

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE CLIMATE COMMITTEE

MARCH 20, 2025 | 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.
CITY HALL ANNEX, 344 BROADWAY & VIRTUAL

MINUTES

Committee Members: Mallorie Barber, Steven Nutter, Lyn Huckabee, Becky, Priya Mazumdar, Joel Nogic, Yi, Megan Lin, Hannah Rhodes, Meredith Stoddard, Anna Mezheritjkaya, Cynthia Hibbard, Wendy De Wolf, Ming Su

City Staff: Julie Wormser (Chief Climate Officer), Louisa Stevenson, Nikhil Nadkarni, Susanne Rasmussen

6:00PM: Intros by committee members and city staff:

- *General comments from Julie Wormser:* Cambridge has an opportunity to act sub-nationally (as a part of northeast leadership in climate).

Group Agreements:

- Discussed group agreements related to Participation, Facilitation, Decision Making, Communication, Time/ Energy/ Responsibilities, Logistics
- Provided opportunities for committee members to ask questions regarding group agreements and processes:
 - Q: Example of what constitutes time spent outside meetings.
 - A: participation in sub-committees, writing the annual letter
 - Q: For voting is there is an option to abstain.
 - A: Yes
 - Mallorie stated that Community engagement training will be implemented this year.
 - Susan R stated that the city is recruiting for Climate Action leaders. This program can be used to get new members up to speed.
 - Participation in sub committees: Members can bring in ideas about an important topic. Members can pitch idea for a sub-committee

Directors update

- There are three major planning docs:
 1. Net Zero Action plan for Buildings (gets updated every 5 years. Updates coming up this fall and will need community engagement)
 2. Net Zero transportation Plan – Document nearing completion
 3. Zero Waste Plan – being updated - City’s plan to reduce waste. Increase re use, recycle, composting
- Public Works Department/ City council Sub-committee is having a public hearing related to Zero Waste Plan on Tuesday, 3/25, 3-5 pm - In person and Hybrid.
Comments can be submitted after Tuesday. CCC can form a sub-committee to provide comments.

- Net Zero Transportation Plan recently had a meeting and is working on developing some smart goals.
- Concern about price of gas in press. Monday council meeting will include this on city managers agenda
- On Wednesday, 3/26: 2 – 6 pm at Senior Center, there is a session with Eversource to support anyone with high energy bills
- Earth month coming up. To be discussed in next meeting. Sustainable Cambridge website will be launched (Apr 14) – one place to look for everything that Cambridge is doing related to sustainability/ climate.
 - www.cambridgema.gov/sustainable
- Others:
 - Joel requested update on EJ efforts in Net Zero Transportation Plan
 - New members are encouraged to go to city council meetings

Resident Resources

- Nikhil introduced Natalie Reeder (Program Manager, All in Energy). All In Energy works with City of Cambridge on outreach, EJ, city programs
- Natalie presented slides related to ‘Cambridge Energy Alliance Programs’
- All in Energy conducts outreach efforts to engage people with energy efficiency.
- Programs discussed today focus on Residential and Small business buildings. Key vendors included in the slides.

Programs presented in the slides presented by All in Energy:

- Cambridge Energy Helpline (617 430 6230) – one stop shop to access Cambridge energy programs
- Electrify Cambridge: No cost consultation for short term projects and future goals for electrification (Quotes, vendor, financing programs)
- Mass Save: Utilities sponsor this program & provide incentives for energy efficiency measures
Mass Save is providing targeted outreach in underserved populations with the Community First Partnership program
- Cambridge Community Electricity: negotiates supply price for all electricity accounts in Cambridge
- Community Solar
- Resources available to renters: Home energy assessment, Cambridge Community electricity program, energy bill checkup, community solar

Q&A and Discussion:

- Q: How do you engage renters of large buildings or institutional landlords, such as university housing where lot of energy maybe wasted?
 - A: University buildings covered by BEUDO – largest buildings get to Net Zero by certain buildings. Institutions such as Harvard will implement their own policy
- Q: How are Mass Save programs communicated to the community?
 - A: Microgrants available for local block parties. All in Energy can show up and provide resources about sustainability measures.

- Q. Methods to help low-income communities engage with Mass Save programs?
 - A: All in Energy and the city has been continuing to engage, but it has been challenging.
- Q: Related to landlords – are there different outreach methods for different types of landlords – large/ small? Section 8 landlords?
- Joel requested more information about Cambridge Climate Leader.
- Julie provided an idea to spread the word about Mass Save programs. There can be a lottery prize to spread the word about better
- Q: Are there opportunities to employ behavior change methodologies?
- Q: Is negative feedback collected.
 - A: All In Energy collect feedback and implements changes when there is large negative feedback on a topic
- Discussion about Third party suppliers that can prey of vulnerable populations by offering electric bill savings. Committee operators can help inform neighbors about these scams.
- Q. Do you reach out to contractors/ vendors about the various programs?
 - A: All in Energy does not provide this service. City is trying to identify preferred vendors/ contractors.
- State level programs will be discussed next time

Member of Public Participation:

- Q: Any thoughts/ plans about big reduction in energy bill (such as geothermal deployment)?
 - A: Cambridge is following work being done by other communities. Such as community geothermal Framingham pilot. City is looking to what sites can be good places for community geothermal.
- Iselle Barios - MIT student stated that they are working on a feasibility study for a Harvard Geothermal project. They are looking for a City of Cambridge contact person for feedback. Nikhil offered to be the city contact
- Susan Murcott (Professor at MIT) was present – She discussed a new course on thermal energy networks. (Water and Wastewater expert).

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 pm

