

City of Cambridge
Climate Protection Action Committee

Meeting Minutes

12 May 2016

Attendees: Lauren Miller (chair), Amber Clifton, Betsy Boyle, David Rabkin, Rosalie Anders, Olga Faktorovich Allen, Amber Clifton, Peter Crawley, Keith Giamportone, Kris Locke, Quinton Zondervan, Bill Zamparelli, Christopher Nielson, Sarah Mandlebaum, Melissa Chan, Tom Page, Johanna Jobin, Paula Phipps

Guest: James Butler

Staff: Susanne Rasmussen, Bronwyn Cooke, John Bolduc

Minutes:

- April minutes approved.
- Keith volunteered to take June minutes.

Director's report:

- Budget approved, including making two contract staff positions permanent and funding to improve tree canopy. There are discussions underway with MACD to expand tree analysis across MA.
- Waverly Path have an opening ceremony in June for the new art installations.
- The City and DCR were able to purchase additional land to expand our bike paths, with the possibility of additional acquisitions.
- The City's high involvement in the green line expansion is unprecedented.
- Cambridge requires state approval and MIT's involvement, but Cambridge received \$10 million appropriation to expand the Grand Junction Corridor.
- Four proposals received for carbon study.
- Consultant recommended to City Manager for Community GHG inventory during FY16 and FY17.
- May 23rd, City Council will vote to approve starting purchase process for new electricity contract; November is the ideal timeline for procuring new energy contract.
- Press release upcoming on 2015 BEUDO data; 2016 BEUDO data due soon.
- Cambridge received the highest STAR rating in the country; additional information on this rating and criteria is available on Cambridge and STAR websites. There are only 3 other 5 star cities in the country, and Cambridge significantly outscored them.

Martin Luther King., Jr School Tour Debrief

- How do we properly label the school for marketing purposes since it did not quite reach net zero? We are looking at LEED Platinum, possibly with the highest LEED Platinum score in the

world. It is 49% net zero; it uses a small amount of gas, so it will not reach absolute net zero, even after the change in energy sourcing by Cambridge.

- Cost was comparative to conventional school and offers many features (naturally lighting, etc) that improve quality of life for students. These features can be heavily marketed as reasons that other schools should refurbish similarly -encouraging sustainable building with focus on the wellness impacts.
- Kennedy School is fossil fuel-free and is the next school scheduled for renovation.

Climate Protection Goals and Objectives Tracking:

- Johanna and Bronwyn worked on a tracking system for CPAC goals and objectives to ensure that we are progressing on the established priorities as a Committee. Goals are listed with objectives, status, key updates, and any necessary actions or issues. This is a high-level document that pulls from a significantly larger tracking spreadsheet (which also tracks against goals from other plans such as Net Zero, etc).
- Suggested additions: a way to track sub-actions for larger pieces, possibly with a visual gauge of progress (which could be very difficult to quantify on certain objectives). If status is listed as delayed, comment included in the "action needed/issues" column explaining why. Include links on specific items that connect to additional information on that particular topic. Adding timeline slide to show overarching schedule.
- Should this document remain internal or be publically available? This high-level update would be viable for public use.
- Twice yearly update and internal review. CPAC provided with update snapshot, with supporting documentation.
- The detailed tracking spreadsheet maintained by CDD staff looks at precise metrics, but that level precision is not ideal for the high-level update snapshot presented to Committee.
- Additional metrics and actions listed would help this function more as a scorecard. Each objective has numerous actions, so those should largely remain in another document.
- Current color coding indicates where we are in progress; additional actions or input required from CPAC members are located in action needed column. Should color coding change to visually indicate where actions are required by Committee?
- This is tracking the progress of the City of Cambridge. These goals were created and recommended to the City, who then adopted them and are responsible for the progress.

De-carbonization/Electrification Workgroup Status Report:

- De-carbonization has received more focus in Cambridge than electrification, which is a crucial component of improving our energy sourcing and reduction of fossil fuels.
- There were two meetings, with different sets of participants at each meeting. City staff and CPAC members were involved in both meetings.
- The technology needed to retrofit residential buildings is currently available, but there are challenges to scaling retrofits for large buildings.
- Palo Alto completed similar retrofits for \$1-2k per residence. Persuading owners to invest in upgrades is a challenge.

- Technology is not common, but education and training are still needed for contractors and owners.
- Purchasing and renovation are good opportunities for intervention.
- There are potential implications for our electrical grid and need for upgrades there with large shift toward electrification.
- Many Cambridge buildings lack air conditioning, which could become increasingly needed as temperatures rise. Air source heat pumps are more efficient for upgrades and provide heating and cooling.
- There are currently incentives from the Mass Green Energy Center to make these system upgrades (both residential and commercial). How long these grants will remain available is unknown, but they cover significant portions of the cost.
- Newer heat pumps tend to provide sound reduction, better temperature control.
- Additional financing with potentially become available in a few weeks when an additional bill is voted.
- Electrification is another avenue that we should keep in mind to use in conjunction with other tactics and goals. Education is a key component of implementation.
- How can we identify the “low hanging fruit” (the buildings that are more easily converted) to prioritize for outreach and access to the incentives? Should buildings with underground fuel tanks be targeted for priority outreach?
- Would insulation have a great enough impact to make it more worth targeting than electrification retrofits?
- Could large owners (such as MIT) do separate analysis on their aggregated data and identify targets for City outreach without providing actual specific/unit data to the City (to protect resident privacy)?

Member Report:

- Green Cambridge is doing tree planting, rain barrels, and soil additives in conjunction with DPW. Also launching neighborhood solar programs in partnership with SolarBug.
- June 9th: eINC. award ceremony in Charleston. Johanna will send around information.

Notes by Bronwyn Cooke