



## CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Laura Olton, Chair

Susan Morris, Vice Chair

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### Climate Action Committee Project Updates

July 29, 2022

#### Climate Action Plan (CAP) General Communication and Outreach

- Marybeth Martello invited Lisa Wolf, MLP Sustainability Consultant, to join the CAP Communications Working Group with the Climate Action Committee and Sustainable Wellesley.
- Phyllis Theermann, Lisa Wolf, Trish Glass, and Marybeth met to discuss the CAP editorial calendar and communication and event plans for August and September.
  - Mid-September: EV Showcase and test drive event
  - September 28: Building Energy Roundtable
  - Late September: Sustainable Landscaping event
  - October: STEM/STEAM School Month focused on sustainability
- Marybeth met with Jay McHale. On August 18, Marybeth (and Sue or Laura) will attend the Natural Resources Commission meeting to discuss CAC/NRC collaborations re: CAP implementation.
- Marybeth met with Jhana Wallace from the Health Department to discuss Health/CAC collaborations re: CAP implementation. Jhana is happy to help increase our climate-health messaging and to co-sponsor future events such as a Green Collaborative focused on climate and health.
- An intern is updating the CAP list of community organizations. Marybeth will use this list to connect with organizations in August/September.
- Marybeth edited a Department of Public Works press release regarding the DPW's new water meter portal.
- Climate change in the news:
  - <https://www.wbur.org/news/2022/07/22/massachusetts-climate-bill-baker-desk>
  - <https://www.nbc.com/meet-the-press/video/full-gore-us-must-look-to-its-broken-democracy-to-fix-climate-crisis/NBCN657989534>

#### Green Communities

Wellesley received a grant for \$200,000 for municipal energy efficiency projects from the Department of Energy Resources. The projects and amounts covered by this grant are listed below.

- \$60,000 – Air source heat pumps at Wellesley Ave. water treatment plant (WTP)
- \$60,000 – Air source heat pumps at Morses WTP
- \$60,000 – Air source heat pumps at Longfellow WTP
- \$10,000 – LED lighting in the Department of Public Works' Water and Sewer garage
- \$10,000 – Two hybrid electric police cruisers

DPW has asked Wright-Pierce, an engineering firm, to propose several options for ventilating and heating the WTP buildings, including a water to water heat pump. Once the best alternative is selected, Wright-Pierce will develop system specifications that DPW will use to put out an RFP.

Janet is starting the process of collecting FY22 data for the Green Communities Annual Report.

### **Buildings**

*From Fred Bunger (with additions from Janet Mosley and Marybeth Martello):*

#### **Stretch Energy Code and Specialized (opt-in) codes**

Updated residential and commercial building energy code mark-ups and summary of changes were issued June 27 by DOER for public comment. Fred:

- Attended DOER webinar presenting the code changes on July 7.
- Reviewed new codes and prepared summary of key energy code changes for CAC.
- Attended (with Janet) MCAN testimony writing zoom meeting.
- Provided draft testimony language for CAC letter to DOER.
- Marybeth drafted letter to DOER with input from Fred and Janet

#### **Buildings Working Group (BWG) of Climate Action Plan**

BWG met July 13.

- Discussed a plan for review and planned testimony on DOER stretch and specialized energy codes
- Awaiting input from Assessors office for further progress on the PACE program
- Discussed Building Energy Roundtable follow-up and next steps
- Discussed MLP flyer on AC replacement with heat pumps
- Awaiting AG decision on Sustainable Zoning articles and heat pump zoning change.
- Marybeth spoke with Don McCauley about Planning Board plans for Special Town Meeting. Don said Jim Roberti and Kathleen Woodward are leading these efforts. Marybeth is awaiting a call from Jim.

#### **H5060 Act for Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind – Building impacts**

The MA House and Senate passed an extensive energy bill on July 22 and it sent to the Governor for his signature.

- Section 20 on building energy requires annual energy reporting by owners of buildings larger than 20,000 sq.ft. DOER would administer program, provide the list of buildings, and require utilities to give energy use to owners. The legislation sets out penalties for not reporting. Takes effect 7/1/2024.
- Section 82 requires MSBA to assess school energy efficiency by the end of 2024.
- Section 83 establishes a 10-town fossil fuel free new construction pilot program.

#### **Buildings Energy Tracking and Reporting (BETR) and Building Energy Roundtable**

- Janet worked with Fred and Marybeth to develop the agenda and presentation for the Roundtable.
- Owners/managers from some of the largest commercial and institutional buildings, including representatives from all three colleges participated in the Roundtable.
- Janet sent a follow-up email to the BETR distribution list with a summary, slides, and a recording of the presentation. The email also included a request for feedback on the PACE program.
- Janet is following up with building managers regarding BETR program questions as needed.
- The next roundtable is scheduled for September 28.

### **Buildings Data**

*From Marybeth:*

- Janet used building permit data from 2020 provided by Michael Grant to look for heat pump, AC, and other HVAC installations. The results were informative, so Janet plans to move forward with requesting additional permit data.
- Tom Ulfelder followed up on outreach by Ellen Korpi and Marybeth to the Board of Assessors. Marybeth is awaiting an email from the Board so that we can arrange an initial meeting.
- Janet Mosley, Lisa Wolf, and Marybeth Martello met to discuss a survey for fuel oil customers.

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

*From Sue Morris:*

We are working on taking the information from the Wellesley High School food waste diversion pilot project and regrouping on a more effective plan for the fall. We learned a number of things in doing the pilot including that much of WHS food waste is compostable plates, trays and boats and not actual food. We believe this is due to the a la carte nature of the WHS cafeteria and the quality & quantity of the food served to students. We believe there is a greater benefit to composting kitchen scraps and have discussed with Matt Delaney, who works for Whitsons and is director of food services for Wellesley Public Schools.

The RDF app that was rolled out earlier this summer has been getting positive feedback from residents although the number of new RDF permits issued has slowed down. There has been a typical season slowdown in terms of RDF volume due to summer and many residents being out of town. We hope to have a 3R Working Group meeting in the next month.

### **Mobility**

*From Martha Collins:*

- Reached out to Nicole Freedman, transportation director for City of Newton, and arranged a Zoom call with the Sustainability Director to learn about their bike share (BlueBikes) experience. Marybeth Martello met with Nicole on July 22 and learned that BlueBikes are unlikely to be viable in Wellesley.
- Provided suggested edit to Sustainable Wellesley on Rethink the Way You Get to School press release, marketing piece.

*From Janet:*

Janet is collaborating with MLP sustainability coordinator Lisa Wolf, and GIS Manager Mike Thompson to develop a method to identify the home address of all EVs registered in Wellesley using excise tax data,

which can then be used to develop a map of the location of all EVs in Wellesley. Janet was able to recruit the help of a friend to write a program to decode VIN numbers. Mike Thompson was able to adapt the program to determine which vehicles are all electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles. Janet is working on getting a meeting with the Treasurer's office to discuss how best to get excise tax data on a regular basis. This data will help the CAC track progress towards the town's EV adoption goals, assist the MLP in load management, and help with targeted outreach and engagement.

Janet assisted the Wellesley Police Department in applying for ARPA grant funds for their new Ford Mach E cruiser.

### **Wellesley MLP Sustainability Initiatives**

*From MLP Staff:*

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

Total Opt Outs: 696(6.9%) Total Customers: 10,065, WECARE as of June 23: \$823,642, 100%: \$157,779

May 2022 REC's purchased 4,000 @ \$37. = \$148,000 WECARE Spent: \$64,530, 100%: \$83,470

May WECARE Expense 900 Worcester = \$5,208; **WECARE Balance 06/23/22: \$753,904, 100%: \$74,309**

#### **Clean Comfort Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) Program:**

337 Resident Consultations\*

<b>Budget:</b>	<b>Admin Costs:</b>	<b>Rebates paid:</b>	<b>Rebates in process</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Installs in progress</b>
\$125,000	\$27,650	\$53,658 (38)*	\$17,500 (11)	\$26,192	15

\* As of July 27, Abode consultations had increased to 364 and rebates paid out for ASHP installations increased to 72.

As of July 1, 2022 all natural gas customers must apply for ASHP rebates through Mass Save.

#### **Rebate Program:**

The Incentive Redesign rebates took effect June 1, 2022.

The Municipal Light Board approved a motion to increase the heat pump incentive for oil conversions to a maximum of \$10,000 to match the MassSave rebate for gas conversions.

#### **Large Scale Solar, Battery Storage & Other Projects:**

##### ***Wellesley Library:***

A Request for Proposal (RFP) for solar, battery storage, and micro-grid controls for the Wellesley Free Library has been completed and distributed to developers that in the past have participated in other RFPs. The micro-grid will manage the energy loads of the Wakelin Room at the Wellesley Free Library. There was an on-site visit on July 7, 2022, and proposals are due on July 21, 2022.

##### ***DPW & MLP Site Solar:***

After discussions with the DPW Director and FMD, it was determined that pursuing the solar installations at the DPW & MLP complex was still worthwhile. The Water & Sewer building has the largest roof space (17,500 sf), but will need some structural upgrades to support solar equipment. According to a report received from Weston & Sampson on May 19, the

construction budget for the structural work would be around \$315,000. Weston & Sampson did a structural analysis of this roof in 2020. Representatives of the MLP, FMD, and DPW met to discuss this project and concluded that an RFP requesting solar array proposals with and without structural modifications to the roofs should be issued. The RFP went out in July.

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

A System Impact Study was completed and presented to the MLP team on April 20, 2022. Based on this analysis, there are periods during the year when the discharging the batteries could result in energy flowing back to Eversource. The MLP staff reached out to Eversource and reviewing the interconnection agreement with Eversource to determine if energy from the battery storage system could be exported to the Eversource system without any violation of the contract. After further analysis and discussions, the MLP staff met with the developer and proposed an alternative way to prevent back feeding into Eversource. The alternative will require rearrangement of MLP distribution system but will allow the process move in a more timely fashion. All contract documents are getting a final review and are expected to be signed this summer.

#### **Shave the Peak Alerts**

- WMLP saw its first summer Peak Event on July 20; Wellesley's peak demand was 63 MW (above the average 62.5 MW). MLP now has a target to gauge improvement on and is gathering data about significant loads at that time to focus our efforts.
- Shave the Peak Alerts were sent through multiple channels: WMLP email, fb and Twitter; WPD fb and Twitter; Sustainable Wellesley; Town News and Announcements. In addition, there is web page information about the importance of reducing peak demand and how-to tips.
- WMLP will expand its Peak Alert notifications to include communication through the Wellesley Police department's Smart 911 text messaging

#### **Energy Assessments (Audits)**

WMLP has retained CET (Center for EcoTechnology) to develop and run a trial residential decarbonization assessment program for Wellesley non-gas customers. In addition to traditional weatherization, efficiency, and upgraded heating and cooling system recommendations, these energy assessments will include a separate section with a strategic electrification roadmap and a carbon offset summary for any recommended changes. These assessments will be available to customers using oil heat starting on Labor Day.

#### **ASHP promotional brochure**

In time for the summer season, 2,000 WMLP and oil heating customers received a direct mail flyer promoting conversion from AC to ASHP, and directing them to Abode (WMLP's Clean Comfort ASHP consultant) to begin the process.

#### **Tariffed on-bill financing preliminary reconnaissance**

WMLP is investigating the costs/benefits of a Tariffed on-bill financing program in which a utility invests in building measures such as weatherization, heat pump hot water heaters, air source heat pumps, and solar PV plus battery storage, by providing up-front capital. A return on the investment is recovered through a tariff tied to the meter. The tariff is structured to ensure it lowers a customer's total historic energy costs. The program helps overcome the biggest barrier to energy efficiency and electrification - upfront capital investment by customers. WMLP is in conversation with ToB program developer CET to understand the costs/benefits and other parameters of such a program.