

City of Cambridge
CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION COMMITTEE

Minutes

March 8, 2018

City Hall Annex, 344 Broadway

Attendees:

Guests: James Butler, Cambridge resident

Approval of Minutes

- Did not have quorum, nor February minutes, to allow approval.

ETP Director Report

- Alewife Resiliency presentation at upcoming Council Meeting, April 9, 2018.

Climate Action Plan Actions

- Consultant is still working on the Action Plan and will present to CPAC at April meeting.
- Discussion of distributed Memo of 26 January 2018 from Burohappold Engineering (Consultant) re: CPAC Actions List
- Envision Cambridge Climate & Energy Working Group is also recommending goals which often overlap with the CPAC goals. Intent is to integrate the two lists of goals. Discussion of overlap of Envision goals and action plans and CPAC ones ensued.
- Discussion of meaning of “Transit-Oriented Development” and whether should be added back to list of goals. Concluded that transit infrastructure is precondition of “TOD”. Discussion of placing TOD within a more general Land-use Planning category.
- The City’s emissions model will not capture all of the items on the Action Plan. Members suggested that the Actions & Objectives align with the categories of the emissions model to help CPAC prioritize the Actions & Objectives – emphasizing those that create the highest emission reductions.
- Task: identify the most important levers to achieve Objectives and build strategies around advancing these levers.
- Should the Action Plan have two sections: 1. Emissions Mitigation; 2. Resiliency? Some topics overlap both categories, such as Innovation, Building Insulation, etc. Can identify cross-cutting topics.
- Integrate the various City plans into the CPAC Action Plan, such as the NZAP, Vulnerability Plan, Zero Waste Plan, LCESS study, etc.
- Create another “Sector” topic in Burohappold table of “Energy Infrastructure” and include transitioning energy supply and delivery infrastructure from fossil fuel based to renewable energy based – and remove this item from the “Buildings” category.

- Question arose: “Why can’t consultant identify and organize the actions in a more comprehensive, integrated and useful manner and thereby decrease the work of the committee?”
- Committee-member suggests that Refrigerants, which are currently not included in the emissions model, be addressed at least in qualitative manner in the report – even if “de minimis”.
- Committee suggests that Action Plan be organized in simple enough manner that can be easily communicated to stakeholders.
- Municipal supply-chain and procurement policies should be included in Action Plan.
- Bronwyn will share CPAC feedback with consultant and consultant will work with Bronwyn to generate revised Action Plan list.

Climate Solutions Innovation Goal - discussion

- Committee revised the language of Innovation Goal slightly, and voted to approve revised language, which is: “The City of Cambridge shall develop and/or adopt innovative approaches to mitigate and adapt to climate change across all levers that it has at its disposal, including but not limited to regulation, partnership, funding, convening, engagement, and communication.”

Member Reports

- March 31 conference at Harvard, Revitalizing Eco-systems in Greater Boston.
- Quinton Zondervan suggested that CPAC include “Restoration” as a category of its Action Plan in longer term.
- Tom Chase: NESI, Building Energy conference today. Mass is only state in New England that doesn’t give points for PassivHaus for LIHTC qualifications.

Notes by Peter Crawley