



CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Climate Action Committee Project Updates

June 16, 2022

Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation and Communication

- Phyllis Theermann and Marybeth Martello wrote a press release and publicized the Cool Conversations event on June 22, 7-8pm. This event will provide an opportunity for residents to convene in the new, Central Square pedestrian area to answer questions and share experiences about home retrofits, electric vehicles, and other climate action items.
- On May 31, Marybeth met with Stephen Frail from Needham's Climate Action Plan Committee to share tips from Wellesley's CAP process.
- One June 1, Marybeth met with Lisa Wolf new MLP Sustainability Director. Marybeth briefed Lisa on CAC activities and discussed MLP/CAC collaborations.
- On June 2 Marybeth met with Bonnie Roalsen, a resident interested in CAC work. Bonnie will meet with Susan Morris and Trish Glass.
- One June 7 Marybeth met with Lisa Wolf and Ashley Pratt, President for the Center for Eco-technology (CET) to discuss MLP/CET collaborations.
- On June 13, Laura Olton and Marybeth met with Jay McHale and Lisa Collins to discuss opportunities for NRC/CAC collaboration
- On June 13, Marybeth, Andrew, and Phyllis met to strategize the use of digital and other media in CAP implementation.
- Andrew Myers drafted a CAP survey report. Janet and Marybeth are reviewing and editing the report. The draft is available in the meeting materials folder.

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 requested three quotes from vendors for the LED lighting project. Janet, Marybeth, Dave Cohen (DPW Director) and Meghan Condon (Water and Sewer Assistant Superintendent) met with Wellesley's Green Communities coordinator and HVAC experts to hear their thoughts on how to best move forward with the WTP heat pump projects given that the corrosive environment in the water treatment plants is not conducive to a typical air source heat pump. DPW is now looking into the possibility of a water to water heat pump that would utilize energy from groundwater to heat the buildings.

Buildings

From Fred Bunker (with additions from Janet Mosley):

Buildings Working Group (BWG) of Climate Action Plan

BWG met June 1 and 15. Working on

- Summer program of AC replacement with heat pumps in collaboration with Energy WG and MLP incentives.
- Sustainable Zoning next steps in residential buildings.
- How to take advantage of heat pump zoning change after Attorney General approval of bylaw change.
- Home energy disclosure with realtors with Sustainable Wellesley

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

- Janet following up with building managers regarding BETR program questions
- An invitation to the June 23rd Building Energy Roundtable with anticipated agenda was sent to large building managers and/or owners as well as relevant Town boards, Town staff, and community organizations.
- Fred and Janet are communicating with a select number of large building owners to request data to share at the June 23rd meeting.
- Janet is working with Fred and Marybeth to draft the presentation for the Roundtable.

Buildings Data

From Marybeth:

- On June 13, Marybeth and Janet Mosley met with Michael Grant, Building Inspector, to discuss Building Department opportunities for pushing information out to the public and collecting data. Marybeth and Janet will draft a proposal for additions to the Building Department website and on-line permitting system.
- Marybeth and Ellen have made several requests to meet with the Board of Assessor's Chair.

3R Working/Waste Group

The Wellesley High School food waste diversion pilot program is in its final week for the 2022 school year. Overall the pilot has been successful in giving us data and information as to whether or not this program is viable long-term. Based on what we have encountered in the pilot, it is clear that monitors are key to making sure people put the allowable food and compostable products into the right place and that trash and recyclables are put in the right place. Getting volunteers to serve as monitors has been the biggest challenge. The plan to have Key Club and National Honor Society kids get bonus hours for

serving as monitors wasn't successful as we had very few sign up to help. The back-up plan to have adults sign up to volunteer as monitors was also not successful. We sent the volunteer information out through a number of distribution lists including WHS PTSO, Wellesley Green Schools and Sustainable Wellesley and only had a couple of sign-ups. Nonetheless, we were able to get useful information from the pilot at Wellesley High School and believe there are ways to improve sustainability at Wellesley Public Schools. We will work with the school administration and WHS Climate Action Club to strategize, initiate and implement impactful changes and improvements.

Mobility

From Marybeth:

EV Working Group

The EV Working Group met on June 2. The group is interested in understanding how other towns and cities are transitioning their fleets and strategizing EV infrastructure. The Working Group posed the questions below. Andrew Myers is gathering answers from several communities.

- EV charging costs to the town including (electricity, demand charges, maintenance, credit card fees)
- Policies for public charging (e.g., two hours, no overnight, etc.)
- Rules/policies for EV chargers on school property – specifically what is the policy for school staff?
- Brand of charger used and has the town standardized?
- What consultants, if any, strategized EV charging and fleet transition?
- Do you have a designated staff person or consultant to manage charging stations?
- Is billing of stations centralized?

Wellesley MLP Sustainability Updates

From Janet Mosley:

WMLP Sustainability Manager:

Lisa Wolf, the new sustainability manager for WMLP, began work on June 1.

Projects in progress:

- Exploring options for decarbonization audits
- Researching a tariff-on-bill program to help residents finance energy efficiency projects
- Looking into the opportunity to alert residents about electricity peaks via SMS messages and how to get people to sign up for the service