

CPAC Meeting

September 9, 2021

Present: Melissa Chan (chair), Steven Nutter (vice chair), Tom Chase (secretary), Peter Crawley, David Rabkin, Julie Wormser, Keith Giamportone, Keren Schlomy, Lauren Miller, Lyn Huckabee, Nicole Morell, Rosalie Anders, Ted Live, Trisha Montalbo, Paula Phipps, Jerrad Pierce; *staff:* Susanne Rasmussen, Seth Federspiel, John Bolduc

Guests: Alex Steinbergh, Ann Stewart, Diana Jelescu, Elizabeth Kline, Joseph Knee, Sara Gardner, Melissa Ludtke

Approval of minutes – July 8, 2021

Motion to accept minutes—Jerrad, Peter motioned, passed unanimously

ETP Director's Report

1. Last week they submitted a E For The Future (NGO)—electrification of transportation sector. Submitted grant application to work with Cambridge and other transportation NGOs to Mass CEC to run an e-bike voucher program. This involves the ability to give out vouchers for purchasing bikes, trikes and e-cargo bikes from local bike shops to people meeting income eligibility requirements and be willing to take classes in operating them. Also wrote a letter of support for Boston/MAPC for an e-cargo program in Allston/Brighton. If get the grant, will start in the spring. If already meet SNAP/WIC requirements, will automatically qualify.
2. September 21st—emissions accounting/carbon fee bill filed by Councillor Zondervan on the City Council. New projects would have to calculate lifetime and embodied carbon and pay fee based on their carbon footprint.
3. Rolling out pilot EV charging stations on residential streets (developed by Bronwyn)—four locations—all in resident permit parking zones adjacent to city parks. Raymond Park, behind Peabody School on Pemberton Street, one in Cambridgeport, and one in The Port. She gets a lot of emails on this—high level of interest noted! They expect to do more of these when they do major street reconstruction projects (like on River Street coming up).

Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) Update (Seth, Peter)

Peter—we don't have enough time today to write a letter to the City Council, but could draft to approve at October meeting.

Seth—City has been writing up Net Zero Task Force discussion and recommendations into a report to present to City Council. June—first draft. July—reviewed draft. August—wrote second draft. Now reviewing and hopefully finalized. Sent out August draft to CPAC. Will send around to NZTF and will incorporate their and our comments to present at November City Council meeting.

Peter—Seth, please walk through priority action table:

Seth—structure of NZAP—original structure on the left, adjusted is on the right (see below)

- Streamline plan
- Focus on most impactful actions
- Not being carried forward—actions that apparently aren't legal and admin steps that are no longer needed

- Added embodied carbon, enhancing access to community solar and off-site renewables (e.g., community aggregation program)
- Lab standards rolled into new construction action (2.1)

Recommended NZAP Adjustments to Actions

2015 NZAP	Recommended Adjustments for the 2021 NZAP Update
Action 1 Energy Efficiency	Action Area 1: Energy Efficiency in Existing Buildings
1.1.1 Custom Retrofit Program	Action 1.1 Custom Retrofit Program for Residential (up to 50 units) and Small Commercial
1.1.2 Additional BEUDO Requirements	Action 1.2 BEUDO Requirements
1.1.3 Upgrades at Time of Renovation	Action 1.2.1 BEUDO Performance Requirements
1.1.4 Operation and Maintenance Plans for New Const.	Action 1.2.2 BEUDO Resource Hub
Action 2 Net Zero New Construction	Action 1.3 Upgrades at Transaction Points
2.1 Net Zero New Construction	Action Area 2: Net Zero New Construction
2.2 Net Zero Incentives	Action 2.1 Net Zero Requirements for New Construction
2.2.1 Market-based Incentives	Action 2.2 Address Embodied Carbon through Green Building Requirements *NEW*
2.2.2 Height and FAR Bonus	Action 2.3 Net Zero Requirements for Municipal Buildings
2.3 Increase Green Building Requirements	Action Area 3: Low Carbon Energy Supply
2.4 Net Zero New Construction for Municipal Buildings	Action 3.1 Carbon Free Thermal Energy
2.5 Removal of Barriers to Increased Insulation	Action 3.2 On-site Renewable Electricity Access
Action 3 Energy Supply	3.2.1 Rooftop Solar Requirement
3.1 Low Carbon Energy Supply	3.2.2 Community Solar Access *NEW*
3.2 Rooftop Solar Ready Requirement	Action 3.3 Off-site Renewable Electricity Access *NEW*
3.3 Develop a MOU with Local Utilities	Action Area 4: Financing and Capacity Building
Action 4 Investigate Local Carbon Fund	Action 4.1 Local Carbon Fund and Community Aggregation
Action 5 Engagement and Capacity Building	
5.1 Communications Strategy	
5.2 Develop Ongoing Capacity to Manage the NZAP	
5.3 Net Zero Lab Standards	

It's challenging to include renters when landlords lack a financial incentive to convert.

Next steps: NZTF will partner with others (e.g., CPAC) and Cambridge climate plans, as well as state-wide players/standards—e.g., DOER, MassSave, building codes, renewable portfolio standards.

Net Zero Task Force Priorities by Action

Cambridge Net Zero Action Plan Date: May 27, 2021

Adjusted Actions Ratings by Various Metrics of Interest

Action number	Type	Action	**GHG Impacts Rating	**Resilience Rating	**Other Co-benefits Rating	Summed Benefits Ratings	*Avg Score (Consider.it Poll)	***Equity Rating	TF Adjusted Ranking
1.2		Action 1.2 BEUDO Requirements	3	2	2	7	80	Flagged	1
4	Enabling	Action 4 Local Carbon Fund (Aggregation 3.0)	3	3	3	9	64	Positive	2
3.3	New	Action 3.3 Off-site Renewable Energy Access	3	1	2	6	62	Flagged	3
1.4	New & Enabling	Action 1.4 Financing and Capacity Building	3	1	2	6	36	Positive	4
2.1		Action 2.1 Net Zero Requirements for New Construction	2	3	2	7	71	Flagged	5
2.5	New	Action 2.5 Embodied Carbon Management	1	2	1	4	30	Neutral	6
1.3		Action 1.3 Upgrades at Transaction Points	2	3	3	8	39	Flagged	7
1.1		Action 1.1 Custom Retrofit Program	1	3	3	7	6	Positive	8
3.1		Action 3.1 Low Carbon Energy Supply	1	3	1	5	47	Positive	9
3.2		Action 3.2 On-site Renewable Energy Access	1	3	3	7	70	Neutral	10
3.2.1	Enabling	Action 3.2.1 Rooftop Solar Requirement	1	3	3	7	49	Flagged	11
2.3		Action 2.3 Increase Green Building Requirements	1	2	3	6	33	Flagged	12

Notes:

- *Avg. Score (Consider.it Poll): Average priority score given in Consider.it by TF members
- **GHG Impact, Resilience and Other Co-benefits rated 1-3 with 3 having the highest positive impact, and 1 having lowest impact
- ***Equity ratings: Positive > Action having a positive impact, Neutral > Actions that have neither positive or negative impact, Flagged > Needs work
- "N/A" indicates that that Action is enabling or supporting emissions reductions in another Action

Priority table looks at tradeoffs among different actions within resource scarcity. Weighted by relative GHG impact (3 is highest), resilience co-benefits, other co-benefits. Also polled taskforce members and

reviewed for equity considerations. Flagged = need to be carefully designed to avoid increasing inequitable impacts. Still working on an evaluation on what all of these actions will achieve. Keying reductions to what IPCC says we need to achieve. Discussion of BEUDO performance requirements—ranked #1, buildings in Cambridge 80% of GHG emissions, large buildings are responsible for 60-70% of Cambridge GHG emissions—lots of bang for buck. Working to refine BEUDO proposal to take to City Council. They wanted update on this proposal by September 23rd meeting. Been working with property owners, city staff, and legal department to refine BEUDO proposal. Meeting with all BEUDO property owners Sept 21st to present update. Requirements:

- Reduce emissions on a % basis from baseline for each building (2018/19)
- Buildings would have to reduce by 20% by 2025, maintain through 2029
- 40% below between 2030-2034, 60% between 2035-2039 until zero.
- Labs get more time up front to comply, but catch up to same deadline.

Could BEUDO be expanded to smaller buildings? No proposal, but there is draft language to review policy in five years.

Equity rating—what are issues with BEUDO? If those buildings must be upgraded, costs will be passed on to tenants, decreasing housing affordability. Could overcome through an alternative compliance pathway (e.g., PILOT to pay for reductions in affordable housing projects). Would that be based on 1:1 emissions reduction? Proposing to adopt Boston methodology—set price per ton for carbon reduction.

Pace of emission reductions—state is for emissions from all sources; BEUDO is only from buildings—don't interpret this as we're going more slowly than state

Need volunteer to work with Peter on a response letter—Tom Chase, David Rabkin, Keith Giamportone.

Update on City Council Climate Crisis Working Group (Lyn, Susanne)

Purpose—meet over three months (5-6 times total) to create list of “disruptive actions” to enable the City to accelerate GHG emission reductions. Create communications plan to increase urgency among residents. Summarize in plan of action with measurable goals and milestones. Working group purpose is climate mitigation, not resilience.

Members: Mayor Siddiqui, Councilor Nolan, Susanne Rasmussen, Lyn Huckabee (CPAC), staff and members of HEET, Environment Mass, CERES, Sunrise Boston, HSPH, HKS, Common Energy, Mothers Out Front, Green Cambridge, New England Forestry Foundation.

We've had viable plans for a long time—do we have the political will to implement them in the city council? First meeting of this group was more focused on the plans themselves. Lyn felt that the content is in place—it's a question of mobilization to implement them. Would like it to go in the direction of pushing the city council to do things staff can't do on their own.

Resilient Cambridge Plan (John B)

Issued in June 2021 after many years of effort.

Timeline

- Started with CPAC in 2010—recommendation to City Manager that we recognize climate change was unavoidable—need to start preparing by starting a vulnerability assessment. This was very novel back then—needed to understand how to do that.
- Hired Kleinfelder, kicked off just after Superstorm Sandy in November 2012
- Vulnerability assessment—looked at heat, precipitation, coastal storms and sea level rise
- Then looked at preparedness plan for heat, extreme rain, and sea level rise/storm surge. Going in, SLR was biggest concern, but coming out of assessment, seeing heat and rain as more imminent issue.
- Worked with Katharine Hayhoe to generate downscaled global climate model projections for 2030 and 2070 as well as historic baseline. Temperature increases, humidity increases, urban heat island magnifications. Needed to link projections with how they play out across the city. For example the 2010 25 year flood was also 3” in an hour.
- Sea level rise—used National Climate Assessment data—pace accelerates after mid-century depending on GHG emissions. Storm surges happen already, we’re protected by two dams. As SLR goes up, the dams will be compromised if we do nothing. Were able to connect with Woods Hole Model. Saw that by 2070, will see substantial risks, especially around Alewife.
- Hard to be overly precise in terms of timing, but saw vulnerability assessment as a climate stress test re: precipitation and heat—what will it do to buildings and vulnerable people?
- This became the technical case for planning—gave us a baseline for what will go wrong if we do nothing; what can we do to prevent these bad things from happen?
- Resilient Cambridge is backed up by six technical reports plus recommendations. Did a lot of community engagement throughout in an effort to bring the community along with the government.
- Also wrote summary report (Resilient City Resilient People), four story maps, and flood viewer. Putting all the data out there that people will need to prepare their properties. Also building a heat viewer with tree canopy cover, rooftop reflectivity, impermeable surface.
- Plan goes through risks and strategies to come up with recommendations, policies, pilot projects, partnerships. Meant to cover the next ten years.
- Recommendations (and strategies within each category)
 - Closer neighborhoods (e.g., social resilience/social connectedness)
 - Better buildings
 - Stronger infrastructure
 - Greener City
 - Regional considerations, especially around coastal flooding
- Goal is to give people a vision and action plan for how a resilient city can also be a better city.
- There are a number of related plans and initiatives (e.g., Envision Cambridge, Urban Forest Master plan, Community Health Improvement Plan)
- Current initiatives: Community Corps, Finch Cambridge passive building, Port stormwater storage, cool pavement parking lot (10-20 degrees cooler than surrounding pavement)
- Regional collaborations: Resilient Mystic Collaborative, Metro Mayors, Charles River Compact
- Pilot projects: Tobin School reconstruction, shade pavilion Greene-Rose Park (quick intervention), mapped all rooftop albedo/reflection (increased 25% by 2008—new white roofs), Cambridge resilience hub, mapping social capital/connectiveness, resilience toolkits.

Applause for John Bolduc (and deflection by said John B) for this incredible body of work.

Member Updates

Paula—first Miyazaki forest is being planted/installed September 25 10-2. Great collaboration.

Public Comment

No announcements

Adjournment

Notes by Julie Wormser