



## 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

March 11, 2022

#### Climate Action Plan

- Marybeth Martello:
  - Finalized the Climate Action Plan (CAP). Drafted the Climate Action Plan Summary and worked with Martha Collins and Mike Thompson to refine it.
  - Worked with Mike Thompson and Stephanie Hawkinson to revise the CAC website to include and align with the CAP.
  - Emailed multiple groups and individuals within and outside town government to provide an ‘advance special copy’ of the CAP and CAP summary.
  - Worked with Stephanie Hawkinson, Martha Collins, and Phyllis Theermann to revise and issue a press release announcing the CAP launch.
  - Did an interview with WGBH about the CAP.
  - Answered CAP-related questions from The Swellesley Report.
  - Presented on CAP to the Hardy PTO, spoke with

#### Green Communities

Janet Mosley and Marybeth worked with the Finance Department, Treasurer, and Select Board Office to complete the grant award contract documents. Wellesley is now waiting to receive an effective date for the contract so that project work can begin.

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

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.*

### **Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory**

Janet, with Marybeth's assistance, completed GHG inventories for 2007, 2019, 2020, and 2021 with an updated methodology to better align with current best practices. Janet and Marybeth prepared a write-up of the GHG inventory results, including a table and two charts, to include in the CAC's Report to Annual Town Meeting.

### **Buildings**

*From Fred Bunger:*

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

- Building Energy Tracking and Reporting (BETR) program outline and letter to owners and managers drafted. On hold, awaiting CAP roll-out and GHG inventory completion.
- Request to National Grid and WMLP for building energy aggregation and electronic energy bill data for BETR program drafted. On hold, awaiting CAP roll-out and GHG inventory completion.

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

CAP priorities are pushing the next Roundtable out to April at earliest.

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

Article #38 proposes amendments to zoning bylaws with Motion #1 adding sustainability to General Provisions, Motion #2 asking for emissions data in Project of Significant Interest, Motion #3 asking for emissions data in Design Review, and Motion #4 adjusting Definitions and Yard Regulations to allow cold-climate heat pumps. The articles are sponsored by the Planning Board and supported by CAC. Advisory fully supported Motion #4, but opposed Motions #1, #2, and #3 by a vote of 10-4. Concern was raised by CAC that Advisory misinterpreted the intent of the 3 motions. The Planning Board will proceed with all motions under Article 38 despite lack of Advisory support for three of them. CAC has been asked to support as well. Participated in citizen speak at Advisory and Planning Board meetings.

#### **Stretch Code Building Code - Department of Energy Resources (DOER)**

- On February 8, DOER issued a "straw proposal" update to the stretch energy code and a new opt-in net zero stretch energy code. The "straw proposal" falls far short of meeting the requirements of the State **Next Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts** Climate Policy. The BEA-RMI group drafted a response calling-out the flaws and recommending changes in the code proposal. The BEA-RMI letter to the DOER (including a 20-point appendix) is being circulated to over 60 towns to seek over 200 signatures.
- A Wellesley Specific letter to DOER was drafted for signature by the CAC and Select Board for submittal before March 9. Select Board signed both letters on March 7.
- Fred provided testimony at a March 3 DOER public hearing on the straw proposal.
- Fred attended an MAPC webinar: Stretch Code Proposals Info Session for Municipal Stakeholders Wednesday, March 2, 2022. Ian Finlayson of DOER reviewed the new codes and the process for review and comment.

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

Fred spoke about the Wellesley plan for voluntary Building Energy Reporting and Tracking (BETR) at the Charles River Chamber of Commerce Environmental Committee meeting 2/18/22. Michael Gevelber of Newton described Newton's plans for a Building Energy Disclosure Ordinance.

### **Dana Hall Sustainability Committee**

Fred & Marybeth met 2/18/22 with the Dana Hall Sustainability Committee to continue information sharing and support to the Dana Hall Sustainability Committee.

### **Regional Residential Climate Program**

Fred and Marybeth participated in a Natick/MAPC-led meeting with Acton, Framingham, Holliston, Medfield, Sherborn, Wayland, Weston, Winchester, etc., to discuss how to encourage increased residential use of heat pumps. A heat pump advisory like the MassSave Heat Smart program was considered, but with many more installers included. A large hurdle for municipalities is identifying reliable, reputable installers without running afoul of State RFQ requirements or taking on liability.

Three paths are being investigated:

- Securing a non-profit partner to run a qualification program
- Developing an RFI process that vendors/contractors self-identify
- Securing a state agency such as MAPC to run a qualification program.

Wellesley will continue to track this program while continuing the MLP Clean Heat program with Abode.

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

*From Sue Morris:*

We are continuing to promote Zero Waste Wellesley and Recyclable of the Month along with Sustainable Wellesley. CAC and Sustainable Wellesley are meeting with the Wellesley Free Library to promote the Library of Things. We also hope to set up meetings with some of the residential and commercial real estate management companies to discuss recycling and waste reduction.

We are planning to start the Wellesley High School food waste diversion program in the next few weeks. We have funding from Wellesley Education Foundation for the pilot program from March until June 2022 and just received a \$5,000 commitment from the Kiwanis Club for funding for the program for 2022-2023. We are awaiting final review of the CERO contract and Health Department approval and then we will be ready to begin the pilot with the help of the WHS Climate Action Club, National Honor Society, and Key Club.

### **Gas Leaks**

*From Lise Olney:*

### **Multi-Town Gas Leaks Initiative**

National Grid postponed the previously scheduled March 2 meeting. The next meeting is now tentatively scheduled for *March 24* at 11 am. National Grid will be presenting their current status report on leak repair, as well as their views on the potential for hydrogen and renewable natural gas as replacement fuels for natural gas.

### **Dept. of Public Utilities 20-80 Proceeding on the Future of Gas**

Local gas distribution companies and their consultants will now be submitting their final reports regarding the energy transition to the DPU on *March 18*. The original date for final reports was March 1. The final stakeholder meeting was held on February 22. A draft of the independent consultant report was released on February 15.

## **Mobility**

*From Martha Collins:*

### **EV Test Drive Event**

Martha will be meeting soon with MLP and Energy New England (ENE) to firm up plans for an EV test drive event.

### **Federal EV Policy**

Martha attended a webinar titled “Federal EV Policy - What's Coming Next!” The webinar recording can be found at: <https://youtu.be/cpKBoBD-XFI>. Resources noted in the webinar include:

- U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration - [The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law](#)
- The Joint Office of Energy and Transportation - [Drive Electric](#)
- Transportation For America - [CHARGE \(Coalition Helping America Rebuild and Go Electric\)](#)
- Transportation For America - [T4AMERICA Blog related to EVs](#)
- Electrification Coalition - [EC Releases Electrification Guide for Rural Communities](#)

Additional resources from the webinar about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Clean School Bus Program and the intersection of equity and mobility are available in the shared meeting materials folder.