



CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Climate Action Committee Project Updates

January 14, 2022

Climate Action Plan

- Marybeth finalized the final Climate Action Plan (CAP) draft, submitted it to KLA and initiated implementation blueprint conversations with some working group leaders.
- Janet worked with KLA to revise the CAP GHG reduction model used in the final CAP.

Green Communities

Wellesley's Green Communities program coordinator expects that municipalities selected to receive funding from the fall 2021 grant round will be notified sometime in the coming month.

Buildings

From Fred Bunger:

Buildings Working Group (BWG) of Climate Action Plan

- Reviewed draft CAP with the BWG.
- Reviewed potential CAC staff workload increase due to Buildings Energy Reporting and Tracking (BETR) program.
- Commercial & Institutional: Created email and phone contact list for the 67 Wellesley buildings over 25,000 sq.ft. including houses of worship, apartments, mixed-use, and exempt buildings.

Commercial Building Energy Roundtable

Decided on 25,000+ sq.ft. as level for participation in voluntary Building Energy Tracking and Reporting (BETR) program. Will send letter in January requesting reports by mid- February with Roundtable scheduled in mid-March.

Barriers to heat pump installation

Planning Department and Planning Board proposed amendments to Definitions and Yard Regulations to allow heat pumps in set-back area that are on the Warrant for Town Meeting. CAC support will be requested.

Wellesley Middle School House Unplugged Project

Worked with 8th grade teams at Wellesley Middle School on their projects to design an energy-efficient “off the grid” home. Project judging in January.

Dana Hall Discussion

Marybeth and Fred met December 27 with Dana Hall Sustainability Committee to explain the Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines which might be applicable to a planned new building. Another meeting with the project team and architect is scheduled for January 26.

RMI Building Electrification Accelerator

Participated in quarterly BEA zoom meeting December 16. RMI group has grown from 15 to 27 MA towns, all reporting on building electrification, fossil fuel free ordinances, and climate action plans. Presentation on 1000 apartment challenge to using exterior building cladding to reduce energy use 50% vs 20% reduction with standard retrofits. BEA planning team proposing priorities for 2022 to include replication of local decarbonization policies, building retrofit electrification for environmental justice communities, and funding & financing for building decarbonization.

Embodied Carbon

Attended US DOE Better Buildings webinar on Assessing and Reducing Embodied Carbon.

3R Working/Waste Group

From Sue Morris:

The number of new kits delivered and residents participating in the food waste program at the RDF increased by 140. We are continuing to market the program to encourage more resident participation. Matt Delaney, who works for Whitsons Culinary Group and runs food services for Wellesley Public Schools, has been talking to a company similar to Food For Free called Rescuing Leftover Cuisine (RLC). RLC is also talking to the local colleges about rescuing any leftover food they have and repurposing it into meals for food insecure people. Food For Free is no longer doing the food rescue program in Wellesley that they were doing a few years ago.

We are also making progress on a food waste diversion program at Wellesley High School. After several meetings with the stakeholders including WHS administration, custodians, health department, students, etc., we hope to launch a pilot program starting in March. We have received some funding from Wellesley Education Foundation and are also trying to find some additional funding. CERO as well as Boot Straps are giving us estimates for taking the food scraps. We are working with Vivian from the Health Department to develop Standard Operating Procedures. Vaani Kapoor from the Wellesley High School Climate Action Club is organizing volunteers from the Key Club and National Honor Society to monitor and facilitate during the three lunch periods at WHS.

Wellesley Green Schools is working on some interesting things that tie in nicely to the Climate Action Plan including Complete Streets and House Unplugged (an 8th grade curriculum program). We are working with WHS Climate Action Club on a few projects. Also, Wellesley High School reached out and is looking for senior project ideas and sponsors.

The Climate Action Committee applied for a program with Babson College graduate students to help with a few different aspects of the Climate Action Plan. Babson notified us that we were accepted and now we are waiting to see if any students selected the CAC/CAP project to work on. We will know soon and hope to be working with the students for the next several months.

Climate Action Committee FY23 Budget

From Marybeth Martello:

Marybeth presented the CAC's FY23 budget request to the Select Board on December 13. On January 4, Meghan Jop, Tom Ulfelder, Lise Olney, Don Newell, Ellen Korpi, Laura Olton, and Marybeth met to discuss the CAC's budget request and explore ideas for utilizing existing resources and sharing resources required for CAP implementation. Marybeth went on to meet and email individually with several department heads and board members to discuss coordination of communication, education, and engagement actions identified in the CAP. These conversations informed Marybeth's budget presentation to the Select Board on January 7. It is well understood why the CAC is requesting funding to expand the CAC Analyst's role and hire a consultant. We are exploring with the Finance Director how to make this work.

Climate and Equity Opportunity

From Marybeth Martello:

Marybeth met with Peyton Siler Jones of Tufts University to discuss a climate and equity opportunity, offered by the Urban Sustainability Director's Network and Tufts University. The Climate Action Committee will consider this program at the CAC meeting on Friday, January 14.

Peyton will join us on Friday to answer questions. If Wellesley volunteers for this program and is accepted to be one of five Northeast communities, Wellesley will receive two years of technical assistance (facilitation, project management, climate planning support); and direct grant funding to community-based partners.

The pilot is meant to build (and not tax) the capacity of local governments to address racial equity in climate action planning and practice. If Wellesley participates, we have six months to decide on an approach. There are no budget requirements, set timeline, or deliverables other than an internal commitment to racial equity work and meaningfully partnering with communities of color.

Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Sustainability Initiatives

From Ellen Korpi:

Don Newell and Ellen Korpi met with representatives of the State Library Commission on January 5 to learn about solar and energy storage at other MA libraries to prepare for our scheduled meeting with the Wellesley Free Library Director and Chair of the Trustees January 12 to launch our planning. We are also researching Resilience Hubs.

On January 12 Don and Ellen had a conference call with Marla Robinson, Jamie Jurgenson and Mary Ann Cluggish to discuss solar and potential storage/microgrid at the Library. The Library provided an enthusiastic green light to go forward.

This project could be a Demonstration Project that would lead by example and have impact way beyond Wellesley. It also could be the first phase of building a much larger microgrid in Wellesley Square. We

already have solar and hopefully a storage opportunity at the Hunnewell School and have the planned renovation at Town Hall. In addition, there continues to be the possibility of construction at the Cameron St parking lot with a solar canopy on top.

Next steps are:

- MLP and FMD to coordinate initial engineering evaluation
- MLP to draft an RFP for a comprehensive library project and for it being done in stages, which will be coordinated with the library and FMD
- Library and CAC to commence discussions on the feasibility of a partnership regarding climate action materials and training along the lines of the Resilience Hub program that the State Library Commission is promoting.

If this goes forward as a microgrid, the Library's battery storage resource would be integrated with the Town's emergency planning.

The MLP has been awarded an ARPA grant of \$100,000 to accelerate the electrification of the municipal fleet. The process for allocation is in the planning stage but will include money towards first cost premiums for EV purchases and installation of charging infrastructure.