

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



MASSACHUSETTS

SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

October 5, 2017

Green Communities

The Green Communities application to the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) is due October 31, 2017. Drafts of the Energy Reduction Plan and Fuel Efficient Vehicles Policy are complete, as is documentation for meeting the other three Green Communities criteria. Laura and Marybeth are currently gathering feedback from departments. SEC will present to BOS and School Committee on October 10.

Green Collaborative

The Green Collaborative held a well-attended meeting on September 13. Speakers included representatives from SEC, NRC, Green Schools, Rotary Club, Wellesley Free Library, Wellesley Conservation Commission, and Wellesley Farmer's Market. The next meeting is January 24.

Green Schools

On September 28, Ellen and Marybeth attended a standing-room-only Green Schools meeting. The assembly included Food Services Director, Matt Delaney and School Committee Chair, Michael D'Ortenzio. Discussion reflected the growing interest in green initiatives within the Wellesley Public School community. Conversation topics included waste reduction, improvements in materials management practices in school and at school events, school gardens, anti-idling, and education.

Food Waste Drop Off at the RDF

The Recycling and Disposal Facility (RDF) has opened sign-ups for the food waste drop off program, a program that grew out of discussions within the 3R (Reduce Reuse Recycle) Working Group. The three-month pilot, will help the Town determine if there's enough interest to permanently offer the program.

As described in the Natural Resources Commission's (NRC's) Newsletter, All participants will receive:

- A free starter kit, paid for by Dept. of Environmental Protection grants, that includes a counter-top compost bucket, compostable bag liners, and a container for transporting your food waste to the RDF.
- A program tutorial.
- Information on acceptable food waste items and those items that are not accepted.



Food waste starter kit.

Participants will bring their waste-filled bags to a container located in the RDF trash drop off area. The collected food waste will go to an anaerobic digester to be turned into biogas. Pilot program participants will also be asked to complete follow up feedback surveys.

Beginning on **Monday, October 9**, all enrolled participants can pick up their starter kits at the RDF. The food waste drop-off area will be open during regular RDF hours.

Repair Café

Another 3R Working Group initiative is the Rotary Club's Repair Café: **Saturday, October 14 from 9 a.m. to Noon** at the Wellesley Recreation Center, Room 8. As described in the NRC's Newsletter, this is the first-ever such event in Wellesley. The Cafe adds "Repair" to the existing 3R Working Group mission. Repair Cafes offer free fixes for broken items. The Rotary Club will provide tools and materials, along with skilled volunteers, to help residents' fix clothes, furniture, electrical appliances, bicycles, crockery, gadgets, toys and more!

Area Colleges Food Donation Program

On Sept 20, Ellen and Alison met with sustainability coordinators, food service directors and chefs from Babson, Olin, and Wellesley Colleges. Matt Delaney, Ryan Lee (Food for Free (FFF)) and Christine Beling (Environmental Protection Agency) were also present to discuss a collaborative food rescue program. The program will include pre-consumer food at all three colleges, as well as at Wellesley Public Schools. Pre-consumer food will be frozen and stored by food services staff before donation. The meeting resulted in an exciting agreement with FFF. FFF will pick up once a week from the three colleges (Wellesley college may be less frequent as they accumulate less volume), as well as from Wellesley High School (WHS) and the Middle School (WMS). Collection from WHS and WMS will begin on October 5th (as their Standards Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been approved). Collection from the colleges will be added, pending approval from the Health Department. Alison is in the process of drafting the college SOPs in order to get that approval.

Food Donation Wellesley Public Schools

Alison is working with Holly Detroy from the Health Department to improve the SOPs for the elementary school share table donation programs. When those SOPs are approved by the Health Department, Alison and Marybeth will work with parent volunteers and school staff on share table implementation.

School Cafeteria Recycling

Marybeth is working with School administration, FMD, Green Schools, and interested parents on recycling and liquid diversion at Bates, Sprague, Fiske, Hunnewell School, and the Middle School.

Lighting Programs

On September 26, the NRC hosted Bob Parks, an ecological lighting expert, designer and consultant. He gave a day-time briefing to Town staff on how to choose fixtures for municipal applications. Bob's evening workshop explored how artificial, night-time light relates to public health, public safety, energy use, and the environment. Ellen and Marybeth attended the day-time session. Laura and Katy attended the evening session.

WMLP LED Retrofit

Pilot streetlights, including 2700 and 3000 Kelvin LED lights and high pressure sodium lights, have been installed on Croton and Pine streets. Last week the Wellesley Municipal Light Plant (WMLP) mailed a survey to every household in Wellesley asking for comment on these options. Comments are due back by October 13. The WMLP issued an RFP on September 29 which solicits bids for both 2700 and 3000 Kelvin options. The WMLP hopes to be able to award a bid at their Board meeting scheduled for October 30.

WMLP Director's Objectives for FY18

At its October 2 meeting, the WMLP approved the Director's FY18 objectives which include these of interest to the SEC:

- Complete LED retrofit;
- Revise the WMLP mission statement;
- Hire a consultant to provide a study on current opportunities and future trends to reduce GHG through conservation, sequestration of GHG, renewable energy, battery storage; and investments WMLP can make with a priority on those within the Town and region;
- Establish a pilot incentive program to encourage the off-peak charging of electric vehicles;
- Monitor DOER development of a program similar to SMART for MLP towns and evaluate participation;
- Work with Girl Scouts to earn an Energy Badge through an initiative to increase participation in the voluntary renewable energy purchase program; and

- Hire a marketing professional to complete a Town-wide campaign to increase enrollment in the voluntary renewable energy program.

WMLP Electricity Prices

The Board has approved a 5 percent increase in WMLP rates, which will take effect with the October billing cycle.

Agenda Posting

On September 28, Marybeth attended a meeting with Brian DuPont on changes to workflows and agenda posting. Starting on October 7, Marybeth will be able to post meetings and agendas directly. The 48-hour rule, etc. still applies, and the Town Clerk will receive a copy of the agenda. However, agendas will not have to pass through the Town Clerk's office before posting.

Acknowledgement: Thank you to the NRC and Stephanie Hawkinson for Food Waste Drop-Off and Repair Café descriptions borrowed from the NRC Newsletter.