



SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

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SEC Project Updates

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Green Communities

Work toward the Green Communities (GC) application is progressing with the solar zoning bylaw amendment, the Energy Reduction Plan (ERP), and the Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy.

Solar Zoning Bylaw Amendment

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Green Communities Grant Application Process

- Marybeth is reaching out to other towns to understand their processes for developing, prioritizing, and otherwise managing Green Communities grant applications. Marybeth spoke with Susan McPhee (Winchester) and with Blythe Robinson (Upton) to learn about GC grant processes in their towns. This week, Marybeth will speak with Jillian Wilson-Martin (Natick).
- Upton and Winchester prioritize GC projects based on the size and timing of the expected payback to the Town. Consultants (AECOM for Winchester and Guardian for Upton) assess the scope, cost, and pay-back of projects. These companies also carry out some or all of the funded work.
- Blythe is still getting to know the landscape here, but at this stage, she thinks that giving the SEC authority to prioritize projects for the Green Communities application process, makes sense. In Winchester, the Energy Committee prioritizes projects and the BOS signs off.

Energy Reduction Plan

- The energy baseline data is almost complete. We are awaiting a few pieces of data.
- Upton hired Guardian to develop their ERP. Guardian did not charge for plan development. However, Upton hired Guardian to carry out projects identified in the plan.
- Marybeth should get authorization to access MassEnergyInsight this week or next.

Vehicle Purchase Policy

- Matthew is developing a spreadsheet to reflect the vehicle inventory and our data needs.

- We will meet with department heads once we have completed the inventory and have identified which vehicles are exempt. Since some department heads may be wary of a fuel-efficient requirement, we will be sure to have examples of fuel efficient vehicles ready to show them.

WasteWise Wellesley

- The 3R Working Group is developing food rescue programs. One of these programs will rescue prepared, unused food from Wellesley Public Schools for delivery to Wellesley Food Pantry and other food pantries. On January 11, Ellen Korpi and Marybeth met with Wellesley Food Services, FMD, Sustainable Wellesley, Green Schools, and interested parents to discuss this food rescue.
- On January 25, Harvard Dining Services hosted representatives from Tufts, several Wellesley-area colleges, Weston Public Schools, MADEP, USEPA, Food for Free, SEC, NRC, Sustainable Wellesley, Green Schools, and Wellesley Public Schools, to learn about the Harvard/Food for Free partnership and their experience. The meeting was both highly informative and inspiring. The 3R Working Group and USEPA are planning next steps toward establishing a Wellesley-area network for collecting and donating food from local colleges and schools.
- The 3R Working Group presented the Repair Café idea to the Rotary Club in December and then had a subsequent meeting with John Adams of Rotary and Maura Renzella, Youth Commissioner, to further develop the idea. John is doing further research but is thinking about how to customize the Repair Café model to suit Wellesley.
- The RDF distributed a survey to residents re: interest in commercial composting.
- On January 17 Marybeth met with the Wellesley Health Department about school recycling, and, in particular, food donation from Bates. Marybeth has also spoken with Blythe Robinson, MADEP, USEPA, the Wellesley Food Pantry, and Regina LaRoque about food donation and will give a verbal report at the February 1 SEC meeting.
- On February 1 Marybeth will present the Bates recycling program to custodians from Fiske and Sprague.

900 Worcester

- Is expected to go before Annual Town Meeting this year.

Sustainable Building Guidelines Working Group

On January 12, Ellen Korpi and Marybeth made a presentation to the Permanent Building Committee. The presentation introduced the SEC and outlined reasons for exploring Sustainable Building Guidelines (SBG). The Permanent Building Committee was enthusiastically supportive of the SBG idea and suggested that, as a first step, the PBC, SEC, and FMD tour Wellesley High School's sustainability features. Marybeth and PBC staff are in the process of planning that tour.

Power to Choose

The Power to Choose campaign is preparing to launch its Sustainability Challenge through the Wellesley STEM Expo and Wellesley Public Schools. The theme of this year's Challenge is renewable energy and the WMS Science Department has been closely involved with its development. Marybeth is working with the PTC group to reach out to community organizations and Wellesley school principals/administrators, librarians, PTOs and students for help in spreading the word.

LED Street Lights

The LED streetlight advisory group is continuing to discuss options and learn from what other towns have done. A group is planning to visit Melrose to see their recently-installed lights.

Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Marybeth is in the process of entering Town energy use data into the ClearPath software.

Green Collaborative

The Green Collaborative meeting on January 11 was very well attended with approximately 50 audience members, including about 16 students from the WHS Evolutions Program. Ellen Korpi presented on WasteWise Wellesley. Marybeth presented on Green Communities and Sustainable Building Guidelines. The next meeting is scheduled for April 25.