



## CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Laura Olton, Chair

Susan Morris, Vice Chair

Cynthia Mahr

Ellen Korpi

Martha Collins

Fred Bunger

Lise Olney

### Climate Action Committee Project Updates

May 6, 2022

#### Annual Town Meeting

Annual Town Meeting (ATM) voted in favor of changing the Sustainability Director's line of reporting to the Executive Director of General Government Services.

See below, under Buildings, for sustainable zoning article.

#### Climate Action Plan

Marybeth...

- Provided CAP flyers to MLP. By the end of May every MLP customer will receive a Climate Action Plan (CAP) flyer with their utility bill.
- Is researching community engagement strategies (with Janet).
- Met with MassEnergize (with Janet)
- Attended a Cool Petaluma meeting.
- Helped MLP weave climate action and sustainability into its presentation to ATM.
- Drafted a press release for the Earth Day launch of the Recycling and Disposal Facility's App.
- Will present a CAP webinar to the Dana Hall community on May 5.
- Is working with Colette Aufranc and the Select Board Office to showcase the Climate Action and Sustainable Mobility Plans during Wellesley Wonderful Weekend.
- Met with Julie Boehm, K-12 Science Curriculum Specialist for Wellesley Public Schools. Julie is planning to celebrate MA STEM Week throughout October with a focus on sustainability/electrification. She is planning a speaker series, events, student projects etc. Julie is enthusiastic about partnering with the CAC, other Town departments, and Sustainable Wellesley to make this a community-wide initiative. This program presents an excellent vehicle for CAP community engagement.

Needham and Framingham praised the Wellesley CAP and have asked for guidance from Wellesley with their own CAP processes.

### **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 and should be selecting a contractor to do the work soon. DPW is working with vendors to determine the desired configuration of the heat pump system before a solicitation is sent out. The Police Department has ordered the hybrid electric cruisers and is waiting for a build date from the manufacturer.

Please note the Director of the Green Communities Division requests that the Town *hold off on publicly announcing the award until after the official announcement by Green Communities later this winter.*

Marybeth and Janet are talking with departments to identify projects for the next Green Communities grant application.

### **Buildings**

*From Fred Bunker (with input from Janet Mosley on BETR):*

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

Sent update to BWG members and asked for continuing engagement. Received positive responses from Wellesley College, MassBay College, Wellesley Office Park, and others. Will follow-up to fill in for moves and job changes.

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

- Janet and Marybeth prepared BETR policy and press release for CAC and Town staff and Department review and approval.
- With policy established and clear reporting procedures, the second letter to owners and managers will be drafted and sent.
- Contacts have been made with 4 to 5 major building managers to present their 2021 emissions at the next roundtable.

#### **Commercial Building Energy Roundtable**

CAP priorities pushing Roundtable out to June.

#### **Sustainability Articles for Town Meeting**

Article #38 amendments to zoning bylaws approved at Town Meeting:

- Motion #1 Adding “encourage the use of sustainable building practices including reducing greenhouse gasses” to General Provisions: Approved 196-21-4
- Motion #2 Adding disclosure of greenhouse gas emissions to Project of Significant Interest was pulled by Planning Board.
- Motion #3 Adding “Sustainable Design” to Design Review Standards: Approved 170-45-7
- Motion #4 Allowing installation of cold climate heat pumps (defined on NEEP list) in setback areas: Approved 213-9-1.

All motions must go through State Attorney General Review before going into effect. Review results are expected in July.

### **Better Buildings Low Carbon Strategies**

Attended the April 5 US DOE Better Buildings Webinar on Low Carbon Strategies. The topic was energy retrofits of existing buildings. Renovation of 1980's building to zero net energy for ASHRAE was a great example. NREL and design engineers stress timing of retrofits with building equipment replacement cycles is essential. Study of steam and circulating hot water systems showed overdesign of old systems allowed replacement of fired systems with heat pumps.

### **Wellesley Dems Climate Action Committee**

Fred spoke to Dems CAC on April 18 about the Buildings pathway of the CAP. They had very good questions and a high level of interest. Followed up with suggesting everyone calculate their home's EUI to understand what actions they need to take to achieve zero emissions by 2050. Provided a “how to” page on calculating EUI.

### **DOER CECP Public Hearing**

Fred testified at DOER Clean Energy Climate Plan hearing on April 14 stressing the need for an Opt-in Zero Net Emissions building code and state support for upgrading energy efficiency of existing buildings including state-owned properties like Wellesley Housing Authority.

### **Charles River Chamber of Commerce**

Fred and Janet attended a building electrification webinar on April 26.

- A representative from NAIOP spoke criticizing towns adopting fossil fuel free new construction restrictions. They'd much prefer a statewide approach to electrification rather than individual municipalities each with their own rules. [Later, one BEA attendee rebutted NAIOP commenting, “On the other hand one of the developers said they are used to figuring out each municipality's rules. I agree with this comment as an architect. Furthermore, NOT installing gas doesn't require learning a whole new building code, so I find these comments by NAIOP (*but unfortunately often repeated by our own allies*) to be extremely disingenuous.”]
- Two developers/contractors spoke: Stantec and Columbia Construction. They agree electrification of most new buildings is easy, and costs very little extra, except for the cost of solar arrays. Exceptions are labs and hospitals. Chamber president Reibman several times repeated a quote he heard from John Kerry that the technology for 2050 does not exist. But the panelists could not support that idea, except that the electric grid needs to become much stronger but were hoped the grid would adapt over the timeframe it takes to renovate Massachusetts' building stock.

### **Dana Hall Sustainability Committee**

Continuing discussion with the Dana Hall Sustainability Committee.

### **Hunnewell and Hardy**

Marybeth and Allen met with MassSave to discuss incentives for heat pumps in municipal buildings, including the new schools.

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

*From Sue Morris:*

The Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF) launched their new RDF app which has several features that include:

- 1) HOW TO: search for specific items, where to recycle items at the RDF (greasy pizza boxes, etc.), the most sustainable endpoints, list of organizations that take household goods and contact information
- 2) CALENDAR: events (shredding day, household hazardous waste day, etc.), holiday closures, reusable area open/closing dates
- 3) RDF INFO: information and how to apply for a permit, RDF hours, recycling guide
- 4) STEP UP: Recyclable of the Month, food waste program sign-up, volunteer opportunities

The app can be downloaded from the App Store (Wellesley RDF) by scanning a QR code.

The food waste program continues to get new participants. The RDF does not currently track the amount of food waste being collected at the RDF, but anecdotally there is a sense that there is consistently more food waste being brought to the RDF based on the amount of food waste in the food waste collection toters.

The food waste diversion pilot program at Wellesley High School (WHS) is scheduled to start the week of May 2. CERO will be picking up the food waste at WHS. The pilot program will run until the end of this school year and the hope is that it will restart for the 2022-23 school year at WHS.

Wellesley Green Schools (WGS) had its final meeting of the year on May 3. There was an anti-idling/idling awareness event at each of the WPS elementary schools in the month of April. May is Mobility Month so WGS plans to promote biking/walking, Catch Connect, etc. WGS is plans to carry out another promotion of the SMART (Sustainable Materials and Reduced Trash) Event Guide due to the large number of end of the school year events like sports banquets, school dances and events, etc. and the hope to minimize waste from all the events.

### **Mobility**

*From Martha Collins:*

#### **EV Test Drive Event**

Martha has been working to organize the EV Test Drive event on Thursday May 12 from 4 to 7 p.m. See press release in the meeting materials folder and additional details below:

#### **EV Showcase/Test Drive Event Successes:**

- 72 people signed up for test drives!
- 12 makes and models of EVs and Hybrids (we expect we may lose 1 or 2)
- 11 owners showcasing, available to answer questions
- Was promoted by Town Mews & Announcements, Sustainable Wellesley, FB Sustainable Living Wellesley group, NextDoor Wellesley. Covered by Swellesley Report
- Will be in MLP email this week

- Shared to PTO newsletters and Charles River Chamber of Commerce

#### NEED

- Confirmation that day of event logistics will be covered
- Owners of these cars to showcase:
  - Audi E-tron GT
  - Audi E-Tron SUV
  - BMW i4
  - Hyundai Ioniq
  - Kia EV6
  - Volvo XC40
- Volunteers to help out day of event
- Waiting on MassBay rain date of 5/19 confirmation, whether we need certificate of insurance

*From Marybeth:*

Dave Cohen launched an EV Working Group. Attendees at the first meeting included department heads and staff from the DPW, Police Department, Facilities Management Department (FMD), and Municipal Light Plant (MLP). Marybeth attended for the CAC. The working group is scoping out a plan for transitioning the municipal fleet to EVs and installing municipal and public EV charging infrastructure. Marybeth reached out to several communities and our Green Communities rep to gather information on best practices and grants. The second meeting of this group will take place in the middle of May.

#### Wellesley MLP Sustainability Initiatives

*From MLP Staff:*

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

Total Opt Outs: 693(6.9%) Total Customers: 10,065, WECARE as of April 18: \$697,309, 100%: \$134,634

#### **Electric Vehicles Program:**

The MLP was awarded an ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) grant of \$100,000 to accelerate the electrification of the municipal fleet. The process for funds allocation is in the planning stage and will include money towards first cost premiums for EV purchases and installation of charging infrastructure. The MLP submitted the scope and cost for each departments EV purchases.

EV Ride & Drive event has been finalized. It is scheduled for Thursday, May 12 @4pm in the MBCC parking lot. This event is to promote EV adoption by Wellesley residents. They are expecting close to 15 electric vehicles to test drive from various dealerships. Advance registration is required for a 15-minute test drive. Event supporters include Wellesley Municipal Light Plant, ENE (Wellesley Drives Electric), Sustainable Wellesley and the Wellesley Climate Action Committee.

#### **Clean Comfort Air Source Heat Pump Program:**

276 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>
\$125,000	\$27,650	\$43,717 (33)	\$19,942 (11)	\$33,691	14

The Air Source Heat Pump pilot program has been extended through June 2022, and the approved budget is up to \$125,000.

Mass Save ASHP new program: Gas customers in Wellesley are eligible for the rebates and heat loan programs, oil & propane are not eligible through Mass Save. WMLP and Abode are recommending customers with gas to apply for Mass Save rebates.

**Rebate Program:**

The Incentive Redesign was presented to and approved by the Municipal Light Board. See Rebate Incentive Proposal April 2022 in the meeting materials folder.

The current Appliance Rebate Program has continued, and as of April 18, 2022, there have been 140 applications, totaling \$12,274.

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

***Wellesley Library:***

Following the successful talks with the Library Board of Trustees, the WMLP staff completed a document to request proposals for the installation of a solar array at the Wellesley Free Library. The document had input and comments from the Facilities Maintenance Department (FMD); however, per direction of the MLB, the staff will include additional requirements in the document for proposals to include battery storage and other necessary micro grid elements. The staff will need to get a commitment for space to be designated to install the battery storage. Presently, the options include 1) a location within the boundaries of the library, 2) the Cameron Street Lot and 3) Simons Park.

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

After discussions with the DPW Director and FMD, the WMLP staff will revise the document to request proposals for multiple solar installations at the DPW & MLP complex. The Water & Sewer building has the largest roof in the complex but will need some structural upgrades to support solar equipment. Weston & Sampson was contacted to provide an estimate on the costs to do the structural upgrades. Weston & Sampson did a structural analysis of this roof in 2020.

***Wellesley Sports Center:***

After months of delays due to the pandemic, material shortages, and weather, the solar installation at 900 Worcester Street has finally been completed and is producing energy into the MLP distribution system. Authorization to connect was given on March 31st.

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

Negotiations and engineering for this project are advancing. A System Impact Study was completed and presented to the MLP team on April 20th. There are some provisions that the MLP will need to put into place to make sure that the battery system does not push power back into the Eversource substation during times when load is lower than the capacity of the batteries.

***Climate Action Plan Energy Group:***

The Town's Climate Action Plan (CAP) has been completed as a product of the work of many individuals, organizations, departments, the Climate Action Committee, and especially the efforts of the Town's Sustainability Director. The MLB voted to adopt the Energy Pathway portion of the CAP as the WMLP's Climate Action Plan. This will allow efforts made by the WMLP to have a direct impact on the Town's CAP.