



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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Lise Olney

SEC Project Updates

March 5, 2021

Green Communities

Work continues on the following Green Communities-funded projects.

- \$25,128, Exterior LED lighting in municipal parking lots – In Progress
- \$98,500, Interior LED lighting in the High School auditorium and gymnasium - Complete
- \$10,000, Two hybrid police cruisers – In Progress
- \$4,292, Administrative assistance to support LED lighting projects

Janet Mosley is working on pulling together materials needed to complete the final reports for these projects once work has concluded.

Climate Action Plan

- Marybeth Martello and Janet issued the Climate Action Plan Request for Proposals via COMMBUYs, the Town website, the Wellesley Townsman and via personal emails to seven consulting firms. On February 21 and 24 Marybeth responded to consultant inquiries.
- The Climate Action Plan Steering Committee met to discuss the introductory presentation to the Climate Action Plan
- Marybeth met with Sustainable Wellesley leaders, the Wellesley High School Climate Action Club and Town board and staff members from a number of departments to plan for Climate Action Plan working groups.
- Marybeth drafted a Project Concept for Metropolitan Area Planning Council's (MAPC's) Technical Assistance Program and shared it with MAPC staff for feedback. The project focuses on community engagement for the CAP.

From Fred Bunger:

- Fred developed energy use intensity (EUI) baselines for residential, commercial, and municipal buildings.
- Fred is developing a menu of energy efficiency strategies and electrification opportunities for all types of buildings and has drafted a PowerPoint presentation for the building CAP.
- Fred is reviewing Newton and Hingham's energy/climate coach programs.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Janet is finishing the 2020 greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory using the current inventory method to be included in the Annual Report. Janet is also collecting additional data to complete a 2019 GHG inventory using the updated inventory methodology.

Select Board Presentation

On Monday, March 1, Marybeth presented the following to the Select Board: ATM 2021: new GHG goals and SEC name change; an introduction to the Climate Action Plan process; draft summary for MAPC Technical Assistance Program project; and the joint municipal letter on the Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plan (CECP) 2030. The Select Board reacted favorably to all presentations and agreed to sign onto the Joint Municipal Letter providing feedback on the Massachusetts CECP.

Municipal EV Charging Station at Waban Street Parking Lot

Marybeth met with Meghan Jop and Scott Showstead to discuss a policy for the EV charging station at the Waban Street Parking Lot. Scott will propose the policy to the Select Board.

Green Collaborative

A Green Collaborative meeting will take place on March 31 featuring an introduction to the Climate Action Plan and a presentation on the benefits of heat pumps and the Clean Comfort heat pump incentive program.

Gas Leaks

From Lise Olney:

New emissions calculator from HEET: HEET now provides an estimate of the emissions associated with gas leaks in all the towns on their maps. The estimated annual emissions for Wellesley's 256 leaks:

- CO2: 8,437 metric tons
- Methane: 98 metric tons
- Cost of leaked gas (residential rate): \$92,663
- Equivalent emissions from US passenger cars: 1,834

Multi-Town Gas Leaks Initiative quarterly meeting with National Grid on February 18:

- New gas leaks map: National Grid representative Amy Smith presented the utility's quarterly gas leaks data and demonstrated a new interactive gas leaks map that National Grid will be including on its website. The map is expected to go live this month. The map also includes a "Frequently Asked Questions" section that explains how leaks are classified and prioritized for repair.
- Proposed Geothermal District Energy pilot project: National Grid representative Owen Brady-Traczyk described the geothermal pilot project that the utility has proposed to the Department of Public Utilities
- Full meeting recording: <https://youtu.be/-e7iVCJsZnA>
- Next meeting will be Thursday April 8 from 11 am to 12:30 pm.

Gas leaks legislation filed: Three bills have been filed with the support and assistance of the Gas Leaks Allies:

- An Act Relative to Eliminating Gas Leaks (SD.2188 / HD.3552) Filed by Senator Finegold, Representative Minicucci, and Representative Moran. This bill focuses on safety in the gas distribution system to prevent future catastrophes such as occurred in the Merrimack Valley in 2018. It includes provisions that:
 - Require that critical gas valves, shut off and gate valves and valve boxes are in working order, accessible, and can be located by GPS
 - Increase coordination between towns and their gas company in pipeline repair and replacement
 - Require independent audit of gas company's data about leaks
 - Increase protection for trees from gas leaks
 - Improve data collection and reporting including leak maps, emissions calculations, and details about gas infrastructure
 - Include standards for winter surveillance and a control room within the service territory to monitor pipeline pressure.
- An Act Relative to the Future of Heat in the Commonwealth (HD.3472 / SD.2340) Filed by Senator Creem and Representative Ehrlich. Meeting the Commonwealth's mandate to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 must include a strategy to transition off natural gas as a primary source of heating our homes and businesses. This bill provides that strategy through incentives and a financing mechanism for gas companies to transition to renewable thermal infrastructure instead of continuing to invest in gas infrastructure. It includes provisions that:
 - Allow gas companies to provide heating from sources other than gas, such as renewable geothermal energy
 - Allow gas companies to use bonds backed by ratepayers to finance renewable thermal infrastructure at lower interest rates
 - Include labor training and upgrades for low-income households
 - Prohibit the depreciation of fossil fuel infrastructure past 2050.
- An Act Establishing the Municipal Reforestation Program (HD.3032 / SD.1923) Filed by Senator Creem and Representative Ehrlich. An expansive urban tree canopy cover can mitigate the adverse effects of climate change such as heat islands and air pollution. This bill requires that each municipality in the Commonwealth have a municipal reforestation plan that the Commonwealth will finance and support with technical assistance. Specifically, it includes provisions that:
 - Establish an Urban Forest Advisory Council under EEA to provide advice and technical assistance to municipalities, tree-planting organizations, municipal arborists, state foresters, gas and electric companies
 - Prioritize environmental justice communities and municipalities with less than 20% tree canopy cover
 - Include workforce development and job training programs
 - Provide funding from the Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI).

3R Working Group project update

From Sue Morris:

The RDF continues to promote the Recyclable of the Month as well as the 50th Anniversary of recycling. There was a brief article about the anniversary in the Sunday Boston Globe this week. Mary Ann

Cluggish and Jamie Manzolini were both quoted in the article. Plans for a 50th celebration in the fall are ongoing as well as promotion of the facility and anniversary.

Jamie Manzolini is talking to neighboring towns like Natick about the possibility of aggregating plastic bag/plastic film collection. The hope is to collect enough jointly to meet volume/weight requirements for companies like Trex that create things like outdoor decking out of plastic film. The volume/weight threshold needed is difficult for individual towns to meet so combining with other towns is the best option at this point in time.

Jamie Manzolini talked again to Federal Realty about food waste diversion. Federal Realty has not started diverting food waste at any restaurants in the Linden Square development. The waste hauler for Federal Realty for Linden Square is O'Keefe Group. O'Keefe evaluated the trash collection areas for the purpose of accommodating more totes for food waste and made the recommendation to Federal Realty to upgrade the concrete pads. Federal Realty says the renovation of the pads (near The Cottage and behind Qdoba) will happen this spring.

Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) Building Electrification Accelerator (BEA)

The BEA team concluded the RMI training. Work on zoning and resolutions in collaboration with the 16 other municipalities in the RMI program will continue with check-ins every other month.

Working Group on Sustainability in Zoning

Planning, SEC and relevant citizen members will form a working group to pursue a holistic approach to adding sustainability elements into Wellesley zoning processes. The first meeting of the group is scheduled for March 10.

Wellesley Housing Authority (WHA)

Fred Bunger received natural gas bills for WHA and is awaiting electric bills and living area data to complete EUI calculations. Janet has arranged for MLP to share electricity invoices for WHA accounts from which she will extract annual electricity consumption data for WHA buildings.

Clean Energy and Climate Plan 2030 Webinars and Public Comment

The Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) has rescheduled two public listening webinars on the Interim Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2030 (2030 CECP). Below are the dates and registration information. Please register in advance for the webinar you plan to attend. Please also indicate that you would like to make a public statement during the listening session. We will consider the speakers on a first-come-first-speak basis as much as we can.

The two webinars will follow the same format and stakeholders are invited to attend either one. First, EEA will give a presentation and overview of the Interim 2030 CECP, after which attendees will be invited to provide oral public comment (up to 3 minutes). These comments will be recorded and considered with the other public comments on the Interim 2030 CECP.

If you have a specific question about the CECP, please send it to gwsa@mass.gov at least 24 hours in advance of the webinar you will be attending, and the team will try to address your question during the

presentation portion. During the listening webinars, EEA will be in “listening mode” and will not be taking live questions.

Listening Webinars on the 2030 CECP

- **Tuesday, March 9th, 3-4:30pm.** Click here to register:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hSMK52GNQPyCmpvXcZ91gQ
- **Monday, March 15th, 6:30-8pm.** Click here to register:
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_FsmTHu_qQfe-7cQolmid1Q

We will continue to take public comments on the Interim 2030 CECP until 5:00pm on March 22, 2021. Details are at www.mass.gov/2030CECP.

Please send any questions on this process to gwsa@mass.gov. Thank you!

-Claire

Claire Miziolek

Decarbonization Roadmap Study Manager

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Municipal Light Plant Update

From MLP Staff:

Voluntary Renewable Energy Program (VREP):

The WMLP staff members of the VREP working group met on February 1, 2021, to start the planning for the rollout of the Wellesley Electric Customers Accelerated Reduction of Emissions (“WECARE”) program. The working group is mapping out a program schedule for the necessary communication to MLP customers by developing an intense marketing campaign that will begin by April 1, 2021. They are preparing the staff to support customer inquiries, in addition to working with MUNIS and IT in making appropriate changes to the billing software and preparing the necessary financial procedures to track funds and expenses associated with the program. Don Newell and Francisco Frias have been working with the Facilities Management Director on the plan for a Municipal Solar Program, which will help prioritize use of funds collected through the WECARE program

Current Group participants include MLP Board members Jack Stewart and Scott Bender, SEC Chair Laura Olton, and representing the MLP: Don Newell, Joanne Scannell, Terry Connolly, and Francisco Frias.

Electric Vehicles (EV) Program:

The MLP is working with Energy New England (ENE) on the EV Education and Awareness program. In January, MLP met with ENE to review the Wellesley Drives Electric program. On January 1, 2021, the state reestablished the MOR-EV program. Fully Electric vehicles under \$50,000 are eligible for a \$2,500 rebate. Plug-in Hybrid (minimum range of 25 miles) are eligible for a \$1,500 rebate. The federal tax credit of up to \$7,500 is also still available for many electric vehicles. Wellesley residents who apply for the MOR-EV State rebate will receive marketing materials directing them to the ENE program page on our webpage.

ENE was finally able to engage with dealerships, including Wellesley Toyota as well as Hyundai, Chevrolet, BMW, Tesla, and Nissan dealers. ENE provided the dealers with a training video for marketing electric vehicles. ENE is attending the Massachusetts Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Commission meeting in March promoting the ZEV Adoption initiative in the state.

The Drive & Save Wizard offered to ENE EV programs in partnership with CleanPower is up and running. With this tool, residents can easily find and compare the EVs best suited to their lifestyle and preferences through a more intuitive and seamless experience.

Solar Rebate Program:

The MLP's solar rebate program has been in effect for approximately 20 months, with 23 completed installations. There are ten more in progress. These 33 installations add up to 266.105 kW DC allocation against the 192 kW DC initially approved by the WMLP Board. The Massachusetts DOER has extended the program until June 30, 2021, and the MLP pledged \$50k to be allocated for the Solar Rebate Program extension. Currently, the "overrun" in rebate dollars stands at \$89,322, of which the WMLP is responsible for half or \$44,661.

Incentive/Rebate Programs:

The MLP's Appliance Rebate program for fiscal year 2021 has processed a total of 152 rebates and \$14,650 paid out as of January 2021. The Incentive Redesign Working Group (IRWG) recommendation presentation will be given by Francisco Frias at the MLP Board meeting.

The existing Group participants include MLP Board member Ellen Korpi, Sustainable Wellesley member Mary Gard, SEC member Fred Bunker, Wellesley resident Judson Jaffe and representing the MLP: Joanne Scannell, and Francisco Frias.

Home Energy Audits:

Due to the recent departure of Kristin Dupre from ENE, the staff was not able to connect with the person at ENE that will be handling the Home Audits and Assessments to get the latest update.

During the calendar year (CY) 2020, ENE completed 28 Home Audits, including 14 remote audits beginning in April. MLP is working with ENE to advertise the program along with the EnergyXpert Self-Service Home Energy Assessment program. This online platform was launched in the second week of September. As of December 31, Wellesley had 62 residents that had signed up for the online EnergyX Home Assessments. The MLP's YTD savings in kWh is 22,101 for the CY20. Through the platform, customers can perform an online home energy assessment by answering a handful of simple questions. The platform will provide individualized insights about their homes' energy use to improve their overall performance. Additionally, the tool is integrated with a marketplace, giving real-time suggestions and processes rebates available to them. This tool optimizes the customer journey and generates industry-leading conversion rates. We will continually work on promoting this tool through email promotions and include the information in the new resident package for new MLP customers.

MA DOER spending requirements for Residential Conservation Services (RCS) is .25% of Gross Revenue. The WMLP required spending for CY2020 was \$84,941, and the WMLP spent \$141,842, 167% of our requirement. The RCS consists of audits, rebates, home self-assessments, electric vehicle program maintenance, solar and LED installs.

Large Scale Solar and & Battery Storage Projects:

Wellesley Sports Center: Currently, the staff is waiting for the attorney representing the building owner to approve the Assignment and Assumption of Sublease (AAS) document before the Purchase Power Agreement is signed. The building owner wants to make sure he is covered from any roof damage and the warranty is not voided as a result of the solar installation. Documents are due to be signed any day now.

Municipal Way: The WMLP staff continues to analyze the top four RFP proposals received for the Battery Storage System project and will review the analysis for a final recommendation on this project at the March Board meeting.

Other Locations: On January 15th, the MLP's Director and Assistant Director held a second meeting with the Select Board Chair, the Town's Executive Director, and the Facilities Management Director. The MLP had a PowerPoint presentation that helped show important aspects of where the MLP is on emissions reduction, green energy resources, and coming emission reduction requirements. The consensus was to start working on a draft plan containing the criteria needed to consider a municipal building for the installation of solar panels. A draft has been prepared by the Facilities Management Director and a second meeting is being scheduled to discuss the document.

Webinar Summaries and Other Sustainability News

From Fred Bunger:

New Buildings Institute (NBI) Building Electrification Technology Roadmap Webinar

NBI introduced their new study Building Electrification Technology Roadmap on February 25.

Cathy Higgins and Alexi Miller walked through the contents of the study and how to use it. It provides current status of electrification technologies for space heating, water heating, cooking, and clothes drying broken down by building sectors, new and retrofit. The study provides models of technology packages to provide energy and emissions results. Finally, the report details roadmaps for adoption of the technologies, makes recommendations on marketing and building electrification strategies.

Alexis Karolides of Point Energy Innovations architects presented examples of decarbonized buildings and showed some useful slides on costs and emissions calculations. Her final slide was a good summary:

Top Five Lessons Learned:

- All electric technology is ready for prime time
- Adds less than 1% to construction costs and dropping
- Electric systems save operating costs
- Gas systems don't run without electricity
- Electric systems can be backed up by solar batteries

Report: <https://newbuildings.org/resource/building-electrification-technology-roadmap/>

Webinar recording: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/recording/1643056713734748929>

Webinar visuals: : https://newbuildings.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/NBI_BETR_NatWebinar02222021_FullPresentation.pdf

From Martha Collins:

MAPC Regional EV Strategy Call

The focus of the MAPC Regional EV Strategy Call on Wednesday, February 17 was electrifying municipal EV fleets.

- Grants – VEH102: Advanced Vehicle Technology Equipment, Supplies and Services
<https://www.mass.gov/doc/veh102/download>

- FAC88 – Lawns & Grounds, Equipment, Parts and Services Statewide Contract <https://www.mass.gov/doc/fac88/download>
- Group purchasing – Greater Boston Police Commission (GBPC) group buying opportunity for EVs and hybrids. <https://www.mapc.org/our-work/services-for-cities-towns/public-works-collective-purchasing-program/>

The next MAPC Regional EV Strategy Call will be on March 18 at 10 a.m. and will address group purchasing opportunities for municipal fleets. Contact Megan Aki at MAPC Maki@mapc.org.

Live Green Network Webinar

Martha attended the first in a [3-part webinar](#) series on electrifying school bus fleets hosted by the Live Green Network. There were nearly 200 attendees from 30+ states. The first webinar presented a Vehicle to Grid case study from Beverly, MA. The PowerPoint from the Beverly case study and a slide on Vehicle-to-Grid are included in the March 5 meeting materials.

See information on the second and third webinars in the series below:

- March 3, 2021 at 11 a.m. - [Electric School Buses A to Z: Hear from a Wide Variety of School Bus Manufactures](#)
- March 10, 2021, at 11 a.m. - [Electric School Bus Projects: Putting the Pieces Together](#)

Municipal EV Policy

Concord Select Board unanimously approved a [sustainable fleet policy](#) that includes a commitment to replacing non-exempt light-duty vehicles with battery electric vehicles.