



## CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Laura Olton, Chair

Susan Morris, Vice Chair

Cindy Mahr

Ellen Korpi

Martha Collins

Fred Bungler

Lise Olney

### Climate Action Committee Project Updates

November 8, 2021

#### General Climate Action Committee Business

Marybeth

- Revised and submitted Annual Report
- Attended Select Board meeting for discussion of changing Sustainability Director's reporting line
- Drafted memo for increasing Climate Action Analyst hours
- Prepared for Climate Action Committee (CAC) meeting on October 29

#### Climate Action Plan

Marybeth:

- Revised action lists with CAC comments and submitted to KLA
- Met with the following individuals and groups to review Draft Climate Action Plan (CAP) actions
  - Waste and Natural Resources Core Team
  - Waste and Natural Resources Working Group
  - Schools and FMD
  - Don McCauley and Eric Arbeene
  - Colette and Martha
  - Lenny Izzo
  - Michael Grant
  - Sent memo and compilation of draft action lists to Select Board, Planning Board, and School Committee in preparation for presentations next week.
  - Natural Resources Commission
- Met with Janet, Ellen, and Mike Steinhof to discuss emissions analysis underlying the CAP
- Presented on Draft CAP to Council on Aging with Colette Aufranc who presented on the Sustainable Mobility Plan

- Continued to distribute Climate Action Survey
- Sent announcement and press release (drafted by Martha) for Climate Action Webinar to multiple lists and groups
- Gathered photos for CAP and sent to KLA

### **Green Communities**

Janet is working to complete the 2021 Green Communities Annual Report due November 19.

### **Buildings**

*From Fred Burger:*

#### **Climate Action Plan for Buildings**

- Reviewed KLA CAP draft (content) and provided comments
- Buildings Working Group continued bi-weekly meetings.
  - Finalized Goals-Strategy-Actions after review and comments by KLA.
  - Blueprint for Commercial/Institutional building emission reduction finalized.
  - Working on blueprint for residential buildings emission reduction.
  - Discussed next steps in zoning barriers.

#### **Commercial Building Energy Roundtable**

Sent follow-up letters to attendees and invitees to September 27th Building Energy Roundtable. Working to move all owners of buildings over 10,000 sq. ft. size to on-line rather than US mail communication. Wellesley Friendly Aid asked for help with reducing their emissions, so linked them to Energy Star Portfolio Manager to develop benchmark energy and emissions. Will be making personal contact with large building owners who were not able to attend the Roundtable.

#### **Advocacy for Building Energy & Emission Reduction/Electrification – RMI – MCAN - IECC, etc.**

Continuing contact with MCAN, Natick and others on advocacy for State regulations supporting the 2050 Roadmap. Continuing advocacy for zero net energy stretch codes and other climate action policies.

#### **Sustainable Zoning Working Group**

No activity in October. Continuing conversations about Yard Regulations prohibiting heat pumps in setback area which then leads to most exterior installations needing an expensive certified plot plan. No resolution in sight.

#### **Climate Talk**

Prepared talk on weather, climate, and climate change for 3rd graders at Fiske School on November 4.

### **Mobility**

*From Martha Collins:*

#### **Met with ENE to discuss next event to promote EV adoption in Wellesley**

- Tentative: EV test drive event Thursday, May 19 from 3 to 8 p.m.
  - Leading into the Wellesley Wonderful Weekend
  - More sunlight hours in May
  - Weekdays are better for dealers who do not want to take vehicles or staff away from showrooms on weekends

- Possible location: MassBay parking lot, which has easy access to major roads for test drives.

### **Safe Routes to School (SRTS)**

Developing marketing materials to assist Colette Aufranc and Catherine Mirick in recruiting leaders for each school who can coordinate SRTS activities (bike rodeos, walk or roll to school days, mileage contests) and engage other parent volunteers to help.

*From Fred Bunger:*

Fred showed his Mustang MachE at Wellesley and Newton Center EV events.

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

*From Sue Morris:*

Sue Morris and Jamie Manzolini are working on a few town-wide promotions. We are promoting the Catalog Challenge again to encourage people to unsubscribe from catalogs, magazines, and junk mail to cut down on unwanted mail. Every year, over 100 million trees are cut down to produce junk mail like catalogs, credit card offers and coupons that go into trash or recycling bins. There is also an enormous amount of resources that go into making and distributing junk mail. We are asking Wellesley residents to go to [www.catalogchoice.com](http://www.catalogchoice.com) and unsubscribe.

We are also promoting the November Recyclable of the Month which is food waste. Wellesley and the RDF are continuing to work on reducing food waste. They are offering a starter kit free of charge at the RDF office. The hope is to continue to increase the number of residents participating in the program, especially as the holidays are approaching and the amount of food that can be diverted from the waste stream will increase.

Jamie thinks it will be possible for the RDF to collect compostable products at the RDF and mix them in with the yard waste so they can be kept out of the waste stream and breakdown in the yard waste piles. This will be a pilot program, hopefully starting soon, that will require promotion and education of Wellesley residents.

Marybeth, Sue, Cindy Mahr, Leda, and Joe McDonough, FMD Director, met to discuss CAP waste actions related to schools:

- Implementing zero waste goals and guidelines for municipal buildings and activities
- Restarting and expanding (post---COVID) the Food Rescue Network, food rescue and food waste diversion programs in Wellesley.

Sue asked Joe & Cindy about getting language into the custodial contract to include assisting with composting and recycling as part of their job description. Joe said there is no specific language about composting or recycling in new custodial contract approved at fall Town Meeting.

MA state law currently requires businesses and institutions that generate more than 1 ton of food waste per week to divert their food waste from landfill/incineration. MA DEP lowered the limit to ½ ton of food waste which will take effect in Nov 2022. Building by building schools don't generate over a ton, so they are not included in the mandate. However, Linden Square as an aggregate does meet this threshold. Amy Friguetti has had discussions with Federal Realty, the owners of Linden Square, about this issue and they told Amy they are working on implementations to meet the state guidelines. There was also a webinar hosted by the Charles River Chamber and Recycling Works to inform food service providers about what the new law and best practices.

Sue and Phyllis talked to Matt Delaney, Wellesley Public Schools Food Services Director recently. The food diversion/compost programs were paused due to COVID and won't start this year. We hope they can restart next year. They were considering shifting to compostable trays that would be processed with RDF yard waste, but Matt can't source compostable trays due to supply chain issues. They may use compostable plates instead which we will try composting with the yard waste at the RDF.

### **Gas Leaks**

*From Lise Olney:*

On Tuesday, November 2, Lise represented the Select Board at a Natural Gas Legislation Hearing held by the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy. Lise testified in support of *An Act Relative to Eliminating Gas Leaks*, Senator Barry Finegold (S.2179) & Representatives Frank Moran and Christina Minicucci (H.3354). The bill contains provisions that would enhance safety, require reclassification of leaks that affect trees, improve gas leaks reporting, empower municipalities in some Department of Public Utilities (DPU) gas proceedings, and allow gas companies to supply renewable thermal energy (not just gas). A recording of the hearing is [here](#). A fact sheet on S.2179/H.3354 is [here](#).

### **Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Sustainability Initiatives**

*From MLP Staff:*

#### **Wellesley Electric Customers Accelerated Reduction of Emissions (WECARE):**

Total Opt Outs: 660 (6.5%) Total Customers: 10,065 WECARE as of Oct. 29: \$300,684, 100%: \$58,607

#### **Electric Vehicles Program:**

The MLP, Energy New England, Wellesley Climate Action Committee, and Sustainable Wellesley cosponsored three events on September 30, 2021, and October 2, 2021, at Wellesley Wonderful Weekend. The first-ever Wellesley EV Showcase was held on Saturday, October 2nd, at the Cameron Street parking lot. The event featured over 20 EVs on display and ride & drives by a local Nissan dealer. Three Wellesley Drives Electric staff provided onsite support. The Event was more successful than expected. There were approximately 200 participants that came to the WWW Showcase. Wellesley Drives Electric group will be investigating a similar Event for spring 2022 to align with Earth Day's time frame.

#### **Solar Rebate Program:**

The Massachusetts DOER MLP Solar Program ended on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. We have 24 completed applications and 2 applications that are in progress. For the 26 installations, the total reserved rebate dollars between the DOER and the WMLP stands at \$263,841, for which the WMLP is responsible for half, or \$131,920.50. The MLP pledged \$140,000 to be allocated for the Solar Rebate Program, and as the program concludes, the MLP will have \$8,079.50 remaining.

#### **Clean Comfort Air Source Heat Pump Program:**

191 Resident Consultations

<b><u>Budget:</u></b>	<b><u>Admin Costs:</u></b>	<b><u>Rebates paid:</u></b>	<b><u>Rebates in process</u></b>	<b><u>Balance</u></b>	<b><u>Installs in progress</u></b>
\$50,000	\$7,700	\$15,817 (13)	\$1,875 (2)	\$24,608	10

The Air Source Heat Pump pilot program ends October 31, 2021, unless the pilot program is extended by Board approval. Interested residents will need to get their preapproval applications completed by then, to be eligible for a rebate under the initial phase of the pilot. Installations must be completed by February 28, 2022.

**Appliance Rebate Program:**

The MLP staff met with a consultant from the Center for EcoTechnology, Inc. to review their final report on the state of the WMLP Rebate Program. This project has been assigned to a management team to put together the findings of the report and make recommendations that will be presented to the MLB.

The current Appliance Rebate Program has continued, as of October 22, 2021, there have been 52 applications totaling \$3,500.

**Large Scale Solar and Battery Storage Projects:**

***Wellesley Sports Center:***

Consolidated Edison Development (ConEd) has had a series of meetings on this project. The racking system has been installed, and other equipment, including some of the solar modules, are in the process of being installed too. The system is expected to be completely installed by the end of December.

***Municipal Way Battery Storage System:***

Since the project site is part of an Activity and Use Limitation (AUL) area, the staff has been working with a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) to determine what site-related construction precautions will need to take place if the project moves forward. REW Environmental Consultants, Inc. did test borings at the site early in October, and test results are expected soon.

***From Ellen Korpi:***

The Energy CAP Advisory Group reviewed the working draft and recommended a number of additions. The new language is being circulated for review.

In regards to reaching out beyond Wellesley:

- Energy New England (the organization that manages most of MLP's wholesale energy purchases) presented to the Green Light Working Group ("green" MLP Board members from about 12 communities).
- This week Ellen Korpi will attend the meeting of MEAM, the lobbying group representing MLPs on Beacon Hill, to learn more about their legislative agenda
- Senator Creem will hold a hearing on 11-8 regarding how MassSave needs to be redesigned to reflect the State's climate goals. Don Newell, Laura Olton and Ellen Korpi were responsible for bringing a number of deficiencies to Sen. Creem's attention.