Overarching Working Group Recommendations to NZ Task Force

“Overarching” simply refers to recommendations that were common to all working groups and not specific to any one group

1.0 CREATE FEEDBACK LOOP TO TRACK PROGRESS OVER TIME, EVALUATE & MAKE MID-COURSE CORRECTIONS AS NEEDED.

1.1 Adopt data platform to create a baseline, develop projections of savings based on recommendations and track progress and effectiveness over time (evaluation will be ongoing).

1.2 Appoint an entity that functions as a think tank and provides oversight and accountability for implementing the program over time. Think tank would continue exploration, analysis and continuous learning. (Compact or CPAC might be appropriate)

2.0 ENGAGING UTILITY ISSUES

2.1 Address barriers to achieving energy goals: includes interconnection, grid capacity, use of cogen/CHP, microgrid, emergency load shedding, reliability, etc. This includes engaging DPU, DOE, ISO NE and utilities.

2.2. Develop new MOUs with utility: to target specific outcomes in different sectors. City has already engaged in a new MOU targeting multifamily buildings. City will determine targets and priorities in other sectors and explore opportunities for additional MOUs.

3.0 EXPAND CAPACITY AND CAPABILITIES OF CITY STAFF & COMMUNITY OVER TIME

3.1 Identify staff needs and resources to support new programs over time: develop the capacity and capabilities of staff in various departments responsible for implementation and create high visibility for these efforts.

3.2 Identify any 3rd party resources needed: to support program development and execution.

3.3 Develop training/education programs for staff: so they are best prepared to support new programs.

3.4 Work with community to support education and resource needs that build capacity to design, build and operate towards net zero (the intention of this is to address the need for support outside of City staff, although it is unclear what the City’s role would be)

4.0 ENGAGE IN ADVOCACY AT THE REGIONAL AND FEDERAL LEVELS.

4.1 Formulate an advocacy agenda (and plan) to further the issues relating to clean energy: these include a range of related issues from PACE financing to carbon tax programs and resiliency. Create a legislative and advocacy agenda that's collective, based on collaboration with BSA, MassBio, MAPC, and others. Partner with other cities for stronger leverage. (connect
w groups nationally that are promoting solar and lobbying NSEA) there’s a district energy one as well. (CLF, ELM, NRDC)

5.0 EVALUATE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A “CAMBRIDGE ENERGY ALLIANCE 3.0

5.1 New purpose for CAE: Building on lessons learned, evaluate the potential of developing a new version of the Cambridge Energy Alliance to address cross-cutting needs identified in the working groups.