



CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Climate Action Committee Project Updates

June 15, 2024

Climate Leader Communities Application

The CAC plans to submit Wellesley's Climate Leader Communities application to the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) later this month. Wellesley meets five of six criteria required to achieve the certification. Janet and Marybeth are working with FMD and DPW to complete the sixth requirement: a Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap (Roadmap) showing how the municipality can decarbonize its buildings, vehicles, and water and sewer operations.

Janet carried out significant data collection; meetings and communication with FMD, DPW, and DOER; and in-depth analyses. Working off the Town's approach to capital planning, Janet developed scenarios of municipal building and vehicle electrification through 2050, evaluating how the Town can reach DOER's 2027, 2030, 2040, and 2050 targets for emissions and energy use intensity.

Marybeth drafted the Roadmap narrative and frequently asked questions and invited each of the Select Board members to have individual meetings to discuss the Roadmap. Marybeth and Janet met with Collette Aufranc, Marjorie Freiman, and Tom Ulfelder, and will present to the Select Board on Monday, July 15.

Outreach

The Outreach Working Group meets weekly.

- A Climate Action Be part of it! postcard was sent to all residents in June, publicizing the household climate action webpages. These webpages saw an increase in clicks and in energy coach requests following the postcard mailing.
- The Town signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with HomeWorks Energy. The Outreach Working Group reviewed promotional materials from HWE on July 10 and Marybeth had a kick-off meeting with HWE on July 11. Marybeth will stay in close contact with Stephanie Hawkinson and Meghan about the canvassing project.

Senate Climate Bill

The State Senate recently passed a climate bill. Previously the CAC voted to support measures in the Future of Clean Heat, a number of these measures made it into the Senate bill.

Below are links to bill summaries.

- <https://www.wgbh.org/news/politics/2024-06-25/mass-senate-advances-energy-reforms>
- <https://apnews.com/article/massachusetts-renewable-energy-senate-solar-wind-geothermal-e7421be8dcec540fe34d7bdc51af0faa>

Now that the Senate has passed its bill, the action shifts to the House, which will hopefully come out with its own climate bill soon. The House bill is likely to focus on making it easier to site and permit clean energy infrastructure to expand grid capacity. (Siting/permitting seems to be one area of agreement among House, Senate, and Governor.). Assuming the House *does* pass a climate bill, there will be a conference committee with three Reps and three Senators who will work out a compromise bill.

Meeting with Representative Peisch

Lise organized a meeting with Rep. Peisch which took place on July 9 and included Sue Morris, Mary Gard, Marilyn Ray Smith, Berry Witek (Sustainable Wellesley), and Marybeth Martello.

Sue reiterated strong support for essential gas transition provisions, including:

- Giving the DPU the authority to deny expansion of the gas system if there is a viable alternative and if doing so would increase the amount of gas in the system and increase GHG emissions. (FYI: An outright ban on expansion of the gas system was rejected by the Senate.)
- Setting the gas companies on the path to strategic decommissioning of the gas system by requiring them to make plans for decommissioning that will be reviewed annually.
- Allowing gas companies to distribute non-emitting sources of thermal energy (such as networked geothermal), instead of just gas.

Alice was receptive, supportive and appreciative of Wellesley's input.

Mobility

An MAPC regional EV Strategy working group meeting took place on Thursday July 11, 2024. Presentations were given by three companies in the EV charging industry, each offering different models for public charging that differ from conventional EV charging stations. Additionally, a representative from National Grid, specializing in EV charging, discussed how utilities work with companies that offer innovative public charging solutions.