

**City of Cambridge  
Climate Protection Action Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 11, 2012**

**Present:** Jackie Cefola (vice chair/acting chair), David Rabkin, Keren Schlomy, Terry Smith, Sarah Hill, Tom Page, Lauren Miller, Ted Live, Jan Dillon, Peter Crawley, Milton Bevington, Robyn Tsukayama, Kyle Greaves; *staff:* Susanne Rasmussen, John Bolduc

**Guests:** Lisa Scolaro & Kristen von Hoffmann, Cambridge School Department; Travis Sheehan; Chris Rowe

**1. ETP Director's Report**

- New member: Kyle Greaves(replacing Torrie Wolfe, representing the Urban Ecology Institute)
- Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment: Contract executed with Kleinfelder (team includes: Paul Kirshen - UNH, Merrill Enterprises – economic impacts, AMEC – Canadian water resources expert, Consensus Building Institute, ICLEI, Pat Kinney – Columbia University, others.)
- Hubway data/tracking – anecdotally getting positive feedback. City has a corporate membership – free for City employees. City still installing stations and there is continued interest from private companies. The City is actively expanding to the private sector.
  - Is there an initiative to expand bike lanes? Yes, it is a continuing effort as roads are improved. Binney Street will have separated bike lane. Does the state do much to train about bike awareness? Lots of interest from various groups – pushing the state. The state has a new bike initiative that may include such an effort.
  - Discussion regarding the need for improved driver's education to increase awareness of bicyclists.

**2. Election of Officers**

The Committee unanimously elected the following members to serve as officers:

- President: Quinton Zondervan
- Vice President: Jackie Cefola
- Secretary: Milton Bevington

**3. Approval of Minutes – September 13, 2012**

The Committee unanimously approved the minutes from the September meeting.

**4. Cambridge Public Schools & Climate Change**

*Objective: Discuss how climate change is addressed in the curriculum of Cambridge public schools and sustainability initiatives in the schools.*

Speakers: Lisa Scolaro & Kristen von Hoffmann, Cambridge School Department

Kristen von Hoffmann, Sustainability Manager, Cambridge Public Schools

- City felt there was a need to bring sustainability into departments, including the schools. Kristen works closely with Director of Facilities, COO, and Superintendent.
- 2012 Year in Review – available online; first time this is available to the public:  
[http://www3.cpsd.us/Schools/sustainability\\_report\\_2012](http://www3.cpsd.us/Schools/sustainability_report_2012)
  - Cambridge Green Schools Initiative (CGSI) – Operations, Practice, Programming
  - Operations and systems optimization for “PFEWG” (Products, Food, Energy, Waste, Greenspace). Allows for education for actionable steps.
  - Highlights:
    - Completed 12 energy projects since 2010. Saves \$300K annually. There are no energy savings guarantees from the contractors (not performance contracts).
    - 6 schools compost lunches
    - Weekly green tips
    - Green Hero award open to the entire school district (usually office staff/teachers).
    - Partnerships with NStar (rebates), DPW (recycling, composting, energy, etc), Food Services, CHA, CDD, CEA, etc.
  - Example/partner school districts: Denver, San Francisco, Portland. Worked with Harvard University.
  - How can CPS benchmark them compared to other schools? Ability to benchmark energy use, via Energy Star programs, but not in terms of a comprehensive sustainability measurement.
  - Do any of the schools qualify for Energy Star? No.
  - Will King School standard (net zero) be carried over to other school buildings? If not, how will CPS bring other school up to par? City is dedicated into King School and other buildings. City goal is to bring all schools up to par with King School.
    - Kristen is optimistic of increasing sustainability staff to enable further projects.
  - Is CPS now in a position to set sustainability goals? Goals would be useful; including higher standards (x% GHG reduction goal); issue is there is only 1 staff member to manage district-wide goals. Could use the help to figure out how to set and meet such goals.
    - Green Communities Act sets a 20% reduction goal, which includes CPS.
  - Do projects have a reasonable payback period? Yes, ask that there is at least a 5 year payback period. Not every project is cost neutral.
  - What is budgeting process like for raising funds for energy projects? Funding is often from Green Community Grant. Others are from capital budgets.
  - How do you prioritize attention? Part of responsibility is to save money; project with the greatest return rise to the top. Energy and waste generally become priorities.

- Do you think of organizational development overall, including helping CPS think of sustainability over all? Main goal – consistent results and progress to ensure office of sustainability continues.

Lisa Scolaro, K-12 Program Coordinator, Cambridge Public Schools (includes Life Science, Earth and Space, Physical Science, Technology and Engineering)

- Ties program to MA Science and Technology/Engineering Curriculum Framework.
- There are no climate change standards in the state yet. The Cambridge Rindge and Latin School has electives – ecology, AP environmental science, and other independent projects.
- New national landscape – what does it mean to be scientifically literate? This will inform MA and the nation.
- CPS, end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade term – Humans as a Force of Change? AKA - what does it mean to be a global citizen?
- National Science Foundation has new requirements for what students are expected to understand by the end of 5<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- MA – No new standards (Spring 2013). Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) – none yet. May include sustainability, climate change, engineering, technology.
- Opportunities for teachers to incorporate climate change at the end of each trimester (3 weeks)
- Unclear what the future is, but there are many opportunities.
- Discussion:
  - Often takes time to incorporate new curriculum – is the process becoming more efficient? Yes, in the terms that the standards take less time to write, but there is still controversy about what is taught.
  - How does K-12 education in climate change in US compare others? US does poorly regarding science and math; but MA does well. No information regarding climate change, sustainability, etc (no assessment available).
  - Are there communication mechanisms for teachers to share curriculums on climate change with others? If add new items to curriculum, what is being taken off? Discussion at the district level. Have teacher to teacher conversations to share across schools.
  - From lesson plans that have been done, how have the students reacted? Unclear; teachers are sensitive. Easier to track district wide, where possible.
  - Opportunities to share information with after school providers so it does not take away from science curriculum. CPS ran a workshop for after-school staff to develop coordinating programs as the opportunities arise (ex. biodiversity).
  - Are educational programs on consumer impact side or further structural issues? Much is about people having a roll of in environment (ex. humans now included in food pyramids). Likely coming with new technology standards.
  - How is sustainability really taught? Only in the science classes or in social classes? Topic is so new, it is difficult. Must link classes better so that students learn related

topics during the same years. What does lead in social coordinator think about this? She is new; no discussion at this point.

- How are parents involved in the curriculum discussions? Many interested parents; used in an advisory role and invite feedback. Actual writing of curriculum is left to the teachers.
- What is the crossover between the sustainability program and curriculum? Composting was a natural fit. Discussing how to adapt 7<sup>th</sup> grade energy curriculum. High school's energy club has done several sustainability-related projects.

#### 5. **September 13 CPAC Meeting follow-up**

*Objective: Discuss presentation on climate change and public health, and possible follow-up actions.*

- Had an idea there were health impacts, specifics were useful. We likely should not move forward before the Vulnerability Assessment is complete.
- Reassuring that our Public Health Department is thinking about how to combat issues. Great that there is a communication venue to discuss climate change (more neutral). Should consider this as we present the goals to the public? Currently there are not public health references in our goals statement. Must be careful with the links we draw – consider working with Sam Lipson on the message. Long history of communicating difficult information to people via the public health vehicle.
- What shape should public health take in our goals statement? Adaptation? Heat increases = heat mortality, morbidity, etc. Goals might include ensuring public is protected.
- No current follow-up items.

#### 6. **Report on alternative fuel vehicle subcommittee meeting** – Jackie Cefola, Milton Bevington, Tom Page, David Rabkin, John Bolduc (Follow-up to discussion from July 2012 committee meeting)

- Summary: Discussed primarily biofuels and supporting investments in new technologies. Objective was to think of further goals. As a committee, 2 focuses:
  - Investment in new technologies (Tom Page)
  - Use of biodiesel in coming years, including market mechanisms (Jackie Cefola)
- Next steps: Will draft a short paragraph to incorporate into the goals. First will be presented to subcommittee, then to broad committee. Hopeful to draft and circulate before November meeting.
- Discussion:
  - When is it a benefit to use a biofuel? Seems like it is best when using waste to create biofuel – is that still best? (v. recycling fuel). Worth stepping back to analyze – overall efficiency and reduction of energy in general is most likely to provide results.

- Cambridge needs to support transition. Specialized biofuels in the lab that do not compete with foods; must be careful with message so provide venue for these to make it to market – food-based biofuels may need to be used to establish the market.
- Did not discuss using fuels in Cambridge fleet because it was discussed at the July meeting. Did not identify specific goals for fleet. This is part of a broader discussion of reducing fuel use in vehicles (including more efficient fleet).

*Notes prepared by Lauren Miller*