

Climate Action Committee

Background Information for 2024 CAC Member Position Description

The Climate Action Committee (CAC) consists of four Select Board-appointed members, plus one representative from each of the following: Select Board, School Committee, and Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP). In accordance with the [bylaw](#) establishing the CAC, the Select Board appoints the four members from residents active in the Town's volunteer sustainable energy initiatives or others who bring relevant expertise, such as knowledge about climate action, sustainability, clean energy, marketing, or community engagement.

In 2021-2, the Committee led development of a [Climate Action Plan](#) (CAP) for achieving town-wide greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) reduction goals established by Town Meeting. The CAC supports CAP implementation through work with Town departments, community organizations, residents, the commercial sector, and colleges to reduce emissions from municipal, residential, commercial, and institutional sectors and to support climate action related to governance, energy, buildings, mobility, natural resources, and waste.

The CAC (formerly the Sustainable Energy Committee) was established in 2010 and has led or contributed to many successful initiatives, including Wellesley's:

- [Climate Action Plan](#), engaging over 70 stakeholders across six working groups.
- [Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines](#), garnering support from seven building proponent boards and leading to development of two new net zero ready elementary schools, an all-electric Town Hall, and plans for an all-electric Warren Building renovation.
- [Building Energy Roundtable](#) engaging Wellesley's large commercial property owners and encouraging building decarbonization.
- **Gas Leaks Working Group** – working to identify and track methane leaks (particularly those with the highest level of methane emissions) and advocating for repair at the regional and state levels.
- [Green Community designation](#), earning over \$475,000 in grant funds to support municipal energy conservation measures.
- Three popular **Electric Vehicle Showcase and Test Drive Events**.
- Multiple **solar installations** including at 70 households and three houses of faith.
- Progress on energy efficiency via a Power to Save campaign, workshops at the Council on Aging, and decarbonization audits.
- **WasteWise** – a collaboration of the Natural Resources Commission, Department of Public Works (DPW) and CAC to identify and capitalize on win-win opportunities associated with sustainable materials management.
- [Residential food waste drop-off program at the RDF](#) and school food waste diversion and food rescue.
- First **municipal EV Charging Station**
- Town-wide Mobility Committee and Electric Vehicle Working Group.
- [Green Collaborative](#) to educate and coordinate grass roots groups, individuals, and municipal departments on sustainability issues.
- [Annual Monitoring and reporting of townwide GHG Emissions](#) and efforts to reduce emissions.