

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE CLIMATE COMMITTEE

JUNE 12, 2025 | 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

CITY HALL ANNEX, 344 BROADWAY & VIRTUAL ([ZOOM LINK](#))

Attendees (IP - In Person, ON - Online) :

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Steven Nutter (CCCC, Chair) - IP | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Becky Fearing (CCCC Member) - IP |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Joel Nogic (CCCC, Vice Chair) - IP | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lucas Marino (CCCC Member) - ON |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hannan Rhodes (CCCC, Secretary) - Absent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meredith Stoddard (CCCC Member) - IP |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yi Jian (CCC Member) - IP | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Megan Lim (CCCC Member) - IP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Neheet Trivedi (CCC Member) - Absent | <input type="checkbox"/> Cynthia Hibbard (CCCC Member) - Absent |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rachel A. Mural (CCC Member) - Absent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anya Mezheritskaya (CCCC Member) - IP |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wendy DeWolf (CCC Member) - ON | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Priya Mazumdar (CCC Member) - IP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ming Su (CCC Member) - Absent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Nikhil Nadkarni (City of Cambridge) - IP |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Lyn Huckabee (CCC Member) - ON | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Susanne Rasmussen (City of Cambridge) - IP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tom Rawson (CCC Member) - Absent | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Julie Wormser (City of Cambridge) - IP |

Public & Guest Attendees:

- Becky Wilson (Public Guest - Zoom)

MINUTES

6:05 PM Welcome & Approval of Minutes (Steven Nutter)

- June minutes approved.

6:10 PM Deputy Chief's Update (Susanne Rasmussen)

- I. BEUDO reporting updates are ready to publish.
 - A. New requirements will kick-in in January 2026 for property owners.
 - B. City of Cambridge is working to establish a BEUDO review board.
- II. Cambridge is working on improving Heat Emergency response.
- III. City of Cambridge Solar Farm Construction Update
 - A. Solar Farm is underway in Illinois and will be online in 2026.
 - B. Cambridge is an investor into the solar farm, through purchase of offset credits. This supports development of clean electricity in the mid-west, while allowing Cambridge to claim carbon offsets.

6:27 PM Discussion of Measurement

- Impact: Keeping track of things that are hard to track
- Communicating measurements

Purpose: *Align with the committee's recommendations regarding the city's building retrofit actions.*

Outcome: *Summarized position of the committee*

Process:

1. *Before this week's meeting, review content from previous meetings & NZAP energy supply goals (residential, commercial, financing)*
 2. *Facilitated discussion in reaction to action items*
 3. *Identification of themes in the discussion*
 4. *Agree on next steps*
- I. Committee quickly reviewed content from June, 2025 meeting (presented by Tom)
- A. 3 Key Components of Decarbonization and Sustainable Impacts Measurement:
 1. NZAP
 2. Sustainability Dashboard
 3. GHG Inventory (2012-2024)
 - a) This is municipal data only.
 - b) Missing community GHG tracking.
 - B. NZAP
 1. Implementation:
 - a) Issued in 2015
 - b) Updated in 2023 with SMART Goals
 - c) Currently Being Re-evaluated (2025-26)
 2. Four Action Areas:
 - a) Energy Efficiency
 - b) New Construction
 - c) Energy Supply
 - d) Financing and Capacity Building
- II. Discussion Notes:
- A. MS: Recommend the City prioritize what is tracked and reviewed based on highest impact and most pressing needs. Can reviews happen quarterly?
 1. A: Some data is public, some data is internal.

- B. Q-JN: Can the Sustainability Dashboard website traffic be tracked?
Can we use website tools to understand public engagement?
- C. SR: Dashboards will be updated once a year.
- D. NN: NZAP is updated every 5 years.
- E. ML: Introduce consistency to reporting and dashboard updates.
For example, eerie year in June, etc, so the public knows when to expect updated information.
- F. JW: City is working to understand actual performance and energy use through data collection. BEUDO requirements to lower emissions and energy use over time is important mechanism for City to meet goals because requiring owners only record and share their energy use was not effective in reducing emissions.
- G. MS: Figure out a way to get residents the information, such as “Share the Peak” alerts, when there are heat waves, or in general. This will empower residents to make smarter choices if it’s compatible with their needs.
- H. JW: City is working on spreading the word about the Sustainable Cambridge website with more residents. For example, using ad/marketing space at BlueBike stations.
- I. Q: How do we make what we are doing at City of Cambridge Sustainable Cambridge more actionable and digestible for residents?
- J. JW: We should panic less and remember that our collective actions matter. CCCC Education Subcommittee to help engage the community in this work.
- K. SN: What is some human services data related to climate?
- L. JW: This is a good question in preparation for the Department Meeting in September. Ask all department leads how their work is affected by the climate.
- M. MS: How do we organize the website so that it brings visitors and the community back?

6:56 PM Planning for Department Meeting

- I. Context: The CCCC is inviting the Office of Sustainability leadership and various City Department leaders to attend the September CCCC meeting.
- II. Meeting Info:
 - A. Date: Thursday, September 11, 2025.
 - B. Location: Cambridge Senior Center, 806 Mass Ave, Cambridge, MA
 - C. Time: 6-8pm
- III. Open Discussion:
 - A. SR: The CCCC to prep questions and topics ahead of the meeting and share with the Office of Sustainability in order for leads to prepare responses. The City Manager will provide opening remarks.

- B. Departments invited to the September Meeting (not exhaustive list):
 - 1. DPW (Department of Public Works)
 - 2. Transportation
 - 3. Capital Building
 - 4. ISD (Inspectional Services Department)
 - 5. Water
 - 6. Health Department
 - 7. Human Services
- C. JW: Recommends asking more immediate questions rather than long term ones.
 - 1. i.e. Talk about your department is affected by extreme weather, federal funding and policy changes?
- D. WD: Favorite part of last year's meeting is learning how each department is affected by climate change.

IV. Guided Post-It Exercise (Led by Steven Nutter)

- A. Prompt: Brainstorm answers to the following 3 questions in preparation for the Department Meeting in September.
 - 1. What is the single most important outcome you want for the meeting?
 - 2. How can we best structure the meeting time? We will have 2 hours total.
 - 3. How do we get the department leaders to feel like the meeting will matter, or make an important impact?
- B. Question 1 Responses:
 - 1. The Department leads will see the CCCC as a resource, not an antagonist.
 - 2. Understand their biggest obstacles to getting more work done.
 - 3. Understand how latest Federal Bill impacts their work.
 - 4. What changes do they wish to see in public behavior and how CCCC can support this.
 - 5. Everyone walking out of the meeting with clarity and transparency regarding what each department is doing.
 - 6. What do they see as the biggest opportunities and challenges when it comes to addressing climate change.
 - 7. What are their top competing priorities?
- C. Question 2 Responses:
 - 1. Have name tags.
 - 2. Send prepared questions ahead of the meeting.
 - 3. Have an ice-breaker speed round of introductions at the beginning.

4. Possibly break out into smaller groups for discussions.
5. First half of the meeting is presentations, the second half is discussions.
6. Setup individual interviews with each department leader prior or post the meeting to introduce ourselves and prime the discussion.

D. Question 3 Responses:

1. Understand the role that we each play in the big picture.
2. Build a stronger relationship between CCCC and the City Department leaders.

E. Steven Nutter collected all Post-Its from brainstorming exercise.

F. Committee Chairs will lead meeting preparation (Steven & Joel)

1. Steven & Joel to facilitate the meeting.
2. Prepare initial list of questions; share with the rest of CCCC for review and comment.
3. Final questions to be shared with the City Department Leads two weeks prior to 9/11/225 meeting.

G. Examples of Questions from Last Year's (2024) meeting:

1. What is the City doing toward addressing climate change?
2. How well is the City setup to tackle climate change?
3. Is the City setup to be science forward?

H. Some possible Questions that were discussed during prep meeting:

1. How can Cambridge be a leader in addressing climate change?
2. What are your department's wishes?
3. What are your department's fears?

V. CCCC Action Item:

- A. Review department meeting notes from last year to prepare for the September meeting.**

7:46 PM Education Subcommittee Update (Anna Mezheritskaya & Megan Lim)

- I. See attached Education Sub-committee Overview document.
 - A. [Education Sub-Committee Overview](#)
- II. Open Discussion Notes:
 - A. Rename sub-committee as "Community Engagement Committee" instead of education.
 - B. Noted that the sub-committee should more closely review the NZAP and align goals accordingly.

- C. Noted recommendation for the sub-committee to partner with the public library locations in Cambridge.
 - 1. Great place to hold meetings and to leverage newsletter reach within the community.
- D. Noted recommendation to identify and visit local community centers and to interview/engage people there.

III. Please complete initial survey by Friday, 7/25:

- A. [CCCC Edu Subcommittee - Initial Questionnaire - Google Form](#)

7:58 PM Public Comment and Member Updates

- No additional member updates.
- No public comments.

8:00 PM Adjournment

CCC 2025 Agenda Planning

Note: Past & Completed Meetings are in *grey italics*. Proposed Changes are in ***bold italics***.

Date	Key Topic (~60 min)	Supporting Topics (~40 min)
<i>Jan 9, 2025</i>	<i>Energy Supply - Discussion</i>	<i>2024 Reflection</i>
<i>Feb 13, 2025</i>	<i>Financing - Education</i>	<i>2025 Planning</i>
<i>Mar 13, 2025</i>	<i>Resident Resources - Education</i>	<i>Earth Month Plans</i>
<i>Apr 10, 2025</i>	<i>BEUDO - 45 minutes</i>	<i>Officer/leadership overview & sub-committee selection (voting in May) - 15 minutes Zero waste plan - 45 minutes City Manager Debrief - 10 minutes Director update (share April events)</i>
<i>May 8, 2025</i>	<i>Building Resources - Discussion - 60 minutes</i>	<i>Review agenda approach & ask committee to provide input - 10 minutes Admin - email mgmt. Director updates - 10 minutes Officer Elections - 20 minutes Pre-Reads: • <i>Financing slides</i></i>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resident Resources slides • BEUDO slides • Sustainable Cambridge press release
Jun 12, 2025	Measurement - Education GHG Inventory approach	Community engagement 101 approach discussion Department Meeting Prep - assign sub-committee Pre-Read: NZAP Letter
Jul 10, 2025	Department Meeting Prep	Measurement Discussion
Aug 14, 2025	SUMMER BREAK	-
Sep 11, 2025	Department Meeting	
Oct 9, 2025	Presentation by Cambridge Community Engagement Team (CCET)	Department Meeting Follow Up
Nov 2025	Resilient Cambridge Review - Education	
Dec 2025	Thermal Energy Network Update MIT presentation from Megan Lim meganlim@mit.edu	

For Reference:

What is the role of the Climate Committee?

The Climate Committee has three roles that help the City reduce climate change impacts, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase equity, and serve as a partner to and example for other communities:

- 1. Provide feedback and ideas to the City on ways to reduce and live with climate change while prioritizing the needs of the most at-risk populations.*
- 2. Share information about City climate programs with community members, listen to community concerns, and raise feedback with City staff so programs effectively serve all community members.*
- 3. Stay informed about the City's climate goals and provide accountability and feedback on barriers and opportunities to improve effectiveness.*

Officer Section of Bylaws

Officers will be elected on an annual basis. Elections will take place in September of each year unless the Committee decides otherwise.

Chair

The chair shall be responsible for setting the agenda in coordination with City staff, for facilitating meetings, for organizing Committee work program and subcommittees in coordination with City staff, and for signing Committee correspondence.

Vice Chair

The vice chair shall assist the chair in his/her duties and fill in for the chair in his/her absence.

Secretary

The secretary shall be responsible for meeting minutes and attendance records.