
Climate Crisis Working Group
Meeting #5

Agenda

Wednesday, November 17th

- Meeting 4 Summary (5 minutes)
- Review Overall Goals and urgency (5-10 minutes)
- Review BEUDO draft amendments (35 minutes)
  - Presentations from CDD (Seth) and Margery Davies
- Other Initiatives to cover (5-10 minutes each)
  - Audrey - HEET
  - Carol Lee - Transportation
- Smaller action items. Expected outcome: recommend priorities for action. Teams discuss in breakout rooms, select and elaborate on small action items to recommend (45 minutes)
- What are we missing, snapshot of next meeting's goals and homework (5 minutes)

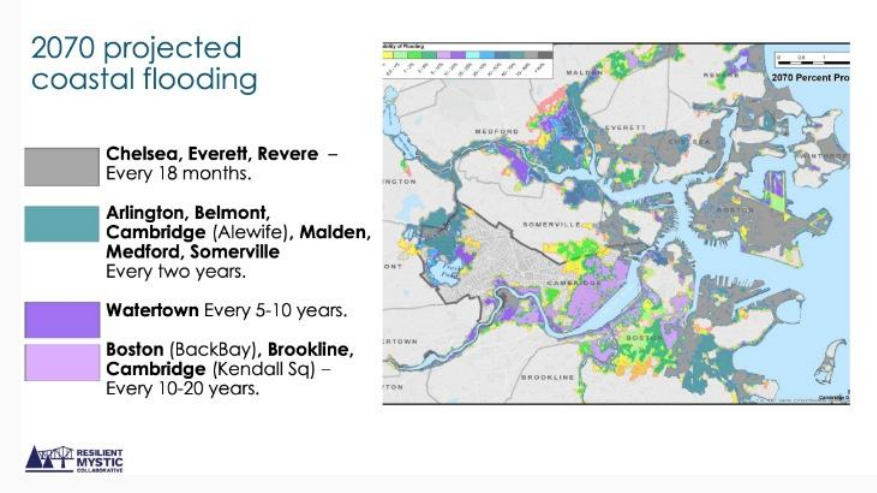
Meeting 4 Summary

- Top idea pitch
- Voted on top 3-5 ideas - discussed in groups
  - Transportation
  - Cambridge Community Electricity Program
  - Off-site solar
- Created action plan for top 3-5 ideas in breakout rooms
  - [To be included in report]

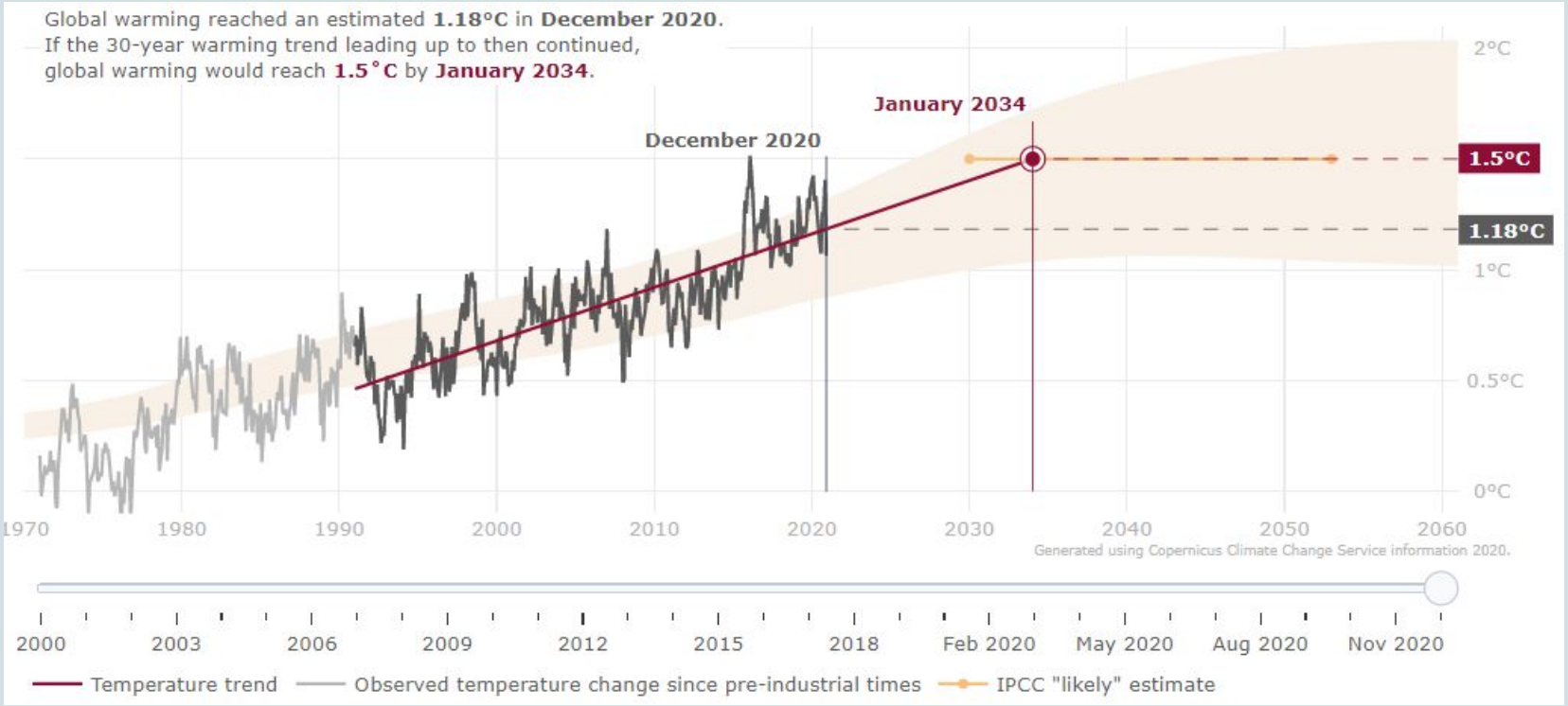
Increased Urgency

- World already warmed 1.1 degrees, on track for 2 degree increase with dire consequences especially for frontline communities.
  - For Cambridge => deadly heat waves, floods, sea level rise encroaching on neighborhoods, extreme weather events, etc.

- Most actual results and impacts are proving that the worst case scenarios are likely
- COP26 takeaways - 1.5 degree “lifeline”
  - 200 countries agreed to the Glasgow Climate Pact
    - Despite warnings - many compromises amid calls to actions and deep concern.



Code Red for Humanity - *UN Antonio Guterres*



Source

Continuing with no intervention, we will reach point of no return in ~12 years. Current intervention is not strong enough - will only delay us reaching the 1.5 degree threshold

Cambridge needs to be a leader

Stated city-wide GHG goals not in line with council resolution of 2017 or state law

Updating City Emissions Reduction Goals

2017 City Council Policy Order: "That the City Council go on record supporting a goal of using 100% clean and renewable energy in Cambridge, *including in building energy use* and transportation, by 2035." - unanimously adopted 4/24/17

State Climate Roadmap Law: (passed March 2021)

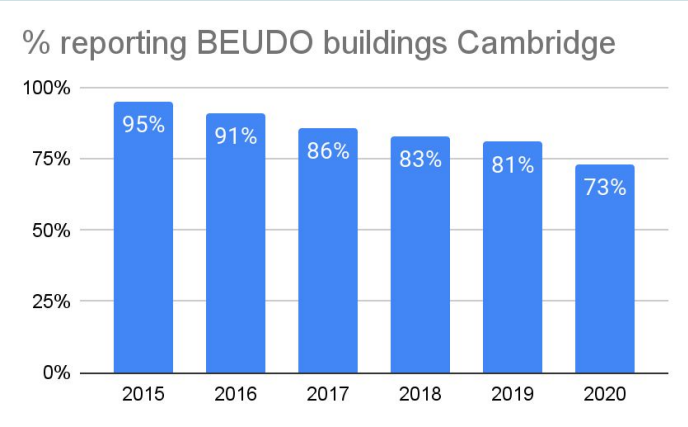
- 50% reduction below 1990 levels by 2030
- 75% reduction from 1990 by 2040
- Net zero by 2050

Current stated city goal is net zero by 2050

- Goal uses 2012 emissions as a baseline
- Interim goals often promised and not set
- Goals often not met in the past, a key reason the CCWG was formed.

BEUDO Amendments: enough to meet our goals?

Some signs that BEUDO insufficient to ensure scale of change needed - compliance declining.



Since 2014, emissions trended in the wrong direction per BEUDO infographic 2019 v. 2020

	emissions	energy use/SF
2019	-12%	-6%
2020	-6%	-2%

State law: 50% reduction from 1990 levels. Cambridge emissions went up since 1990 => need at least a 60% reduction from current emissions by 2030 (more if Cambridge wants to be a true leader)

BEUDO = about half of city emissions (80% of emissions are buildings, BEUDO about ⅔ of building emissions => half of citywide emissions)

=> IF BEUDO buildings reduce by 60% by 2030, every other part of city emissions also have to reduce by 60% to meet overall goal. (And all new buildings have to be zero emissions immediately.)

If other areas won't reduce as quickly, it means relying on BEUDO to deliver sooner => MORE than a 60% reduction.

Yet Draft amendments only 40% reduction by 2030 and no fossil fuel ban on new buildings

BEUDO - Seth present

BERDO compared to BEUDO

BEUDO draft: questions/recommendations

- Given city goals, will BEUDO timeline get us where we need to be?
  - make the timeline shorter for the actions, since 40% reduction by 2030 for existing buildings is not enough
- Establish the baseline for all buildings in line with Boston - to meet by 2025 - on a per square foot basis
- Consider using the Boston chart on emissions standards and accelerate the timeline to end at zero emissions by 2040 not 2050 each period is 2-3 years instead of 5 years
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BEUDO draft: questions/recommendations

- Alternative compliance payments must be enough above cost to remediate that owners have strong incentive to remediate.
- Require all new buildings (covered under BEUDO and not) be fully electrified immediately, with no grace period
- Include all residential buildings with >15 units in BEUDO.
- All buildings, including labs should have to comply with same timeline. Affordable housing generally complies already - no exceptions.

Message of Hope

Ithaca just voted to decarbonize every building in the city.

> Ithaca's common council voted unanimously in favor of this latest move, which is part of the broader Green New Deal that the city approved in 2019. That measure calls for the city government to meet all of its electricity needs with renewable energy by 2025, as well as reduce its vehicle emissions by half. Most ambitiously, though, it set a goal of being a carbon-neutral city by the end of the decade.

Source

Cambridge is bigger than Ithaca, but we can have similar goals:

- Electrification of all buildings by 2035 (a decade after Ithaca, in line with 2017 Council goal)
- Net zero earlier than 2050 (Ithaca's goal is 2030)

Short Ted talks

- Audrey on HEET
- Transportation - Carol Lee

For Next Time

- Homework
- What should CCWG's end product look like?
- Anything we missed?