



CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Climate Action Committee Project Updates

April 5, 2024

Green Communities

Progress continued toward a Green Communities Building Decarbonization grant for the Warren Building. Green Communities extended the grant application deadline to May 10th. FMD is in touch with a new contact for Warren Building Mass Save incentives. Obtaining a weatherization proposal from ECI has been difficult. Marybeth continues to work at this. If we don't receive the proposal next week we will follow an alternate plan.

Climate Leader Communities Application

Janet created a timeline for grant completion. Marybeth and Janet met with Dave Cohen and Jeff Azano-Brown to learn about DPW's new vehicle inventory software. Janet is preparing a draft timeline for building decarbonization.

The Select Board discussed the Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Policy on March 12 and voted to approve it on March 25. MLP, DPW, and Schools approved it. The Recreation Department will not be included in the policy because they don't yet own a vehicle. Library requested to be exempt from the policy.

Outreach

The Climate Action Campaign Working Group meets weekly. Programs completed and planned include:

- Heat Pump Webinar, March 21 at 7pm. 115 registrations, 48 attendees. Marybeth sent follow-up slides and recording last week.
- Tabling at Public Health Week, April 2, 10:00am – noon, Library Lobb
- Building Energy Roundtable, April 10, 11:00 a.m.– 12:30 p.m., Zoom
- Climate Café, April 25, 3-5:00 p.m., Wellesley Free Library Commons
- Regional Workshop for Landcare Professionals, May 8, 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m., 1605 Mass. Ave, Lexington, MA (NRC event)
- Electric Vehicle Showcase and Test Drive Event, May 9, 4-7:00 p.m., MassBay Community College Parking Lot, 50 Oakland Street, Wellesley
- Wellesley Wonderful Weekend, May 18-19

- Exploration of partnership with energy non-profit involving door to door engagement with residents to encourage home energy audits.
- Neighborhood-centered outreach pilot for two areas with concentrations of fuel oil customers. Marybeth and Martha worked on letter and script for this initiative.
- Exploration of classes through COA and Rec Center

DEI

Marybeth attended 2 hours of Diversity Equity and Inclusion training organized through the Select Board's Office.

Mobility

Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Policy

See update in Climate Leader Communities Application section above.

EV Showcase and Test Drive Event

The next EV Showcase and Test Drive Event is scheduled for May 9th 4-7pm in the Mass Bay parking lot. Lisa Wolf, Martha Collins, Marybeth, and others are working to coordinate and promote the event.

Climate Action in Schools

Wellesley Green Schools

From Sue Morris:

The March Wellesley Green Schools meeting touched on Wellesley Public Schools efforts to address climate goals relative to waste, buildings, and transportation. The town's greenhouse gas emissions inventory is [here](#).

Thanks to the Katrina Bressani, the Whitsons food service director for Wellesley Public Schools, we now have compostable cutlery and dispensers at Wellesley Middle School and Wellesley High School. This replaced the very eco-unfriendly plastic wrapped plastic cutlery.

Food donation/rescue is happening at WMS, WHS, Hunnewell, Schofield and Bates. The hope is to have this at all the elementary schools very soon. This is part of Whitson Cares where the schools have a cooler labeled as to what food can be donated and then it is transported back by Whitsons to Wellesley Middle School. Once every other week [Rescuing Leftover Cuisine](#) comes and takes the donated food along with surplus food. The program is working well and thousands of pounds of food have been rescued and repurposed for food insecure consumers (2,132 lbs of food rescued, 1,777 meals created, 4,968 lbs of emission prevented as of the March meeting).

The Wellesley Middle School food composting program with 6th & 7th grade is going well. Information about WMS food composting will be included in the information to parents of incoming 6th graders. Preparations underway for full Wellesley Middle School roll-out of cafeteria recycling/composting for next year.

Matt Delaney is doing the NexTrex Challenge <https://nextrex.com/view/program> which collects plastic film and drops it off at collection locations like Shaws, Whole Foods and other places where it is weighed. Newton Public Schools have collected over 200 lbs so far. Marybeth is going to talk with RDF to

see if they would be willing to have a bin to collect the plastic film for NexTrex there. Matt also gave an update on Recircable. He used to use Preserve in elementary schools. Matt is working with Amber Schmitt to facilitate plastic replacement with grants. Containers are bar coded - Matt is getting the data on how many used and number of uses. These are also being used in 10 Newton restaurants.

Marybeth gave an update on the DPW Curbside Food Pick Up Pilot using Black Earth. WGS will be asking if Black Earth would be able to pick up compost at schools. Niki plans to look into funding for WHS and Hunnewell composting (funding currently is for WMS only).

The Waste Reduction Coordinator Position has been approved and although this is a Town position we hope this person will be able to assist with implementation of recycling and waste reduction programs at all the Wellesley Schools and municipal buildings.

Wellesley Green Schools, Sustainable Wellesley and the Climate Action Committee have been promoting the reduced bus fee as registration is now open for busing for the 2024-2025 school year. The fee was reduced by another \$100/student for next year and the plan is to continue to reduce the bus fee by \$100/year until it gets to zero. We believe this will be a very effective way to get students on the bus and get cars out of carlines.

Lillian and Dara gave an update on the opening of the new Hunnewell School which is going well. There will be tours on Wellesley Wonderful Weekend as well as information on energy coaches. The new Hunnewell School Principal will be Jonathan Dees who is currently the Upham School principal. He has been a great partner of WGS and we are looking forward to working with him. We are planning to promote green features of the new Hunnewell School through various means. Marybeth is going to share the “press release”, Phyllis will promote in Sustainable Wellesley newsletter, Michelle can promote in WGS Green Tip, Lillian to post on Hunnewell website. The link to Hunnewell Sustainability write-up is [here](#). A link to the video about the opening of Hunnewell Elementary School can be found [here](#).

WMS did their House Unplugged which went well. Phyllis Theermann and Mary Gard participated in Seminar Day at Wellesley High School. Also, there is a Spanish curriculum in 3rd grade about “How do weather and climate affect our lives?” And there is watershed lesson in 5th grade. We hope the curriculum geared towards climate change education in Wellesley Public Schools continues to grow.

Waste

MA DEP Reduce, Reuse, Repair Micro Grants

MA DEP is offering grants of up to \$10,000 to for-profit and non-profit organizations, regional authorities, eligible municipalities, and schools/colleges, for short term waste reduction projects (≤ 1 year). To qualify, projects must focus on reducing waste generation and prolonging the lifespan of products via donation, rescue, reuse and/or repair in Massachusetts. Composting and recycling projects are NOT eligible for this grant. There are two application deadlines in 2024: May 15 and November 15.

Buildings

From Fred Bunger:

Building Working Group

BWG meets bi-weekly. Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines update and edits prepared by Scott Waddell include embodied carbon and EV charging. CAC, FMD and DPW reviews to be planned. Connect with Planning, BWG Roundtable and respond to building improvement opportunities.

Building Energy Improvement Houses of Worship and Non-profits.

- A Roundtable webinar concentrating on energy/emissions reductions in HoW, non-profits and colleges/schools is planned for April 10th at 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Topics will include long-term planning for getting off fossil fuels, IRA changes that provide 30% credit for energy projects, financing options, geothermal conversion case study, and status reports from active projects at non-profits.
- MassSave audits on March 27th by Rise Engineering conducted at Village Church, Wellesley Hills Congregational, and Temple Beth Elohim.
- Fred will encourage St. Andrews Episcopal, St Paul's and St. John the Evangelist Catholic and Unitarian Universalist Society of Wellesley Hills to also have building audits
- Still awaiting replies from Wellesley Baptist, Wellesley Friends and Wellesley First Church of Christ Scientist.
- Contacted Deb Cogill of Wellesley Friendly Aid to get audits scheduled. Contacting Lori Ferranti of Sisters of Charity.
- Janet contacting colleges and schools for participation.

Energy Sage *Understanding Tax Incentives & Maximizing Your Solar Savings 3/7*

This national webinar focused on the IRA changes in solar and battery tax credits and how to access them. Recording linked [here](#).

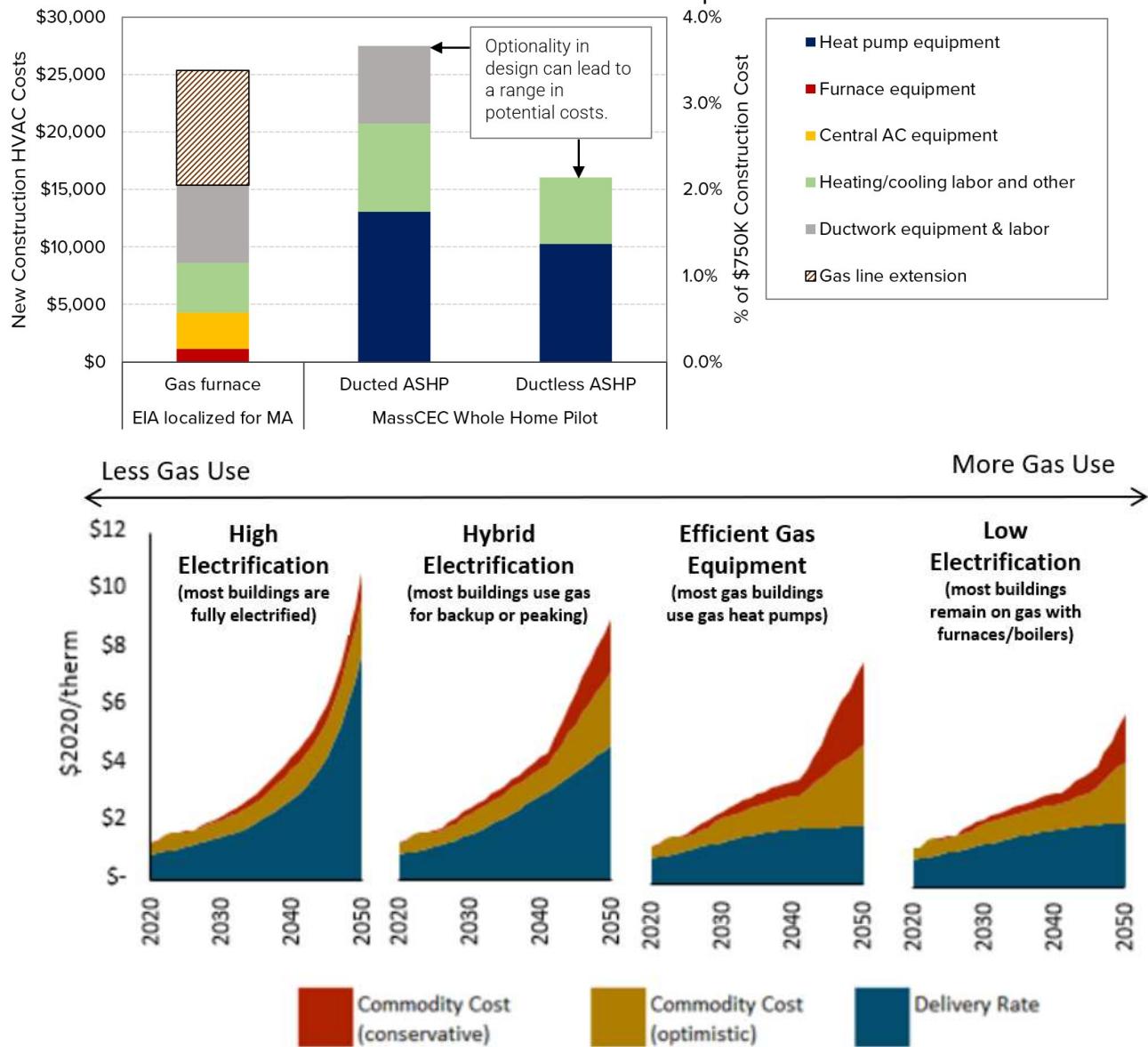
Hope is a Heat Pump 3/4

JCAN (Jewish Climate Action Network) presented a case study on Temple Shir Tikva which cut their energy usage 85% by whole building upgrade from gas HVAC to air source heat pumps. TST trustee, GreenerU, Building Evolution Corporation described the planning process, the design, construction, and commissioning process. It was a \$2.1 million project which received \$352,000 in Mass Save incentives.

Zero Carbon MA 3/14 Future of Gas in Mass

Mike Walsh of Groundworks Data reviewed the report "The Future of Gas in Massachusetts". The distribution cost of gas, which is about 50% now, will rise sharply as gas use declines in response to meeting State emissions goals. Report can be found on ZCMA website: <https://www.zerocarbonma.org>

Here are some visuals from The Future of Gas in Massachusetts report:



BEA Retrofits group 3/14

Representatives from HEET presented on how to develop a thermal energy network.

DOER “straw proposal” HER and HEAR Federal home rebates 3/18

On March 18, DOER presented a straw proposal for public input for the Home Efficiency Rebate and Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Programs offered through the Inflation Reduction Act. Comments were sent by Fred supporting rebates for electrical upgrades including “smart” load sharing electrical panels. Mary Gard commented that MLPs were underfunded for affordable single family homes. [Link to the DOER presentation.](#)

BEA Quarterly Meeting 3/21

Dillan Patel of DOER spoke on the Green Communities Climate Leader program and Silvana Bastante of LISC (Local Initiatives Support Corp.) spoke on Green Homes economic opportunity training for HERS

raters, solar installers, and energy auditors. In community updates, Gloucester and Arlington announced they received HEET grants for a networked geothermal feasibility study. [Link to presentation](#).

MCAN Better Buildings Advocates 3/21

Reported on NESEA (Northeast Sustainable Energy Association) annual conference and trade show.

Much interest and information on embodied carbon. See report on NESEA website:

<https://nesea.org/conference/buildingenergy-boston-2024>

Wellesley MLP Sustainability Initiatives

From MLP Sustainability Manager Lisa Wolf:

- Level II charging stations in the MLP garage have been planned and we have received a price proposal from a vendor for the installation of the charging stations as well as the electrical circuit from the main electrical panel to a new panel in the garage. This work is a priority as the Ford Lightning is expected to be delivered soon. This vehicle will be used daily so it will need to be charged regularly.
- Level III public charging stations on the MLP property. We have identified a location at the MLP to install 2 Level III DC fast charging stations. This location is convenient for eastbound and westbound Route 9 traffic due to the light at the fire station. We have done a field audit of the distribution system and have concluded that we have a viable project. The next steps are to finish the engineering. We will hire a contractor to excavate, install the conduit and pour the concrete foundations. Once lead times are established, we will place a targeted completion date for this project.
- A second charger (2 ports) being added at Waban lot.
- BESS (battery storage) installation underway - scheduled to be operational in June 2024.
- Park 9 PPA for solar under contract
- AMI project: Currently there are over 3300 meters installed. Most of the meters installed have been residential. Essentially 1/3 of all residential meters have been installed. Anticipate having all the residential meters installed by the end of 2024.
- New WECARE policy adopted by WMLP board – in Meeting Materials folder