

Somerville Climate Forward

Energy Working Group Meeting #2

November 9, 2017

Attendees

- Andrea Ranger
- Nancy Huntingford
- Gabriel Marty
- Malcolm Cummings
- Patrick Roche
- Andy Greenspon
- Colby Cunningham
- Elizabeth Baumel
- Christine Andrews, City of Somerville
- Hannah Payne, City of Somerville
- Oliver Sellers-Garcia, City of Somerville

Solutions the group is most interested in seeing implemented:

- Point of sale/lease energy requirements or disclosure
- Extension and modification of Community Choice Electricity Program
- Advocate for more stringent RPS
- Study feasibility of district energy and renewable microgrids
- Net zero building requirements and incentives

Individual Feedback on specific solutions

- Nancy
 - Purchase and sale disclosure requirement. There do seem to be some examples. Austin Texas is a good example. If you are in the top 20% of emitting buildings, you do actually have to do upgrades. There are lots of exceptions. How much cooperation would you need from the utilities? Could you get it fast? The rental market moves so quickly in Somerville.
 - Green lease example from NYC. Provide examples for landlords. Could this be extended to residential?
 - The “energy” component is working with utilities.
 - Need to coordinate with Cambridge because we are essentially the same rental market.
- Colby
 - Microgrids: technology is proven, but there are financial and regulatory issues.
 - Brooklyn examples—do we have anything big enough? Clarendon Hill Towers?

- Are microgrids a baby step toward building our own infrastructure?
- Reforming the Energy Vision (NY). We would need something like that in MA. What element of the REV program would we want to see in MA?
- Municipal microgrid, would we be able to use them during emergencies and power outages as backup power for emergency management operations?
- Municipal light plant—would we want to do that?
- Gabriel
 - Point of sale/lease requirements.
 - Renters could use this information.
 - France has had this for 10 years.
 - You need a third party to do the assessment well.
 - Do we tie the disclosure to any kind of standard? If so, what would that standard be?
- Andy
 - Point of sale/lease
 - Renters really need to be able to access program.
- Elizabeth
 - More communication to help people make individual energy choices.
 - Deal with confusion between City's CCE program and third party electricity providers.
 - Start a district system on the municipal campus
- Christine
 - Can we use the aggregation to add in more sophisticated management, like different rates for time of use?
 - Grid modernization program going on now means there could be smart meters that make this doable.
- Patrick
 - Community Choice Electricity is a powerful program because of the bulk purchasing power and opt-out structure. What does the CCE program enable us to do? We need to ramp up the amount of renewables in default product.
 - MA Legislature is looking into point of sale/lease disclosure—check with MAPC.

Group Feedback

- If we use aggregation as a key vehicle for reaching 100% renewable, we need to work on communicating how the program works.
- It is really important to understand if there can be renewable district energy (not natural gas).
- District energy feasibility study: need to identify where there are places where this would make sense. Inner belt? There needs to be a cluster of customers.
- Map district energy potential with Somerville development areas.
- District energy ready: make sure there is space for supply pipes between buildings.
- Coordinate with International District Energy Association (ask them about renewable transition)
- Do we need to be more specific than just to say “we need to accelerate the pace of the Renewable Portfolio Standard?”

- We make a more compelling argument if we can say specifically how this helps/hurts Somerville specifically
 - Use leverage of Metro Mayors Mitigation commitment for advocacy
 - We need to build the capability to do data analysis
 - We need data to understand impact of proposed legislation
- Could we look at what trajectory of adding renewables to aggregation program would work with keeping costs in line? What level of RPS would be needed to fill the gap?
- NEER – energy efficiency database
- City could support local groups with data, etc. to make their advocacy more effective
- Negotiate technical collaboration in PILOTs (payment in lieu of taxes) with large institutions
- Need to say something about just continuing to make rooftop solar doable.
 - Storage should be coupled with residential solar
 - Is community solar an option for making access to solar more equitable?
- Need to think about distributed generation as being something that increases equity and resilience.
- Policy: remove the cap on renewables net metering (it would be a barrier if we wanted to use the city load as an offtake for an offsite community solar)
- Advocate for residential PACE