

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE CLIMATE COMMITTEE (APPROVED)

SEPTEMBER 11, 2025 | 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.

CAMBRIDGE SENIOR CENTER, 806 MASS AVE. & VIRTUAL ([ZOOM LINK](#))

AGENDA

Time	Topic	Facilitator
6:00 - 6:05	Overview of Agenda	Steven Nutter, Chair
6:05 - 6:20	Standing Speed Introductions <i>Two rounds of small group standing introductions, 2 minutes each. Each group will have the City Manager or one department head, plus 1-2 CCC members.</i>	Joel Nogic, Vice Chair
6:20 - 6:35	Committee and Department Introductions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CCC: Name, neighborhood, how long on CCC, one other group affiliation• Dept: Name, department, role, how long working for City	
6:35 - 6:45	City Manager Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acknowledgement of generational challenge of climate change and of cultural change in Cambridge• Needed progress in grid infrastructure and how the city needs to cooperate and support in being efficient and effective for projects to move forward	
6:45 - 7:30	Department Share Outs	Steven Nutter
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Office of sustainability<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Focus on collaboration with multi department projects and policy• Department of Human Services<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Increase awareness to droughts and adopting for the changing climate○ Focuses on equity supporting low income or lower skilled residence.○ Supporting young people on the green pathway jobs with workforce development• Community development<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Institutionalize sustainability in all of their work by planning growth while being efficient with resources○ Looking at open space for building natural disaster mitigation.○ Passed resilient zoning plan for taking into account climate change and warming coverage○ Just passed multifamily zoning and how to protect solar radiation potential• Department of Water<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Looking for opportunity for increasing protection of water shed and reservoirs○ Recently purchased 31 acres to protect trees and watershed.○ Working on another 70 acre purchase along the hobbsbrooke○ Working on youth education program to teach○ Volunteer invasive species removal program.	

- Added solar panel on water treatment plants.
- Added electrical vehicle charging stations.
- Public Works
 - 2019 Zero waste master plan for solid waste.
 - Curbside compost plan has been rolled out
 - Standardizes trash cards and has reduced trash collection by 34%
 - 2023 diverted more trash than was sent.
 - Compost program is becoming mandatory
 - Expanded tree watering program.
 - Clean Fleet program to reduce green house gas as by 24% for a target of 100% 2035
- Inspectional Services
 - Identifying how the added requirements affect the timelines of projects.
 - Support open spaces and cool zone construction
 - Met to prepare for the Fossil fuel free zoning, found a lack of understanding and possible education on the builders/architects
 - Added material to the front desk to educate.
- Department of Transportation
 - Focus on making it safer for biking and walking, more people out of their cars the better.
 - Bike count is highest its ever been, larger than pre-pandemic
 - 46% of blue bike ridership is near transport stations.
 - Finishing the next phase of single bike lanes in the next few years.
 - Seeing the change have push back.
- Department of Education
 - Built three new schools to more efficient building practices to lower lifetime energy use.
 - Giving learning experiences to each student about reducing energy consumption and how the building implements it.
 - Implemented recycling and composting programs in each school while teaching about those programs.
 - Support environmental clubs and programs around the schools.
 - Seen increase in public transportation and biking to schools. Implementing MBTA passes for upper class students.
 - Implement food sourcing programs to lower carbon and transportation time
- Department of Construction projects
 - Making sure resilience is taking into account with building planning and construction.
- Department of Public health
 - Focuses on building social resilience.
 - Top 5 threats to MA is climate related
 - Educating the public on preparing with heat and overheating threats.
 - Challenge is to stay focused on specific programs with pushback

Each Department Head will have around 4 minutes to speak about their work on our shared climate goals:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the Net Zero Action Plan or other means
- Increase climate resilience
- Engage and educate everyone (residents, workers, students, etc.) on climate issues and solutions
- Integrate and achieve equity in the above

In their remarks, they will share at least one success and at least one challenge for your department around one or more of these goals.

Their answers could include one or both of the following:

- Something they've learned from a climate initiative their department has taken, even if it didn't go as planned.
- How has their department collaborated with other city departments, including the Office of Sustainability and the Climate Committee, and/or Cambridge institutions/organizations to achieve these goals? What partnerships could be useful in the future?

7:30 - 7:55 Open discussion

Joel Nogic

- Office of Sustainability focusing on making solar more affordable. Looking to see how thermal networks could be a possible application for Cambridge. Push on community aggregation electrical rates.
- Ridge school of chemical arts in career and vocational school within the highschools. Partnering with minuteman tech. Green Job ordinance passed in 2023: Focuses on equity to support residents to access jobs. Added a green jobs specialist and educate residence.
- Q: What projects and programs did not work? CM: Tried to implement the best ideas they can. Discuss multiple pathways
- Q: How would you interact with higher education institutions.: Worked with PhD students to pilot projects and research such as water loss sensors.
- Q: Is there work on traffic signal timing, Where is data on timeline for bike lanes.: Data will be released at the end of 2025. Signal timing is made to optimize pedestrian traffic.

7:55 - 8:00 Public Comment

Steven Nutter