



CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Climate Action Committee Project Updates

Oct 15, 2021

Climate Action Plan

Marybeth:

- Held multiple meetings with KLA, working group leads, working groups, and department heads to coordinate Climate Action Plan (CAP), including action list development, CAP design, and community engagement.
- Launched CAP survey
- Finalized new CAP logo
- Discussed Climate Action Committee capital budget with Meghan Jop

Green Communities

Janet submitted an application for the Green Communities Fall 2021 grant round. The following projects were included in the grant application:

- Heat pumps to replace the propane heaters in the Water Treatment Plants
- LED lighting retrofit in the Water and Sewer garage
- Purchase of 2 new hybrid Ford Interceptors

Janet has been gathering information from multiple departments to complete the 2021 Green Communities Annual Report due November 19.

Buildings

From Fred Bunger:

Climate Action Plan for Buildings

- Submitted Buildings Goals-Strategy-Actions list for review
- Working to streamline and consolidate Goals – Strategy – Actions as recommended by KLA.

- Preparing blueprints for Commercial/Institutional building emission reduction and Residential buildings emission reduction.

Commercial Building Energy Roundtable

Held Building Energy Roundtable September 27th for commercial and institutional building owners. Introduced Climate Action Plan, reviewed building energy and emissions reduction goals and proposed a voluntary energy and emissions reporting program for buildings over 10,000 square feet. Representatives from Park 9(Sun Life), John Hancock and Wellesley College talked about their energy/emissions reporting and progress. Thirty one participants included 12 building managers and represented 6 of the 10 largest building owners in Wellesley. Many good contacts were made and follow-up actions are in progress. It was decided that Energy Star Portfolio Manager free on-line reporting tool will be used for the voluntary reporting program.

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

- Provided testimony at the public hearing held by the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy, chaired by Senator Barrett. Voiced support for:
 - H.3366 & S.2232 An Act relative to better buildings "...beginning in 2022, the owner of each large building shall use the energy use benchmarking tool to accurately report to the department, ...the building's energy use for the previous calendar year ... to establish the absolute and relative energy use of the building." "...the department shall establish energy performance standards and compliance pathways designed to achieve emissions and energy reduction targets; provided, that the compliance pathways shall maximize the potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from large buildings by at least 80 per cent by 2040, compared to the baseline level of emissions in 2022,..."
 - H.3334 & S2196, An Act relative to home energy efficiency "... a seller or agent acting on behalf of the seller of a residential dwelling located in the commonwealth shall complete an energy assessment and an associated residential energy performance label ... prior to the time of sale."
 - H.3275 & S.2218 An Act establishing a residential property assessed clean energy (R-PACE) program in the Commonwealth.
 - H.3276 An Act to expand eligibility for the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program
- Continued quarterly updates and information sharing with RMI & local communities. Continuing advocacy for zero net energy stretch codes and other climate action policies.

Sustainable Zoning Working Group

No activity in September. Several conversations about Yard Regulations prohibiting heat pumps in set-back area which then requires most exterior installations require an expensive certified plot plan. No resolution identified.

Mobility

From Martha Collins:

The Climate Action Committee, MLP with Energy New England, and Sustainable Wellesley collaborated on an EV showcase held Saturday October 2 in conjunction with the Wellesley Wonderful Weekend (WWW). Estimated attendance was 150-200. More than 20 EVs were shown and a Nissan dealer offered test drives of the Nissan Leaf.

<https://www.sustainablewellesley.com/news/experience-electric-driving>

Dedicating an ongoing effort to increase EV adoption among Wellesley residents makes sense because 47% of Wellesley greenhouse gas emissions are from vehicles. Driving an EV is one direct way you can help reduce the GHG emissions that lead to climate change.

Post-event discussions were held, discussing continuing to host the event in conjunction with WWW or with Earth Day/Week.

3R Working/Waste Group

From Sue Morris:

The RDF continues to promote the food waste collection. They believe they will be able to accept credit cards very soon, enabling RDF to sell food waste diversion supplies such as blue plastic containers and compostable food waste bags. The Charles River Chamber of Commerce and RecyclingWorks hosted a food waste diversion webinar last week. It was a free event that we and the Charles River Chamber widely publicized to restaurants and food related businesses to help them understand why it is important to divert their food waste and provide ways to effectively do it.

Amy Frigulietti had a meeting this summer with Mark Hebert, VP of NE Development & the Federal Realty manager for Linden Square. She had a discussion with him about the new DEP 1/2 ton/week food waste regulation and that Federal Realty is not in compliance with this regulation. He told her he was not aware of this and any previous discussions with Federal Realty (of which there were several) but that he would look into it and would work on budget money and implementation.

The RDF is continuing to increase the number of new permits and hopes this trend will continue. The volume of recycling was down the last few months most likely related to a summer slowdown due to many Wellesley residents being away but the volume has been trending up post Labor Day. Prices for recycled cardboard, a high value recyclable, have continued to go up dramatically.

Ellen Korpi and Sue Morris had a discussion with Jamie Manzolini and Dave Cohen about a potential technology to deal with plastic bags called Obaggo which had been referred to us by Richard Lee. We decided the Obaggo model of requiring a home appliance which costs \$200 plus shipping to turn the bags into pucks which are then recycled (and ultimately taken by Trex) was not an optimal solution to the plastic bag/plastic film problem. People are more likely to recycle their bags at Roche Bros or Whole Foods vs buying the Obaggo appliance. Jamie is continuing to research options for recycling of plastic film. We also discussed corks as a potential new item to collect and recycle at the RDF. While cork is renewable it takes a long time to renew as it takes about 25 years before cork can be harvested from the cork oak tree. Corks cannot be reused as wine corks because of bacterial concerns but can be recycled into things like pushpin corkboards, coasters and flooring. Jamie is looking into the viability and potential of starting a cork recycling program at the RDF.

We are continuing to refine the goals for the Waste/Natural Resources Working Group for the Climate Action Plan and are beginning work on the implementation blueprint.

Gas Leaks

From Lise Olney:

On October 4, the Gas Leaks Allies released a comprehensive report on the Commonwealth's six-year-old gas pipe replacement program, "**GSEP at the Six-Year Mark: A Review of the Massachusetts Gas**

System Enhancement Program,” by economist Dorie Seavey. The report finds that the replacement program is no longer financially sound and is not meeting its goals of increasing safety and reducing methane emissions. The full report is available at <https://www.gasleaksallies.org/gsep>. For more, please see:

- **[Press release:](#)** “New Report Uncovers Opportunity to Fund Energy Transition, Massachusetts Is Pouring Billions Into a Gas System That Will Be Obsolete”
- **Boston Globe article (PDF attached),** October 4, 2021 “As Massachusetts envisions a fossil fuel free future, gas companies are quietly investing billions in pipelines.”

The report will be discussed at two upcoming events:

- **October 12 (12-1 pm) webinar, GSEP at the Crossroads: How to balance gas safety and the energy transition,** with report author Dorie Seavey, Senator Mike Barrett, and Mari Belen Power of GrassRoots. [Click here to register.](#)
- **October 19 (11 am – 12:30 pm) zoom meeting of the Multi-Town Gas leaks Initiative** (which I co-ordinate) featuring a discussion of the report with author Dorie Seavey, as well as an overview of the DPU 20-80 Future of Gas proceeding. [Click here to register.](#)

Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Sustainability Initiatives

From MLP Staff:

At the request of the Municipal Light Board Chair, MLP staff is condensing the sustainability report to contain pertinent information on active initiatives.

Wellesley Electric Customers Accelerated Reduction of Emissions (WECARE):

Total Opt Outs: 639 (6%) Total Customers: 9,940 WECARE as of Sept. 21: \$206,952, 100%: \$39,700

Electric Vehicles Program:

The MLP, Energy New England, Wellesley Climate Action Committee, and Sustainable Wellesley are co-sponsoring three events on September 30, 2021, and October 2, 2021, at Wellesley Wonderful Weekend.

Thursday, September 30, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. 79 attendees (regional)

Energy New England Drives Electric

Learn about new EV choices available this year and get your questions answered by EV experts at this National Drive Electric Week virtual event.

Thursday, September 30, 7:30 p.m. 14 attendees

EVs, PHEVs, Hybrids: Car Options for Today

Sharon Kirby, a Wellesley resident and EV owner, will share her firsthand perspective on EVs and answer attendee questions at this Sustainable Wellesley virtual event.

Saturday, October 2, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. 44 attendees

Wellesley EV Showcase

View different makes and models of EVs in person, and chat with Wellesley residents about their experiences owning and driving EVs. This event takes place at the Cameron Street parking lot in Wellesley. Approximately 15 cars will be on display.

Solar Rebate Program:

The Massachusetts DOER MLP Solar Program ended on June 30th, 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:

159 Resident Consultations

<u>Budget:</u>	<u>Admin Costs:</u>	<u>Rebates paid:</u>	<u>Rebates in process</u>	<u>Balance</u>	<u>Installs in progress</u>
\$50,000	\$7,700	\$7,625 (12)	\$5,091 (4)	\$29,584	10

The Air Source Heat Pump pilot program ends October 31, 2021, the preapprovals must be completed by then to be eligible for a rebate. Installations must be completed by February 28, 2022.

Appliance Rebate Program:

The MLP has entered into an agreement with the Center for EcoTechnology, Inc. The scope of work under this contract includes 1) a baseline rebate review, 2) a simple cost-benefit analysis, CET will quantify the return on investment for each rebate with regards to operating costs and benefits; 3) a carbon offset and societal value calculation. CET will quantify the average annual and lifetime carbon mitigation associated with the uptake of each rebate measure.

Large Scale Solar and Battery Storage Projects:

Wellesley Sports Center:

Consolidated Edison Development (ConEd) has had a series of meetings on this project. They are planning on having the racking system installed by the second week of October and then start with the installation of the solar modules and other equipment. The system is expected to be completely installed by the end of December.

Municipal Way Battery Storage System:

Contract negotiations continue with the top battery system vendor selected. There is a long lead time on battery systems, with any installation possibly being online in the spring or early summer of 2023. Since the project site is part of an Activity and Use Limitation (AUL) area, the staff has been meeting with a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) to determine what will be needed if the project was to move forward. REW Environmental Consultants, Inc. has scheduled test borings for the site on the first week in October. Other tests will be performed to determine the bearing capability of the area.