



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

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Municipal Vulnerability and Preparedness Action Grant

On June 18, the SEC and NRC applied to the State's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant Program. The application entitled "Engaging Community in Climate Action and Resilience," requested \$100,000 in grant funding and promised a cash match of \$25,000 and an in-kind match of \$15,783. The State will announce grant awards in August.

SEC Transportation Working Group (TWG)

The TWG is continuing to develop the Shared Streets Pilot. They met with DPW and plan to meet with Police and members of the Board of Selectmen.

Leaf-blower Webinar

Lise Olney is working with Sustainable Wellesley to organize a one hour webinar on July 28 regarding leaf blowers with Jamie Banks of [Quiet Communities](#) and Dan Mabe of [AGZA](#). The current title is "**Leaf-Blowers and Our Health: What's Right for Wellesley?**" The idea is to start a conversation about gas leaf blowers and their impact on health, air pollution, and greenhouse gas emissions. The SEC will discuss possible webinar co-sponsorship on Friday.

Sustainable Buildings (from Fred Bunger)

Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines (MSBG)

The status of MSBG approvals appears below:

- Natura Resources Commission, Board of Public Works, Recreation Commission, School Committee, Municipal Light Board approved.
- Library Trustees approved on June 8.
- BOS to be scheduled

Stretch Code Update

Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN) is tracking new Stretch Code progress, which seems to be going backwards. The Board of Building Regulation and Standards (BFRS) voted unanimously to push the adoption of the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) code to Jan 1, 2021. This violates the Green Communities Act and sets an alarming precedent. MCAN is considering advocating that the 2018 version be skipped and go directly to the 2021 IECC as the base. Requests for information on construction and energy cost comparisons for 2015, 2018 and 2021 codes were sent to American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and nbi to provide data on the benefits of the new codes.

Rocky Mountain Institute Building Electrification Accelerator

The Rocky Mountain Institute Building Electrification team will be Lise Olney, Ellen Watts, Lisa Cunningham of Brookline, Fred Bunger, Regina LaRoque, Mary Gard and Marybeth Martello. Mary and Fred are Accelerator program team leaders.

The first webinar is planned for June 25.

Bylaw Barriers to Energy Improvements

Marybeth and Fred drafted a PowerPoint presentation on yard setback bylaw amendments. They sent the draft to the Planning Department requesting their help in completing it. Awaiting response.

Fred checked with several solar installers to see if there were barriers to installing solar in Wellesley. Installers were complimentary about the Wellesley process. They would like better timing, but that seems a problem everywhere.

Zero Net Energy Spring Forum webinar part 2: Policy

National Grid together with nbi conducted a second ZNE webinar June 2nd. John Marcantino of Rhode Island Builders Assn. spoke on how the building industry has seen ZNE go from “niche” to common practice. He noted the need for more training for trades people and consumers so that people are available to do the work and consumers understand the value of the investment over the long term. Puja Vohra spoke on the Newton Climate Action Plan to be

carbon neutral by 2050. Seth Federspiel, Net Zero Energy Planner for the City of Cambridge, spoke on their 25-year net zero strategy, the task force and action plan for buildings which are 83% of Cambridge greenhouse gas emissions.

Zero Carbon Home

Attended Zero Carbon, Zero Bills webinar June 20th sponsored by the 350MA Upper Charles Climate Action chapter(Ashland, Holliston, Hopkinton, Milford, Millis, Medfield, Dover and Sherborn). David Green of Dover, MA presented his experience in converting his 5400 square foot home, built in 1974, to zero net energy over the last 3 years with a return on investment of 15%. His book: "Zero Carbon Home" details the process and his data. He presented information on retrofitting air source heat pumps, insulation, triple glazing and solar panels.

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

The 3RWG discussed revised goals in light of the pandemic. Increased take-out during the pandemic has brought black plastic take-out containers, there is a temporary ban on reusable bags, etc.

FoodCycler

At its recent meeting, the 3R Working Group discussed the [FoodCycler](#). Jeff Azano Brown determined that the FoodCycler does not offer a cost-effective alternative to the current Food Waste Drop-off Program at the RDF. Wellesley could still consider use of the FoodCycler in certain school kitchens.

RDF

The 3R Working group will continue encouraging participation in the RDF Food Waste Drop-off Program. 3R promoted it a few months ago through the Town and will continue to do that.

The RDF Take or Leave is not likely to reopen any time in the near future, so 3R will promote other ways to recycle, in addition to the book and clothes bins currently at the RDF. Julie Steen created a list of organizations that are still taking donated goods. 3R will also include the Wellesley Give and Take Facebook group which is a very active private group where people exchange goods free of charge.

Energy Efficient Landscaping

Raina updated 3R on the DPW's willingness to use battery powered landscape tools instead of gas powered. This is a very positive move forward and David Cohen's support of this is appreciated.

Zero Waste Wellesley

3R is hoping to restart the Zero Waste Wellesley initiative that Valerie Gates successfully promoted before coronavirus. The program can, for example, promote refusal of plastic straws, plastic utensils, etc. with take-out. Phyllis drafted a letter that Marybeth is going to forward to the Health Department for distribution to Wellesley restaurants.

Green Collaborative

3R will further discuss a virtual Green Collaborative meeting this fall. No decision has been made as of now.

Municipal Light Plant Sustainability Update (from MLP)

Francisco Frias, the MLP's new Assistant Director began working at the MLP! The MLP will provide a sustainability update at the end of June.