



CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Climate Action Committee Project Updates

April 7, 2023

Green Communities

The Department of Public Works (DPW) is working with the Facilities Management Department (FMD) to move the LED lighting project in the Water and Sewer garage forward.

Janet and Marybeth are working with FMD, DPW, Municipal Light Plant (MLP), and other departments to identify potential projects for the Green Communities grant application this fall.

Governance and Outreach

- Marybeth and Janet finalized the Climate Action Committee's (CAC's) annual report to Town Meeting.
- Marybeth attended the Green Schools meeting on March 16 where topics included school food waste diversion and recycling, Wellesley Wonderful Weekend, Idle Free Campaign, potential future Transportation Coordinator position for the Town.
- The Wellesley Wonderful Weekend (WWW) planning group meets weekly. This new group works to make WWW events more sustainable while also showcasing the sustainability programs of town departments. Recent developments:
 - Catch Connect will provide free bus service to WWW open houses and other events.
 - The RDF will support multi-stream recycling and food waste diversion at the picnic and reception for town officials.

Annual Town Meeting 2023 Article 36 – Opt-in Code

- The CAC and Select Board hosted two successful Opt-in Code webinars on March 6 (96 registrations) and March 8 (113 registrations).
- Marybeth presented Article 36 and answered several audience questions at the League of Women Voters event on March 23.
- Marybeth revised [Frequently Asked Questions re: Article 36, Wellesley Annual Town Meeting 2023](#)
- Marybeth and Janet met with CAC members to discuss Article 36 Town Meeting strategy. Marybeth is contacting people to speak on the floor of Town Meeting while coordinating with KC.

Buildings

From Fred Bunger, Janet Mosley, Marybeth:

Buildings Working Group (BWG) of CAP

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

B1 Regulatory:

- Marybeth leading Specialized Opt-in Code adoption. Prepared presentation for Town Meeting.

B2 Promote net zero

- Continuing work

B3 Municipal Action

- Continuing work

B4 Residential conversion

- CAC, WMLP, Sustainable Wellesley and Abode discussing options for Climate/Energy Coach program. Prepared Home Energy Improvement process map to illustrate the pathway for HVAC electrification, clarify topics coaches will cover, and to support Energy Coaches.
- Continued development of QuitCarbon template. Analyzing proposals from 4 HVAC contractors. Wide difference in proposals from \$23,000 to \$41,000 for a range of solutions. Limited 100AMP circuit sparking a search for work-around solutions.
- Marybeth, Janet, Lisa Wolf, and Poormehr Honarmand working with a group of Babson graduate students developing a strategy to improve the customer journey for residential heat pump installation in Wellesley. The group meets weekly.

B5 Commercial/Institutional

- Marybeth and Rob Dolan of MassDevelopment presented on the Commercial PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program which was adopted by Select Board 2/13/23. Meghan Jop finalized PACE paperwork.
- Janet conducted very successful February 8th Building Energy Tracking and Reporting (BETR) Roundtable with a presentation on EV and EV charging by ENE. Follow-up was positive.
- Planning is underway for the next Building Energy Roundtable. The meeting will likely focus on the MLP's large commercial customer demand management consultations.

BEA Quarterly Meeting

Mary Gard presented at the 3/30 BEA quarterly meeting which included reports from 18 towns on progress with Opt-in Stretch code, the 10 Town Pilot on no new fossil fuel infrastructure, climate coaching programs, energy upgrades in environmental justice (EJ) communities and geothermal pilot.

- HEET presented on energy retrofits with HomeWorks Energy in EJ communities.
- UndauntedK12 spoke on investment tax credit to fund ground source heat pumps in schools.
- MCAN presented on their push for embodied carbon legislation.
- ZeroCarbonMA summarized progress on the 10 Town demonstration project.

BEA Retrofits Working Group

The March 10 check-in included reports from Worcester, Lowell, and Lawrence on EJ home energy retrofits. Acton targeting a neighborhood of 70 homes using fuel oil with support from energy coaches and Abode.

Gas Transition

From Lise Olney:

Legislative update:

A State House briefing for legislators is planned for Wednesday, May 10 am on *An Act Relative to the Future of Clean Heat* ([S.2105/H.3203](#)) and *Empowering Municipal Voices: An Act Relative to Intervenor and Utility Work* (H.3137). Sen. Cynthia Creem, Rep. Steve Owens, Rep. Jennifer Armini are the sponsors of The Future of Clean Heat. Rep. Armini is the sponsor of Empowering Municipal Voices.

Hydrogen update:

- *Gas Transitions Allies* released a new report on March 6, [“Impact of Green Hydrogen Production on the Availability of Clean Electricity for the Grid”](#) - Gas utilities propose blending green hydrogen with natural gas in pipelines to heat homes in MA, requiring in excess of 100% of the Commonwealth’s procured wind power with minimal climate benefits. This study finds that producing green hydrogen requires more than three times as much electricity as heat pumps without the air quality and climate benefits. The related Boston Globe article is in the meeting materials folder.
- *Green Newton* presented a webinar on “Hydrogen vs. Electricity for Heating Buildings,” [Recording of the Webinar](#) – Enter passcode rH&7C1cK when prompted.

Mobility

Mobility Committee

- At the Mobility Committee meeting on March 16, David Hickey presented on the Weston Road improvement project and took questions. This project will enhance Weston Road north of the Fells Market intersection.

From Martha Collins:

Go Idle Free in 2023!

Wellesley Green Schools, WPD, and WPS parents are asking drivers to take a pledge to "Go Idle Free in 2023!" 30% of Wellesley's GHG emissions are from transportation, and 30% of Wellesley's traffic is school-related. Parents are being asked to sign a pledge, hand out magnets, and most importantly, to stop idling. Volunteers are needed to help hand out information to parents in carline on: Tuesday April 25, Wednesday April 26, Thursday April 27, Friday April 28, Monday May 1, Tuesday May 2, and Thursday May 4



[Go Idle Free in 2023!](#) signupgenius.com

Wellesley EV Showcase & Test Drive Event: Thursday May 11, 2023, 4 to 7 p.m.

Once again the Wellesley EV Showcase and Test Drive event will take place in the parking lot at MassBay Community College at 50 Oakland Street in Wellesley. The rain date is Wednesday May 17. The event team includes Lisa Wolf (project lead), Marybeth Martello, Philippa Biggers, Phyllis Theermann, Terry

Connolly, Martha Collins, and several ENE Wellesley Drives Electric employees. Approximately ten vehicles of different makes and models, both EVs and PHEVs, are already committed for test drives. We hope to launch promotions for the event by the week of Monday, April 10.

Waste

From Sue Morris:

Wellesley Green Schools had a meeting on March 16. We again discussed the need for Green Team reps at each school. The Green Tip of the Month has been in the school bulletins, newsletters, and on the WPS website. There is a subcommittee being created to work on food waste diversion at schools. The food waste diversion program has been going on at Wellesley High School for a few weeks. It is an opt-in program with a toter centrally located in the WHS cafeteria for anyone that wants to divert their food waste. So far we have not had a lot of food waste but we found that because WHS has a la carte food service students generally take food they plan to eat and do eat most of it. The bulk of the food waste toters has been mostly compostable plates, trays and boats. CERO has been taking the WHS food compost. Sue Morris met with Matt Delaney to discuss various ways to make food service at Wellesley Public Schools more sustainable.

Wellesley Middle School started their food compost program in March with just the 6th graders. The feedback is that it is going well thus far and they hope to roll it out to other grades soon. The Wellesley RDF has been taking the WMS food compost for now. This program has been managed by WMS teachers Jonathan Rabinowitz and Ann Greenwalt as well as the Assistant Principal Anna Hurley. We will be having a 3R Working Group meeting with DPW, RDF, NRC, and CAC in April. We are continuing to work with the DPW and RDF on Climate Action Plan goals including promoting the RDF and the food waste program. We would like to promote both using the RDF and the food waste program through town organizations. We are looking into new ways to market the RDF in general. As previously discussed in project updates the current system of trash and recycling separation at the town parks and fields is not working. The DPW has ordered some new recycling containers to help better distinguish trash from recycling at the Hunnewell and Sprague fields and hopefully minimize contamination of recycling. We will discuss this further at the April 3R Working Group meeting.

Marybeth, Janet, Dave Cohen, and Jeff Azano-Brown are working with a group of Babson graduate students developing a strategy to increase participation in the RDF's food waste drop-off program. The group meets weekly.

Wellesley MLP Sustainability Initiatives

From Lisa Wolf (with additions from Marybeth):

MLP continues to work on the programs below. CAC participates in EV showcase, EV strategic planning, and energy coaching projects.

- EV showcase (see Mobility section)
- EV strategic planning – Marybeth re-circulated a draft EV First Policy to EV Working Group members.
- Bring Your Own Charger promotions
- Energy coaching
- Residential battery pilot
- Large commercial customer demand management consultations