



## CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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

Sustainability Director: Marybeth Martello

[ClimateAction@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:ClimateAction@wellesleyma.gov)

Sustainability Analyst: Janet Mosley

[jmosley@wellesleyma.gov](mailto:jmosley@wellesleyma.gov)

Susan Morris, Chair

Laura Olton, Vice Chair

Catherine Mirick

Ellen Korpi

Martha Collins

Fred Bunger

Lise Olney

### Climate Action Committee Project Updates

July 7, 2023

#### **Green Communities**

Department of Public Works (DPW) selected a contractor to carry out the Water and Sewer garage LED project. A notice to proceed and Purchase Order were issued in late June and installation will be scheduled once the light fixtures are delivered. The project should be completed by mid to late August.

On June 14 Marybeth and Janet met with Mark Rabinsky, Wellesley's Green Communities Coordinator to discuss documentation needs for projects proposed for Wellesley's next competitive grant application. Marybeth and Janet also met with Joe McDonough, Steve Gagosian, and Allen Hebert (Facilities Management Department) and Meghan Jop on June 29 to discuss the feasibility of applying for a \$500,000 building decarbonization grant to support the Warren Recreation Building renovations.

#### **Governance and Outreach**

- CAP Dashboard: Janet is working to fill in the action status tables and collect metrics data for each Pathway with help from various CAC members and Town staff.
- Embodied carbon legislation, Site Plan Review, Future of Clean Heat Bill - see under buildings (below)

*From Lise Olney*

#### **Gas Transition**

##### **Legislative Update**

In June: State House hearings on [H.3137/SD.2603](#) "Empowering Municipal Voices" (An Act Relative to Intervenor and Utility Work).

The Multi-Town Gas Leaks Initiative sent out a request for participants to submit oral and/or written testimony in support of H.3137/SD.2603 at State House hearings on the bill. Officials and advocates in a number of towns responded to our request, including the entire Newton City Council (see attached), and Waltham City Councilor Colleen Brady-MacArthur. I testified in support of the bill on behalf of the CAC (basing my testimony on the letter we had previously submitted to Rep. Peisch) at these two hearings:

- June 5, 2023, Senate hearing of the Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee, convened by Senate Chair Mike Barrett.
- June 9, 2023, House hearing of the Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee, convened by House Chair Jeff Roy.

**Coming up in July: State House hearings on S.2105/H.3203 “The Future of Clean Heat” (An Act Relative to the Future of Clean Heat in the Commonwealth).** Fact sheet [here](#). Video summary of the bill [here](#).

- July 12, 2023, at 1 pm, [Decarbonization Legislation Senate Hearing](#) of the Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee, convened by Senate Chair Mike Barrett.
- July 13, 2023, at 10 am, [Decarbonization Legislation House Hearing](#) of the Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy Committee, convened by House Chair Jeff Roy.

### **Arlington Gas Leaks Safari, June 9, 2023 (see photo)**

Arlington Environmental Planner David Morgan led a tour of some of the 181 gas leaks in Arlington, including 20 significant environmental impact (SEI) leaks. The tour included Town Manager Sandy Pooler, State Rep. Sean Garballey, an aide from State Rep. Dave Rogers’ office, and a health department official. About 30 residents participated at various stops along the route. One stop was at a leak in front of a home that is also a day care center.

Homeowners experience serious asthma attacks that they believe are the result of the gas leak. Another involved an SEI leak that the abutting resident has been reporting to National Grid regularly since 2005. Some of the recommendations from the Town include support for legislation that would give the Town more information from National Grid about leak repairs (completed and prospective), rationale for current and proposed gas work, building greater public awareness of the health and safety risks, as well as the implications for the climate.



### **Buildings**

*From Fred Bunger*

### **Buildings Working Group (BWG) update**

#### **B1 Regulatory**

- Public comment on Embodied Carbon legislation prepared by BWG volunteer Scott Waddell.
- Reviewing Site Plan Review process and forms to determine if data on fuel usage, energy modeling report and analysis of impact on emissions could be added for projects requiring Site Plan Review.
- Lise Olney taking lead on testimony on Future of Clean Heat Bill (SD. 2105/H.3203).
- Legislature convening public hearings on several bills related to climate change.

## B2 Promote Net Zero

- Considering how heat pump coaching can expand to include other actions to reduce climate change.

## B3 Municipal Action

- Encouraging School Committee to push for occupant training of staff so that the new school buildings can achieve the design energy efficiency goals. Work on occupant training programs is needed.

## B4 Residential Action

- Energy Coach program development continues with training on Heat Smart Alliance heat pump coaching program completed.
- Intern starting to review data from building permits and Abode dashboard to create master list of recent heat pump installations.

## B5 Commercial/Institutional

- Deferring BETR Roundtable until fall. Sending out a survey to participants to gauge interest in a variety of topics.
- Started intern working on expanding building owner/manager contact list.

## **MCAN Better Buildings Advocates**

- 6/15 monthly meeting covered community progress on Opt-in Code. 18+ communities have adopted.
- Continuing dialog on advocacy for embodied carbon legislation.

## **Building Electrification Accelerator (BEA)**

- 6/15 Quarterly BEA meeting community progress reports included adopting Specialized Energy Code, several heat pump coaching programs, status of 10 Community pilot Fossil Fuel Free program, geothermal pilot in Framingham, networked geothermal at Smith College and microgrid in Milton.
- Emily Jones spoke on LISC (Local Initiative Support Corp) which builds capacity, provides technical assistance, funding and advocates for community improvement projects including green homes (Boston), green job training, Zero Carbon Renovation Fund Coalition, etc.

## **BEA Retrofits 6/9**

- Presentation by Greg King on extensive data and mapping of Dorchester properties to collect all public information on one data set. Will use to prioritize energy retrofits. Funded by Mass Green Energy Center
- Much discussion by BEA attendees on lack of reliable data from Assessors, not tracking heat pumps nor capturing heating conversions from oil to gas or heat pumps.

## **Waste**

*From Sue Morris:*

The group within Wellesley Green Schools looking at food waste diversion went to see the Wellesley Middle School (WMS) food compost pilot program that started this spring. It was organized and sponsored by WMS teachers Jonathan Rabinowitz and Ann Greenwalt as well as Ana Hurley, a new WMS assistant principal who is leaving WMS for a new job. Jonathan has a group of students in The Compost Club who wear lanyards and green shirts to distinguish themselves and they monitor the disposal of trash, recycling and food waste. This was only done for the 6th graders this year and they hope to roll it out to the 7th graders as well next year. Jonathan was also there every day monitoring and coordinating things. He said he was willing to do it again next year but after that they will need a stipend in the school

budget to pay a teacher or staff person to coordinate the program. Currently the RDF picks up the WMS food compost but they hope to get a compost company to pick it up in the future if they can secure budget money. Wellesley Green Schools is also trying to figure out food waste diversion programs for the elementary schools.

The Wellesley High School opt-in food waste diversion pilot program we tried this spring was not successful due to insufficient volunteers to monitor the bins. We are regrouping to see if it can work in a different format and hope to have at least the WHS kitchen food scraps be composted.

The 3R Working Group met in June. The DPW is working on promoting the food waste drop off program at the RDF and has given out a number of new kits. They also have new signs at the various recycling areas at the RDF which have more current visuals for what can be recycled at each area. The signs also have QR codes with additional information. The new RDF map now includes the food waste drop off area. Despite the scrap plastics that people put in the scrap plastics bin at the RDF being landfilled the RDF still wants people to stay in the habit of bringing them to the RDF with the hope that there will be a secondary market for those plastics at some point in the near future.

The DPW rolled out new bins and signage at the Hunnewell Fields & WHS track & field as well as Sprague fields. The disposable plastic water bottle recycling bins are new and look very different from the can recycling and the trash bins. There are also much clearer signage. People are slowly adopting to the new system although there is still some contamination of the recycling. We hope this will improve over time.

Sue, Ellen, Janet and Marybeth met twice to discuss big-picture waste goals for Wellesley. The 3R Working Group will take up this topic when it meets next in August.

## **Mobility**

### **MAPC Regional EV Working Group**

Martha Collins and Lisa Wolf attended the June 15 meeting which included presentations on

- Mass Vehicle Census data
  - Hosted on the MassDOT data hub
  - Data for 2020-2023
  - Available starting July 1
- Demand Charge Alternative Program from Eversource and National Grid
  - New rate structure program designed to encourage installation of DC fast charging systems
- Energy New England's Dealership Engagement Program for EVs

Intern began work on a one-page guide to public transportation in Wellesley.

### **Wellesley MLP Sustainability Initiatives**

*From MLP Staff:*

#### **Sustainability Metrics**

Table updated with Board requests for data on: AMI; WECARE; RECs. [Link to Sustainability Metrics spreadsheet.](#)

Updates on Metrics being tracked:

- **Heat pumps:** Contact at National Grid is tracking down heat pump installs data
- **Batteries:** intern available to help collect residential battery data (# and total kWh)
- **EV ownership:** DOT database now available (reports # cars by fuel type, vehicle miles driven)



### EV Strategy Working Group

WMLP has been partnering with the inter-departmental EV Strategy Working Group to create guidelines for public municipal EV charging stations. This group developed criteria for prioritizing new charger locations and used these criteria to rank all 23 Wellesley municipal lots.

*Criteria:*

- Proximity to multi-unit housing
- Charging for fleet vehicles
- Available to municipal staff
- Maximize utilization (ROI)
- Proximity to public transportation
- Proximity to electric service

### Energy Coach Program Development

Making progress on all fronts of this project. Planning a comprehensive marketing campaign targeting early fall for a hard launch. An Energy Coach webpage is under construction on the Climate Action website. Through this webpage, residents will find answers to FAQs and be able to schedule a consultation with volunteer experts on a range of topics.

Goal is for six volunteer coaches to complete the Energy Coach Apprenticeship training this summer, before the program launch in the fall.

**Decarbonization Audit**

The decarbonization audit program is approaching the one-year anniversary of this contract. CET will perform an evaluation of the impact of the program by following up with each audit recipient to see what steps they have taken or plan to take to decarbonize their homes since receiving the audit.

The launch of the Energy Coach program will open up opportunities for exchanges between the auditor and Coach to follow up with potential coaching clients.