



## CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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### Climate Action Committee Project Updates

January 6, 2023

#### Climate Action Plan (CAP) General Communication and Outreach

- On December 7 - presented to Advisory Committee on the Opt-in Specialized Energy Code with a brief preview of the Climate Action Committee's (CAC's) FY24 budget request.
- Began working with Babson College to develop a climate action project for a Spring 2023 graduate level class. Marybeth Martello, Lisa Wolf, Martha Collins, Phyllis Theermann, Janet Mosley, and Andrew Myers discussed project ideas. Andrew (a Babson graduate) is drafting a proposal.
- Edited press release for January heat pump event.
- Worked with Lisa Wolf on climate coaching program and offered edited climate coaching announcement.
- On December 16 – presented on the CAP to the Charles River Chamber of Commerce Environmental Committee. Representatives from Needham and Newton also presented on their climate action and a fruitful dialogue about collaborations followed, along with an invitation to attend future meetings. Marybeth, Mary Gard, Fred Bungler, Lisa Wolf, and Martha Collins attended.
- Planned Building Energy Roundtable (see below).
- With the assistance of the Building and Planning departments and Andrew Myers, Janet is compiling email lists of builders, architects, developers, HVAC contractors to allow direct outreach to those stakeholder groups.

#### Green Communities

Due to concerns raised about PFAS in Wellesley and the status of the treatment plants going forward, DPW and CAC (after consultation with DOER) determined that it would be best to forfeit the Green Communities grant money intended for heat pumps at the three water treatment plants.

#### Governance

- Janet and Marybeth reviewed CAP dashboard elements.

- Marybeth, Fred, and Janet continue to attend webinars and refine outreach materials for the Opt-in Specialized Energy Code.

## **Buildings**

*From Fred Bunger:*

### **Buildings Working Group (BWG) of CAP**

Update of BWG activity using CAP action items as a guide:

#### **B1 Regulatory:**

- CAC presented Opt-In Specialized Stretch code warrant article to Advisory 12/7. Settled on January 1, 2024 adoption date in line with DOER and Building Department recommendation.
- Planning Board did not propose additional sustainability amendments for Annual Town Meeting 2023.

#### **B2 Promote net zero**

- Continuing work on Building Department database to identify example installations for future outreach communication. Working on survey for contacting contractors.

#### **B3 Municipal Action**

- Preparing presentation on sustainability in new Hunnewell and Hardy schools for January 19 Green Schools Committee meeting.
- Police Station audit (*from Janet*): Janet and Marybeth met with FMD twice in December to determine how best to assess energy use and potential energy conservation measures at the Police Station.

#### **B4 Residential conversion**

- Mary Gard and Lisa Wolf working with Abode and Green Energy Consumers Alliance on January Heat Pump webinar on January 18 at 7pm.

#### **B5 Commercial/Institutional**

- Next step in adoption of commercial PACE is to confirm support from the Treasurer's Office and schedule a presentation to the Select Board by MassDevelopment.
- Planning in progress for February 8 Building Energy Tracking and Reporting (BETR) Roundtable. Mark Scribner and Eric Desrosiers from ENE will present on electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure for commercial buildings and transitioning commercial fleets to EVs.

### **Quit Carbon webinar**

The Building Decarbonization Coalition (BDC) conducted a webinar 12/13 with two principals from Quit Carbon, a volunteer (for now) organization helping homeowners electrify in San Francisco. Their role is to reduce friction and build confidence between contractors and homeowners.

They would help clients:

1. Make a plan for quitting carbon tailored to each home's needs.
2. Understand priorities, possible costs, potential rebates
3. Take action, review, and interpret contractor proposals, facilitate "right-sizing" of systems.

### **Fred Bunger's Personal Quit Carbon**

Working on personal Quit Carbon project to serve as live example/demonstration project.

- MassSave audit and recommendations received.
- Awaiting proposals on full scope from 3 full-service contractors.
- Scheduled Abode consult and plan for two additional heat pump contractor visits.

## **Mobility**

MAPC's Regional EV Strategy working group call was held on December 8 during which Wellesley's approach to staging EV events was shared with participants.

Mobility Working Group heard from MWRTA representative who presented and took feedback on the proposed route for Route 1 bus.

## **3R Working/Waste Group**

*From Sue Morris:*

The 3R Working Group met in December. Among the things discussed was expanding the food waste diversion program to get more participation from Wellesley residents and businesses. The cost of trash/solid waste disposal continues to climb (as of December 2022 it was \$120/ton). Getting food waste out of the waste stream is important for several reasons including the reduction of GHG's from landfills, reducing trash disposal costs and the option for green energy and or more sustainable disposal options. The new food waste guidelines from MA DEP went into effect in November of 2022 requiring food service institutions generating 1/2 ton of food waste per week must divert their waste from landfills. This ban on mattresses going into landfills also went into effect. The RDF sent this information out through the town News and Announcements but we plan to do more marketing to increase awareness. We did an outreach to food service companies in the fall of 2022 to promote an informational webinar sponsored by the Charles River Chamber and the Center for EcoTechnology to provide information and resources about the new MA DEP food waste ban regulations. We plan to reach out to them again to offer more information and resources. A positive development is that we believe Linden Square is diverting food waste through Black Earth.

The House and Senate have approved an expansion to the Bill Emerson Food Donation Act. The new law will provide liability protection to "qualified direct donors" who donate food in good faith. This essentially means that surplus food will be able to be donated from schools, food service establishments, etc. directly to places that serve the food to food insecure consumers like shelters. The previous iteration of the Act required that, in order to be protected from liability, food had to be donated via a 501C3 non-profit such as Food for Free and Rescuing Leftover Cuisine which was challenging and/or prohibitive to some potential food donors. Although it still needs approval from the Biden Administration, this is a very positive change to the act for many reasons including food rescue organizations are currently understaffed and underfunded. This will make the food donation process much simpler and take out some of the barriers previously preventing potential food donors from doing so. Here is a link.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/5329/actions>

Wellesley Middle School is starting a food waste diversion pilot program this month. It is being organized by a few teachers and Anna Hurley, a new assistant principal at WMS. It will be just the 6th grade to start and will hopefully be expanded to the other grades if successful. The Wellesley High School Climate Action Committee is also starting a pilot for water bottle recycling this month. There will

be some new disposable plastic water bottle only clear containers in some strategically placed spots in Wellesley High School which will have clear signage. They will also promote the pilot program in the morning announcements. If this pilot is successful we will roll it out to more locations at WHS.

*From Janet:*

Marybeth received information from a resident about the growing deconstruction movement, which emphasizes the importance of deconstructing buildings to repurpose their materials instead of demolishing and landfilling them. Some cities and towns in the U.S. are considering enacting policies to require deconstruction for certain buildings. For more information, see the following links:

- [www.cr0wd.org](http://www.cr0wd.org)
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ejld6E\\_7SsQ&t=1s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ejld6E_7SsQ&t=1s)

### **Wellesley MLP Sustainability Initiatives**

*From MLP Staff:*

#### **Heat Pump Promotions**

In collaboration with Abode, Sustainable Wellesley and Green Energy Consumers, a webinar about heat pumps is planned for January (date TBD). Topics will include current technology and summary of utility, State and IRA benefits.

#### **EV Demand Management**

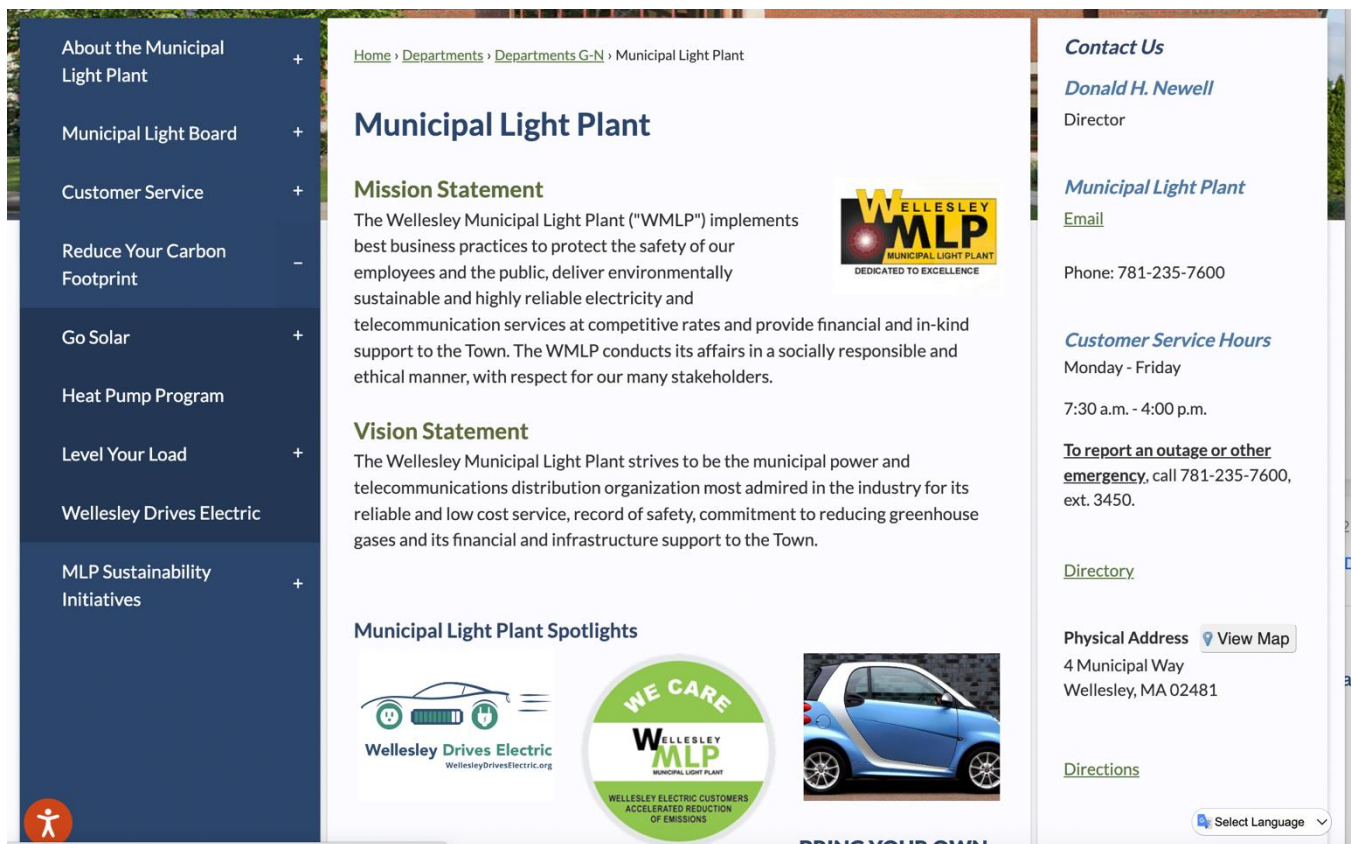
WMLP can now identify addresses of over 750 EV owners who are not participating in the SageWell Bring Your Own Charger (BYOC) program. A campaign targeted at enrolling these EV owners is underway.

For customers who are already enrolled, SageWell now has the capacity to use charger telematics to monitor or control OEM-equipped devices. Enrolling customers in any such control program must be voluntary, and would entail a targeted campaign to all existing customers. SageWell experience has shown very high voluntary cooperation with self-managed off-peak charging.

Starting in 2023, enrollment in BYOC will be added to the requirement to get the MLP charger rebate (50% up to \$350). Meanwhile new charger registrants will be alerted to BYOC and emailed information about enrolling with a link to sign up.

#### **Website Re-organization**

WMLP website was restructured so that the Homepage menu items were reduced from 11 to 5, simplifying and streamlining the search for information. A new 'Reduce Your Carbon Footprint' main menu item with sub-items, 'Go Solar', 'Heat Pump Program', and 'Level Your Load' was added.



### Director's Message

Planning is underway to record a message from MLP Director Don Newell to customers addressing growing concerns about rising energy prices, planning to electrify everything, decarbonizing the power portfolio, peak management, and transmission capacity.

### Energy Coach Program Development

Coordinating with the Climate Action department to develop an energy coach program. This will comprise recruiting and training a core group of volunteers to help residents learn about lowering the carbon impacts of their homes and activities, and answer questions about electrification and other energy efficiency and renewable energy measures. An Energy Coach website will be developed to answer FAQs, and allow residents to schedule a consultation with volunteer experts on a range of topics.

Five MLP staff members will take Abode's 10-hour heat pump technical training and will provide support to the Energy Coach program upon its launch.