staffing, budget, engagement with consultants)
 - Discussion of MLP purchases

One Way to Approach a Process

- Establish an SEC sub-group to develop GHG reduction goals, start to outline a framework (that includes public communication and outreach) and identify budgetary and staffing/consultant implications for FY21 and beyond. This sub-group should engage community members and other town departments in the goal and framework development process. The SEC may choose to formerly include members of other departments (e.g., NRC, FMD and MLP) in the sub-group.
- Continue to investigate and implement inventory improvements
- **At ATM 2020 present:**
 - GHG emission reduction goals
 - An updated inventory or plans for one
 - A GHG Emissions Reduction Plan Framework and a proposal for further developing and implementing this plan
- Link the ATM 2020 presentation to a celebration of “SEC-at-10” – a retrospective PR campaign that highlights the SEC's accomplishments since its inception in 2010

On May 1, Laura Olton, Richard Lee, Pamela Posey, Leanne Cowley, Janet and Marybeth Martello met to discuss a possible Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan.

Sustainable Buildings

Marybeth and Fred Burger finalized the Sustainable Building Guideline (SBG) road show and made presentations to Dick Joyce of WMLP 4/22, Michael Grant of Building Department 4/24, Joe McDonough at FMD 4/25, David Cohen and the DPW staff on 4/30, and Jamie Jurgenson at the Library 5/2. All audiences were very attentive and appreciated being involved. Almost all remaining departments are scheduled for presentations in the next two weeks. Fred and Marybeth are also in the process of getting onto committee and board meeting agendas. Marybeth also sent SBG to Town Counsel for review.

Fred held a Home Energy Savings Seminar at the Council on Aging (COA) on April 2. Attendance was poor, but Fred spoke with a representative from Natick who is planning the same type of program.

Fred Bunger attended School Building Committee meetings as SEC representative on April 4, April 25 and May 2 to follow progress of Hunnewell and Hardy/Upham projects.

On April 25th, Fred participated in a NEEP Webinar on Home Energy Labeling Information eXchange (HELIX): The aim of HELIX is to help realtors sort out the various benefits and measures of home energy and sustainability so that they can be effective in explaining and selling the benefits to home sellers and buyers.

On April 25th Fred participated in a New Buildings Institute webinar on “Getting to Zero in School Retrofits”. The presentation included reports from two school districts efforts to renovate with a goal of zero net energy.

Transportation

The SEC’s Transportation Working Group met with Dave Cohen, Director and Dave Hickey, Chief Engineer of the Department of Public Works to learn about sidewalks. The DPW Engineers have been certified in “Complete Streets” and the DPW used a grant to engage a consultant to assist in developing a Prioritization Plan. The goal is to focus priorities for the Town’s byways for all transportation, not just vehicles. Once this is complete, they will be able to apply for competitive grants of up to \$400,000/year towards the top 5 priorities.

The 110 mile sidewalk system was fully assessed in 2017 to identify areas in need of attention. As part of the Complete Streets focus, the DPW plans to create a Sidewalk Policy and a Sidewalk Masterplan.

Key to the effectiveness of this effort will be integrating it with other Town efforts such as a focus on Safe Routes to Schools when the School Committee does its redistricting and transportation issues related to potential new developments such as Wellesley Office Park and the Talby Lot. Most important for this integration of effort will be the formation of a Town Mobility Committee into which the SEC Working Group will become a subset.

Food Rescue

On April 22 Ellen Korpi and Marybeth Martello presented and food rescue and food waste diversion at the Newton Free Library, at an Earth Day talk hosted by Green Newton. Newton is working with Alison Cross and following in Wellesley’s footsteps with a food rescue program.

General

On April 10, Marybeth was a guest lecturer in a Babson College Climate Change course. She spoke about local responses to climate change and highlighted many of the SEC's projects.