

City of Cambridge

CLIMATE PROTECTION ACTION COMMITTEE

Minutes

June 8, 2017

City Hall Annex

Attendees: Lauren Miller (chair), Johanna Jobin (vice chair), Sarah Mandlebaum (secretary), Olga Faktorovich, Rosalie Anders, Tom Chase, Keith Giamportone, Brian Goldberg, Lyn Huckabee, Ted Live, David Rabkin, Marguerite Reynolds, Keren Schlomy, Quinton Zondervan; *staff:* Bronwyn Cooke, John Bolduc

Guests: Chris Rhie (Buro Happold), Nathalie Beauvais (Kleinfelder)

Approval of Minutes

Quinton Zondervan motion to approve minutes. Minutes for April 13th and May 11th approved.

ETP Director Report

- Response to Trump's pull out of Paris Agreement, Cambridge has made a pledge for climate commitment. Harvard and MIT made similar research pledge.
- Update on Envision Cambridge- next meeting June 19th, Christopher Nielson is CPAC liaison. First working group meeting was one month ago for goal setting. Notes are available on the Envision Cambridge website.

Community GHG Inventory

- Consultant from Kleinfelder to present preparedness plan. Coordinating with Envision Cambridge.
- Started from Global Covenant of Mayors. Bronwyn Cooke (BC) presented overview of the inventory. Harvard and MIT included in the inventory but in some instances we don't have their exact reporting. Eversource is included in the inventory CHP reports to the flight database and not metered by Eversource. Only Cambridge portion of Harvard is counted. Vehicle Use counted are for vehicles registered in Cambridge. Not vehicles passing through Cambridge or ending outside of Cambridge. Municipal vehicles are better accounted for in municipal measurements, not general vehicle use. Waste emissions have good data for waste collected by DPW but less good for commercial waste. Composting requirements or voluntary measures by commercial waste is not accurately captured right now. Majority of emissions from solid waste is from Landfill from methane emissions.
- MAPC growth forecast used for growth rate. Emission forecast with BAU + city and state initiatives still show that to get to net zero, Cambridge still has additional work to do and things to learn from our consultants. BC hasn't been able to find another city to compare how Cambridge is doing with current CO2 emissions. Per capita, Cambridge comes out on the higher side but that doesn't capture all the data. Group had discussion about measuring emissions for redline vs. vehicle trips that end outside of Cambridge. Issue discussed whether we should be putting more

effort into areas where city can make a difference or should we be seeking the most accurate data possible.

- Discussion of how we connect data with actions in climate action plan and emissions inventory.

Climate Action Plan

- Process was started last month. There are three options for the vision statement. Objectives start with question of “Why now?” Goal is to address the gap from state and city initiatives and where we need to be. Envision and Net Zero and Climate Action Plan should merge together but Envision is an umbrella. CAP process is engagement, analysis, and planning. Parallel efforts in the city reviewed to tap into key words and considerations for visions statement. Options A concentrates on carbon neutrality, Option B meant to focus on process, Option C is values driven.
- QZ wants to incorporate carbon negativity into our vision, not just carbon neutrality. Group members gave opinions about whether there should be a time (2050) in the vision statement. Should the vision also think beyond Cambridge, city should be providing methodologies that other communities can adopt. RA though option B could talk about “destructive effects” in terms of mitigation and adaptation. DR preferred Option A or C could work if carbon neutrality “and beyond” is included. KS didn’t like the wording “ambitious.” TC thought its important to reduce carbon emission for a more livable world (and not just for the sake of reduction.)
- OF asked who the audience for the mission statement. Ultimate goal is to get this adopted by the city council. BC said it can’t just be the city’s vision but it needs buy in from the community.
- TL agreed with adding going beyond carbon neutrality and being a model. RA thought it “matters” what happens in Cambridge is that it is a place that attracts leadership. LH thought it was important to move the political will as part of influencing other communities. BC asked if statements could capture less measurable emissions (food we buy, products we buy from outside of Cambridge but with a carbon impact) through procurement processes to be a leader of how Cambridge’s action affect carbon emission beyond the city’s borders. JJ wanted to think bigger in terms of the vision statement and from the options, C is closest to getting there.
- One goal would be to get feedback from CPAC to get the blueprint for the vision statement and then get feedback from stakeholder groups.
- OF suggested including governance into vision statement to look at how budget is allocated.
- Net Zero doesn’t have a vision statement but has a definition. Envision Cambridge does have a vision statement (sustainability is where it overlaps with climate protection).
- Next step- working group is going to take a stab at integrating comments from meeting into the next draft of the vision statement.
- Cambridge is also looking into offset projects if neutrality can’t be reached internally.
- CAP is the overarching plan for all things mitigation (but not preparedness.)
- Cambridge plan and Harvard and MIT plans should also be in line with each other.

Climate Protection Goals & Objectives

- BC: Does it make sense to update goals and objectives and develop a CAP at the same time? We should flag any of our G&O that doesn’t fit into the CAP. The plan will supersede the G&Os of CPAC as the G&O will be rolled into CAP.

Officer elections

- Sarah Mandlebaum's last meeting is today so we will need a new secretary. John reviewed roll of the different officers.

Member Reports

Quentin Z.

- Green Cambridge.org. June 17th installation in Davis Square, June 22- annual meeting at the Community Farm on Hurley Street in East Cambridge.

Keith G.

- Attended Canadian Green Building Conference. Recommended Third Industrial Revolution book.

Rosalie A.

- Urge the state to divest state pension funds from fossil fuels.

Notes by Marguerite Reynolds