



CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Climate Action Committee Project Updates

September 9, 2021

From Marybeth Martello:

- Multiple meetings with KLA, working group leads, working groups, and department heads to coordinate Climate Action Plan, including action list development, CAP design, and community engagement.
- Multiple meetings with KLA and CAP Communications Group about outreach to community organizations, survey, logo, etc.
- Assisted Fred with organization and invites for Municipal/Institutional/Commercial Building Energy Roundtable
- Organized October 6 CAP Working Group Summit and sent invites
- CAP outreach to community organizations, commercial sector, and colleges
- Presented on CAP to Chamber, Rotary Club, and Central Council
- Met with Sustainable Mobility consultant
- Began a collaboration with Colette Aufranc re: CAP and Sustainable Mobility Plan outreach
- Reviewed Janet's work re: Green Communities grant final report
- Press release re: Green Communities projects
- Revisions to CAC website

From Fred Bunger:

Building Electrification

- Rocky Mountain Institute Building Electrification Accelerator (RMI BEA) – Continued quarterly updates and information sharing among the RMI BEA group. Continuing advocacy for zero net energy stretch codes and other climate action policies, including submitting testimony to Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS).
- International Code Council (ICC) – ICC will no longer have open voting on recommended buildings' International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) changes.

Buildings Working Group (BWG) of CAP

Formed BWG core group in July; working in three areas: B1- New Construction to be zero emissions by 2025. B2 – Existing Residential Buildings to be zero emissions by 2050 and B3 - Existing Commercial / Institutional / Municipal buildings to be zero emissions by 2050.

Goals – Strategy – Action plans developed for all 3 areas. Working to streamline and consolidate as recommended by KLA.

Commercial Building Energy Roundtable

Continuing to invite all commercial and institutional building owners to a Building Energy Roundtable in early September. Purpose of Roundtable is to introduce the Climate Action Plan (CAP), review the goals and strategy for meeting the building CAP goals, and propose a voluntary energy reporting program for all buildings over 10,000 square feet. Park 9 (formerly Sun Life), John Hancock (Wellesley Office Park), Wellesley College, and FMD will share experience in energy reporting programs. Hope to continue quarterly roundtables.

Sustainable Zoning Working Group

The Sustainable Zoning Working Group issued mark-ups for Section 16A: Project of Significant Interest and Section 22: Design Review. They were reviewed and accepted by the Climate Action Committee (CAC), Planning Director and Planning Board. All work was stopped when the two articles were removed from the Fall Town Meeting Agenda. Date for consideration unknown. For continuing work, it has been proposed to consider removing barriers to heat pumps by either: a) Amending Section 19 Yard Regulations by specifically allowing installation of “energy efficiency equipment” in setback areas or b) Establishing a new Noise Bylaw and eliminating the prohibition of “noise producing equipment” from Section 19 Yard Regulations.

From Lise Olney:

Future of Gas Proceedings (Department of Public Utilities 20-80)

The Department of Public Utilities’ (DPU) 20-80 stakeholder process is ongoing with the most recent meeting held last week on August 24. The consultants are continuing to present various scenarios for the future of the gas industry. The most recent meeting offered the final four scenarios that the consultant is planning to model, none of which included a full decommissioning of the gas system:

- **Scenario 1:** Hybrid electrification: Buildings/customers adopt air source heat pumps paired with a gas furnace that provides heat during peak periods.
- **Scenario 2:** Targeted and optimized and electrification – gas decommissioning including a mix of electrification types
- **Scenario 3:** Networked geothermal – conversion of the gas system to networked geothermal where feasible
- **Scenario 4:** Gas innovation – buildings/customers would adopt high efficiency gas appliances

Many stakeholders expressed disappointment that none of the final scenarios reflected the widespread interest in modeling 100 percent decommissioning of the gas system, or stakeholder interest in focusing on deep efficiency, demand management, load control, and strategic electrification. The consultants agreed to accept further comments, due this week.

Assumptions for the scenarios will be discussed further at the next meeting on September 28, 2021. The stakeholder meetings are public and anyone can attend. Information about the stakeholder process is here: <https://thefutureofgas.com/overview>

Reminder of what the DPU 20-80 process is: In response to a petition from Attorney General Maura Healey, the DPU is conducting an investigation “to examine the role of Massachusetts gas local distribution companies (‘LDCs’) in helping the Commonwealth to achieve its 2050 climate goals.” The DPU 20-80 investigation includes a stakeholder process to gather input on potential policies that will guide the evolution of the gas industry.

Working Group on Governance

Next steps in three basic areas (in the next two weeks):

Procurement:

- Reviewing examples of sustainable procurement policies or checklists from other municipalities [checking with KLA] and run them by Meghan, Amy, Sheryl for feedback.
- Choose/create a draft model policy or checklist for review by department heads.
- Convene a conversation with department heads, Meghan, Amy, Sheryl to get thoughts and feedback.

Budget:

- Work to incorporate Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reductions or other sustainability measures into the budget process through the budget form, as per Meghan/Sheryl.
- Possibly use the KLA Sustainability Framework as a starting point [checking with KLA to see if other towns have similar].
- Review with Meghan, Amy, and Sheryl.

Climate Mitigation:

- Review status of the Town’s Hazard Mitigation Plan – what is the status of the draft and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) certification.
- Here is a helpful Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) video that I found: “MEMA Hazard Mitigation Planning Kickoff Meeting,” Feb. 2, 2021, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GC_pKOBHuZU
- A lot of the work that was done in the Municipal Vulnerability Plan (MVP) process applies to a Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) (some communities do MVP and HMP at the same time, according to the MEMA video).
- Benefits of a certified plan:
 - Eligibility for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Assistance grants for five years, once the plan is certified. Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) is a new FEMA grant program that will have significant funding in upcoming years.
 - Potential reduction of premiums on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) insurance policy: “The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management practices that exceed the minimum requirements of the NFIP.”
- **Next steps mid to late September:** After the other working groups have developed their recommendations and implementation blueprints, we will need to consider an overall strategy and prioritization for any Town actions.

Green Communities

Janet recently submitted the final report to DOER for the 2020 Green Communities grant that supported the High School gym and auditorium LED retrofit, the municipal parking lot LED retrofit, and the purchase of two hybrid police cruisers.

Janet is also working with departments and Marybeth to line up energy conservation projects for the Green Communities Fall 2021 grant round. The following projects will likely be 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
- LED lighting retrofit for the Multi-Purpose Field

3R/Waste Working Group

From Sue Morris:

The RDF volume and usage was relatively strong despite the summer slowdown. Staff made changes to the recycling wall at the RDF in the Spring, which people have adjusted to. The Take it or Leave it area has been very active this summer. The original hours of operation were increased as there was a very large volume of goods at the reusables area and they were able to secure more Friends of Recycling volunteers.

The Waste Working Group met in July & August to refine the goals for the Climate Action Plan. The latest list of goals/strategies/actions for the waste pathway appears in a separate file in the shared meeting folder.

Mobility Working Group

From Martha Collins:

One action in the Mobility pathway of the climate action plan is to incent EV adoption, because transportation accounts for 43 percent of Wellesley's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG). Several recent activities have focused on this topic:

The MLP, CAC, and Sustainable Wellesley are working together to promote three events to provide more information to residents about EVs:

Thursday September 30, 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

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. [Sign-up](#) here.

Thursday September 30, 7:30 p.m.

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. [Sign-up](#) here.

Saturday October 2, 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Wellesley EV Showcase (part of Wellesley's Wonderful Weekend)

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. [Sign-up](#) here.

8/26 Press release issued August 26 highlighting town purchase of two hybrid police cruisers
https://wellesleyma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/25283/Green-Communities-Grant_NR_FINAL

7/21 Press release issued promoting EV purchase discounts available to consumers:
<https://wellesleyma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/24981/Drive-Green-EV-7-18-2021-FINAL>

Mobility pathway working group, climate action plan, activity:

July 22 Small working group meeting. Aufranc, Burson (unable to attend)

July 25 Met with Brian Foulds of Concord regarding Concord's mobility actions

August 4 Communication to building working group lead regarding possible action item overlaps

August 16 Meeting with Select Board lead on Sustainable Mobility Plan (SMP) and Sustainability Director on overlap between mobility pathway of CAP and SMP

August 17 Early draft of Mobility Pathway and SMP shared to Kim Lundgren of KLA

August 20 Early draft of Mobility Pathway shared to Energy working group lead

August 25 Sustainable mobility plan meeting with schools

August 30 Full WG meeting of Mobility pathway, climate action plan: prioritized goals, strategies, actions via polling, discussion

September 2 Full WG meeting of Mobility pathway, climate action plan: discussion of obstacles and data needs within first goal

September 8 Submitted revised and shortened Mobility pathway, climate action plan based on feedback from Kim Lundgren, KLA

Select board member Colette Aufranc and Communications manager Stephanie Hawkinson are drafting series of articles targeted at the Townsman and Swellesley Report on mobility topics. Sustainability Director provided suggested edits on all three, Martha Collins provided suggested edits on the first.