



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

May 1, 2020

Climate Action and Resiliency Plan

On April 22, the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) announced the next round of funding available for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program grants. Action grant proposals are due on June 11, 2020. Available funding totals \$10 million dollars. The last grant round awarded a total of \$10.5 million with an average grant amount of \$195,000.

Wellesley will seek MVP grant funding for a Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (CARP). The SEC is leading the mitigation piece of the application, while the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) is leading work on resiliency. Several discussions about Wellesley's MVP Action Grant application took place in April and included Marybeth Martello, Janet Mosley, Brandon Schmitt, Meghan Jop, Lise Olney, and the MVP regional representative for Wellesley, Carolyn Meklenburg. Marybeth, Janet and Brandon also participated in an MVP webinar. Marybeth has begun to prepare the application.

Sustainable Buildings (from Fred Bungler)

Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines (MSBG) - Laura Olton is creating a reader-friendly format for MSBG. The status of MSBG approvals appears below:

- Approved MSBG in February/March: NRC, Board of Public Works, Recreation Commission, School Committee
- Approved MSBG on April 27: Municipal Light Board
- Library Trustees have not included MSBG on their agenda due to COVID19, but indicate they will vote on MSBG before Annual Town Meeting
- Board of Selectmen will vote after the Library Trustees vote

Hunnewell School - Fred Bungler and Marybeth reviewed estimator specifications for Hunnewell School.

Police Station Energy - Marybeth and Janet are working with the Facilities Management Department (FMD) to identify sub-metering equipment for the Police Station energy audit planned for Fiscal Year 2021.

Stretch Code Update – Fred continued conversations with the Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN), advocating for a zero net energy stretch code and for the inclusion of Passive House elements. The Board of Building Regulation and Standard’s May meeting is up in the air due to COVID19.

Fossil Fuel Infrastructure – On April 27 Lise, Fred and Marybeth spoke with Lisa Cunningham of Brookline about the fossil fuel infrastructure limitations sought by Brookline, Arlington, Concord and other towns. The Rocky Mountain Institute is offering an accelerator program to towns interested in pursuing building electrification programs, including limits on new natural gas infrastructure (See attached documents from Lise Olney).

Embodied Carbon webinar - Fred participated in an April 2 webinar sponsored by the New Buildings Institute (nbi) on reducing embodied carbon in new and renovated buildings. nbi has found that use of low embodied carbon through timber structures and decking in low rise buildings can be cost competitive.

Passive House webinar - Fred participated in an April 9 MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER) webinar: A Passive House Primer for Municipalities. Passive House achieves low energy use through low infiltration, continuous insulation, thermal break glazing and heat recovery ventilation. The added cost of improving the building envelope can be balanced by the lower cost of mechanicals (heating/cooling).

Energy Efficiency Can Get Us Halfway to Climate Goals webinar - American Council for Energy Efficient Economy webinar on April 22 presented energy improvements that could achieve half of the 2050 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions goal.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory (from Janet)

To prepare for the FY21 CARP, Janet is reviewing Wellesley’s community GHG inventory methods and comparing them to globally accepted GHG inventory protocols in order to identify and prioritize areas for update and improvement. Possible revisions include (but are not limited to): using a WMLP-specific emissions factor, calculating transportation impacts based on vehicles registered in Wellesley, and accounting for natural gas leaks.

SEC Communication

The SEC will submit articles highlighting the solar rebate and Bring Your Own Charger (BYOC) Programs to the NRC's May Newsletter. The NRC welcomes SEC pieces going forward.

Marybeth added an SEC webpage highlighting ideas for practicing [Sustainability at Home](#).

Article 26

Lise, Pam Posey, Marybeth and Janet are working on an Article 26 presentation for Annual Town Meeting.

Multi-town Gas Leaks Initiative (from Lise Olney)

Due to the COVID-19 health emergency, the pilot project we had begun with National Grid has been delayed. Three teams had been working with National Grid to come up with specific measurable actions to accelerate leak repair. National Grid will be hosting a special briefing next week on their ongoing gas repair work and suggesting ways that municipalities can support their efforts. We hope to resume our partnership later this spring.

We also have a fourth group that is continuing to focus on the impact of gas leaks on trees. (National Grid is not participating in this group.) The tree group is planning a webinar for late May to provide an overview on how gas leaks affect trees, how trees are used as indicators of nearby leaks, and what some towns have done to try to address this issue.

3R Working Group and Green Collaborative (from Sue Morris)

Sue Morris developed and is working to distribute a flyer to promote online bill payments and food waste drop-off at the Recycling and Disposal Facility.

Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (from Don Newell)

Voluntary Renewable Energy Program (VREP) Redesign – The VREP Working Group (Don Newell, Jack Stewart, Ellen Korpi, Laura Olton, Scott Bender, Joanne Scannell and Terry Connelly) has a first draft matrix that will be used to evaluate alternatives. Research is ongoing on how to structure Community Solar and on whether purchasing Clean Peak Certificates might be an effective tool for lowering emissions.

Demand Response – Short term, the MLP will initiate a voluntary Demand Response program to address the summer capacity peak. Longer term, Energy New England ("ENE") and the MLP interviewed the vendor used by Eversource and many other large utilities for an automated response to capacity peaks, and ENE is continuing the conversation to determine if a group of MLPs within ENE can create sufficient scale to make this viable. Addressing the monthly transmission peaks is much more complicated and will require long-term developments.

Solar – Don is continuing to work with the School Building Committee and the Facilities Management Department on the Hunnewell School roof project. Before determining the legal/financial structure, an evaluation process is necessary to determine the optimal approach. In the meantime, the design for the solar roof can move forward. Don, Laura, Fred and Marybeth attended a meeting on the Hunnewell School solar installation on April 10.

Solar Rebate Program - WMLP can start generating renewable energy certificates (RECS) from the MLP Solar Rebate Program. Documents sent to DOER on April 17 initiated the program. There are currently five participating projects in the MLP solar program. ENE will upload the monthly generation for solar meters and enter it in the WMLP New England Power Pool Generation Information System. These monthly generation totals will be turned into RECs. The RECs will be MA Class I and will be retired by MLP to reduce its carbon portfolio.

Energy Efficiency – WMLP is working with ENE on new federal reporting requirements for the Residential Conservation Services (RCS). The requirements include budgeting these programs in the annual operating budget as a percentage of residential revenue as well as reporting the yearly expenditures for each program. Programs include rebates, assessments/audits and BYOC programs including programs for low income residents and multifamily dwellings.

EV Education Program April 2020

- WMLP received inquiries about the BYOC Program from three WMLP customers in April and sent targeted marketing email to 58 WMLP customers listed in the MOR-EV database, but not yet enrolled in the BYOC Program.
- ENE has created a digital portal and online webinar for EV customers to engage in Q & A for all things EV.
- ENE has developed a 3-part webinar on its EV ENE YouTube channel to educate customers about EVs.

Municipal Light Plant Heat Pump Meeting (from Janet) - Energy New England (ENE - the cooperative organization that represents Massachusetts MLPs) is holding meetings with its constituents to determine how best to promote heat pump installations. On April 1, Janet participated virtually in the third meeting of this group. The focus of the meeting was a presentation by Abode, a start-up that focuses on program delivery, and is proposing to help MLPs promote and manage heat pump installations in their communities. After the presentation, meeting participants expressed a positive impression of Abode and interest in engaging their services. The consensus was that ENE/MLPs should move forward with Abode, in the near future, so that once issues with COVID 19 have abated, the program is ready to go when contractors can enter people's homes.