

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

TOWN HALL • 525 WASHINGTON STREET • WELLESLEY, MA 02482-5992

Sustainability Director: Marybeth Martello

ClimateAction@wellesleyma.gov

CAC Analyst: Janet Mosley

jmosley@wellesleyma.gov

Laura Olton, Chair

Susan Morris, Vice Chair

Cindy Mahr

Ellen Korpi

Martha Collins

Fred Bunger

Lise Olney

Climate Action Committee Project Updates

December 3, 2021

Climate Action Plan (CAP)

- Marybeth
 - Presented on CAP to the following boards: NRC, Planning, MLB, BPW, School Committee, Select Board, and Advisory with help from Laura, Martha, and Fred.
 - Presented CAP webinar with CAC members and followed up with queries.
 - Reviewed and edited Draft CAP and prepared it for submission to KLA
 - Had numerous meetings and consultations with CAP working groups about indicators, action lists, and other CAP content
 - Revised action lists
 - Reviewed Fred's documents for commercial building owners
- Janet worked with Martha and Fred to update the CAP modeling assumptions for beneficial electrification of building systems and vehicles by 2030 and 2050

Green Communities

Janet completed the 2021 Green Communities Annual Report due November 19.

Buildings

From Fred Bunger:

Climate Action Plan for Buildings

- Reviewed KLA CAP draft (content) and provided comments and corrections
- Corrected commercial & institutional building square foot estimates.
- Buildings Working Group
 - Skipped some bi-weekly meetings

- Finalized Goals-Strategy-Actions.
- Working on implementation blueprints for 1) residential buildings emission reduction and 2) Commercial/Institutional buildings emissions reduction.

Commercial Building Energy Roundtable

Preparing November update to attendees and invitees to September 27th Building Energy Roundtable.

Expanding to all commercial and institutional buildings.

Building Count updated:

- Buildings 10,000+ sq.ft = 120 with 84 separate owners/managers.
- Buildings 25,000+ sq.ft. = 67 with 41 separate owners/managers.

May consider 25,000+ sq.ft. as level for participation in voluntary Building Energy Tracking and Reporting (BETR) program.

Continuing work to move all communication with building owners to on-line rather than US mail.

Continuing to make 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 November. PSI and Design Review proposals were accepted as written and will be included in the Planning Board articles submitted for the ATM warrant.

Barriers to heat pump installation

Several discussions with Planning Department and Planning Board on how to amend Yard Regulations prohibiting heat pumps in set-back area. Planning Department proposed that an exception be made for Energy Star or NEEP certified heat pump installations. Planning Department and Planning Board are considering the proposal but have concerns about how to define a heat pump and using a list of products in zoning bylaws.

Climate Talk

Gave talk on Weather, Climate and Climate change to 3rd graders at Fiske School on November 4th. Audience was full of questions.

Mobility

Data and Modeling of Electric Vehicle Uptake in Wellesley

Janet Mosley and Martha Collins met with Town Treasurer Rachel Lopes to determine whether excise tax data could be used to better assess the number of electric vehicles registered in Wellesley and how that trend might continue in the future. As of October 2021, over 750 plug-in hybrid and battery electric vehicles were registered in Wellesley.

3R Working/Waste Group

From Sue Morris:

The 3R Working Group did a few promotions in November through the RDF, Town, and Sustainable Wellesley distribution list that seemed successful. The November Recyclable of the Month was food waste, and the RDF offered free starter kits to people that wanted to participate in the RDF food waste

program. There were 70 new households added as of November 22. In order to keep the momentum and hopefully continue to sign up additional households we will continue with food waste as the December Recyclable of the Month. There was also an educational promotion to let people know that pizza boxes, even greasy ones, can be recycled with the boxboard/chipboard. This way it does not contaminate the high value corrugated cardboard but can still be recycled and kept out of landfills. There was also a Catalog Choice promotion to encourage people to unsubscribe from catalogs and junk mail as there is a high volume of catalogs and mail promotions at this time of year and by unsubscribing to unwanted mail it can reduce the volume and subsequent wasted resources. Lastly, the RDF started taking compostable containers and products and is composting them with the yard waste. This was also promoted through the RDF, Town, and Sustainable Wellesley distribution lists, but the volume of compostable products collected has been relatively low. We are going to continue to promote this as there are a large number of compostable products that continue to end up in landfills and by composting them at the RDF it takes them out of the waste stream and saves the town money in addition to saving landfill waste.

There was another food waste webinar hosted by the Charles River Chamber and RecyclingWorks. Federal Realty, the owner/manager of Linden Square, sent the information and recording to all the Linden Square restaurant tenants. We also sent the information to the Wellesley food establishments to promote it. Amy Friguletti and Ellen Korpi have continued to pressure Federal Realty to make progress on complying with food waste diversion regulations at Linden Square as they are in violation of the current MA food waste regulations of 1 ton/week of food waste. The new 1/2 ton/week regulations go into effect in November of 2022.

The RDF Give and Take area will close for the season on December 4. It has been consistently busy since it opened in the Spring. The RDF is also looking into new recycling programs but nothing is ready to commence at this time.

MAPC Net Zero Playbook

From Lise Olney:

Lise attended the virtual launch of MAPC's Municipal Net Zero Playbook on November 22. The Playbook is basically a template climate action plan, providing best practices and recommended actions that municipalities can take to achieve net zero goals. The Playbook covers four areas: Mobility, Buildings, Zoning & Permitting, and Clean Energy Supply. It also includes recommendations for including and prioritizing equity in adopting net zero actions and assessing their potential impact.

Hydrogen

From Lise Olney:

Hydrogen is being widely promoted by gas companies and others as a potential replacement for natural gas. I attended the webinar **“Breaking Down The Hydrogen Hype: What Investors Need to Know,”** hosted by the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility. I highly recommend that you [view the recording here](#). Also - here are a couple of quick reads:

- [For Many, Hydrogen Is the Fuel of the Future. New Research Raises Doubts](#), *New York Times*, August 12, 2021
- [Facts on Heating with Hydrogen](#), *Gas Leaks Allies*, June 2021.

Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Sustainability Initiatives

From MLP Staff:

Wellesley Electric Customers Accelerated Reduction of Emissions (WECARE):

Total Opt Outs: 667 (6.6%) Total Customers: 10,065, WECARE as of November 24: \$351,049, 100%: \$67,286

Electric Vehicles Program:

The first-ever Wellesley EV Showcase was held on Saturday, October 2, at the Cameron Street parking lot. We will look to do a similar EVent for spring 2022 to align with Earth Days' time frame. Below are some accomplishments under this program:

- New Blog Post: "Local Used Car Dealers Go EV Friendly!"
- Provided direct support to residents for various Wellesley Drives Electric EV support inquiries and BYOC enrollments.
- Collaborated with Sustainable Wellesley for their articles.

In addition, ENE is working to increase dealer participation in Wellesley. They are currently collaborating with Wellesley Toyota and Wellesley Volkswagen for participation in events, support to customers, and anticipate working with the new Nissan dealer coming soon to Wellesley.

The WMLP has scheduled an in-person meeting with ENE's new Director of Energy Efficiency & Electrification, Noel Chambers. We will be discussing the energy conservation programs that are supported by ENE.

Clean Comfort Air Source Heat Pump Program:

216 Resident Consultations

Budget:	Admin Costs:	Rebates paid:	Rebates in process	Balance	Installs in progress
\$125,000	\$7,700	\$16,092 (14)	\$6,500 (3)	\$94,708	21

The Air Source Heat Pump pilot program has been extended through June 2022 and the budget has been approved up to \$125,000. We have started a marketing campaign to make sure residents are aware of the extension. Additionally, an email blast was sent out to customers announcing the extension. There are ongoing discussions with the Planning Department regarding the setback regulations.

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 84 applications totaling \$7,150.

Large Scale Solar and Battery Storage Projects:

Wellesley Sports Center:

This project is moving forward amid some delays caused by the delivery of solar panels. Equipment delivery has been a challenge in most industries, with the solar industry not being an exemption. Consolidated Edison Development (ConEd) has been scheduling meetings every two

weeks to update stakeholders on the project progress, with WMLP being one of them. The installation of the system continues with a completion date still expected for 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 came back in November. Based on the soil test results, the most suitable location has been identified for the installation of the system. Management of the disturbed soil will be based on the design of the foundations for the battery storage containers and other equipment.

Climate Action Plan Energy Group:

The leadership of the Climate Action Plan' Energy Group has submitted the latest revision of the Energy Pathway Action List to the Town's Sustainability Director. This document is the product of feedback from different individuals from different industries and backgrounds, including the MLB. This document will serve as a framework for the WMLP's Climate Action Plan to be composed soon. The staff will continue to update the Board as more progress is made on this.