

**City of Cambridge**

**Climate Protection Action Committee**

Meeting Minutes

August 12, 2010

**Members present:** Quinton Zondervan (Vice Chair), Betsy Boyle, Barry Hilts, Jackie Cefola, Janet Curtis, Jan Dillon, Kat Potter, Kathy Araujo, Keren Schlomy, Lilah Glick, , Suzanne Shepard, Lauren Miller, Steve Lanoue, Terry Smith, Bill Zamparelli, John Moore

**City Staff present:** John Bolduc, Rosalie Anders, Bronwyn Cooke

**Guests:** Ambrose Spencer, Joanna Herlihy

1. July 14, 2010 CPAC meeting minutes approved.
2. Environmental and Transportation Planning Director's Report
  - Resident parking permit fee increase decision deferred by the City Council until September 13. Letter of support approved by CPAC, with Bill Zamparelli dissenting. (FYI: \$8 to \$20 starting January 1, 2011 and \$25 starting January 1, 2013. The proposal would also broaden language of the Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance to allow revenue from residential parking permit fees to be applied to other climate change mitigation strategies – beyond exclusively sustainable transportation. An estimated 40,000 residential parking permits are issued annually. The proposal would generate \$480,000 additional revenue in 2011 if adopted)
  - Stretch code residential workshop planned for October 6
  - Application made for \$500K grant from EPA for multiple items including green lease development and feasibility for local carbon offset fund
  - Green zoning recommendations approved by city council
  - "Pace" provisions were enacted into law
  - Building energy rating project pilot to begin in fall. Will be used to develop asset based rating (vs. operational rating which takes occupants into account)
  - CEA will be hiring new community outreach manager
3. Overview of climate & energy metrics – including suggestions of how to drill down further into data, verify 1990 baseline, offer of Bill Zamparelli to help use NStar data to validate model
4. Break-out of working groups for 2010 CPAC report, CPAC measurement & goals with report back to full CPAC after groups concluded.
5. Next Meeting September 16. Topics may include an update on NStar Green.
6. Meeting Adjourned

Notes from the two breakout sessions on metrics and the 2010 report are appended.

*Notes taken by Jan Dillon*

Notes from CPAC working session on 2010 report—August 12, 2010

Jan Dillon, Janet Curtis, Suzanne Shepard, Jesse Gordon, Bronwyn Cooke, Barry Hilts, Jackie Cefola, Betsy Boyle, Rosalie Anders (note-taker).

**Discussion of target audience.**

Is the report just for the City Manager and City Council or does it have a wider audience, e.g., other communities, private companies, Cambridge residents and businesses? Ideally, it would be useful for a range of people.

**Ingredients**

What do the numbers tell us? We will need to include both numbers and commentary on the numbers.

We need to put the report in the context of growth in Cambridge, state trends, and changes in state and national policies (or lack of change, as the plan included predictions that didn't materialize).

It is important to capture the multidimensionality of the topic, and to include what other Cambridge and regional groups have been doing over the past 10 years, even if we don't show numerical gains.

**Key questions the report should consider**

Where has progress been made? What are the lessons learned? What do we do next? Where are our priorities now? What is best done on the local level?

**Format**

To be most effective, we could make the report the story of where we started with the plan, how it has evolved--a kind of journey, ending with what is ahead. We could discuss the creation of the goal, the context, what happened, the key next steps. NB: This idea, when presented, generated a lot of enthusiasm.

It could include case studies and anecdotes to make it come to life. Include things that didn't really work. We could again ask committee members to write up case studies and have them on line. Have stories related to particular measures. These could all be links.

Say something about the evolving science of climate change—what we know now that we didn't know when we started. Say something about adaptation.

There can be lots of links to information on the web site, while keeping the report itself readable.

We discussed using videos— maybe brief interviews with people. This could be very engaging. Questions were raised about whether/how this kind of thing could be housed on the city web site.

Notes on CPAC Metrics & Goals Session

August 12, 2010

Metrics

1. Lauren: Follow ICLE protocol (for municipal operations only?) - Does have guidance for community as well
2. Terry: Measure Oil, non-metered energy use particularly for buildings, metrics that compare growth (more buildings but they are more efficient)
3. Bill: Street lights are not metered! Captured in the total but not metered.
4. Continue to measure electricity and gas.
5. Measure (gas & electric) data at a finer granularity, with customers signing a waiver to permit anonymous participation.
6. Better categorize the data based on actual residential vs. commercial
7. Measuring construction based energy used.
8. Factor recycling into waste measurements (commercial recycling is not currently captured because of private haulers are not required to report)
9. Measure transmission line loss
10. Transportation measure gasoline sales
11. Measure aviation miles traveled. Should be able to do this for city employees.
12. Measure the percentage of our electricity usage that comes from renewable sources (including e.g. NStar Green program)
13. Measure the effectiveness of efficiency programs from e.g. MIT and Harvard
14. Measure energy user per capita and per square foot (residential)
15. Qualitative measures such as e.g. participation in energy efficiency projects, etc.
16. Look at peak use, load growth, where is that coming from.
17. Measure food and water production and use.
18. Integrate weather degree days, etc.
19. Measure relationship between density and other measures. E.g. transportation is directly related to density.

20. Annual survey to start to measure things like food, travel.

### Actions

1. Report on our 20 year results in 2011. Do we report annually after that every January. Maybe have 2 different numbers, one consistent with 1990 and one more current.
2. Push wind power in Mass. Give equal weight to community wind and absentee big wind.
3. Prioritize previous suggestions from Climate Congress and CPAC.
4. Get more effective at making sure that recommended actions are implemented.
5. Promote existing programs, available resources, raise awareness!
6. City carbon property under PACE.
7. Assess actions against global impacts, not just local impacts.
8. Identify most likely to succeed individual behavioral changes to recommend to people.
9. Make it easier to do building efficiency.
10. Make sure audited customers actually implement the recommendations. Through incentives.
11. Focus and assess a handful of key actions that have taking place over the last 20 years and what can we learn from that for going forward.
12. Pilot programs for business and residential improvements.

### Goals

1. Adopt the 80% goal by 2050 and add a base year and measure progress annually. Work backwards from 2050 to set interim goals.
2. Set interim goals
3. Decrease per capita emissions on a yearly basis
4. Quantify the emissions reductions of actions actually taken, e.g. stretch code vs. same building without stretch code
5. 100% renewable electricity usage in 20 years, annual progress tracking
6. Annual increase in building efficiency
7. Set sectoral goals, and goals by fuel type and then put annual goals on those

8. Reduce particulate emissions in Cambridge
9. Harmonize Cambridge with state goals.
10. Set goals we can actually achieve, including strategic actions and policies  
e.g. PACE and Stretch Code
11. 0% electricity from coal in 20 years
12. Adaptation goals based on vulnerability assessment.

*Notes taken by Quinton Zondervan*