

## **Commission for Energy Use and Climate Change**

Meeting Minutes

August 9, 2017

Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA

### **Attendees:**

Bueno, Ramon –Commissioner

Hodge, Joshua – Commissioner

Melton, Michelle – Commissioner

Wood, Julie – Commissioner

Sellers-Garcia, Oliver – (member ex-officio) Director of Office of Sustainability and Environment

Larry Yu

Mary Mangan

Eric Weisman

Lindsay Lucke

Elisabeth Galloway

Yoyi Chen

Leigh Meunier

Melissa Lowitz

Sydney Merkman

Seth Berkman

Jocelyn Newhouse

Monte Allen

Paola Massoli

Lauren de la Parra

Anthony Lucivero

Michael Walsh

Christine Andrews, City of Somerville

Stanton Cady

### Review and adopt the minutes from the June and July meeting

- Approved

### Somerville Climate Forward (SCF)

- It would be ideal to have all the Commissioners sign up for one of the working groups, at the meetings let the community know about the Commission and what we do  
First working group meetings are taking place tomorrow through mid-September, all meetings will be Thursday afternoons
- Consultant team is making good progress, they have been reviewing all the ideas that came in at the kick of meeting in June, setting up a database of ideas that they will research and

evaluate for inclusion in the plan. Consultant will weigh these ideas in addition to ideas from working groups and from their own experience.

- Info from the June 26<sup>th</sup> kick of meeting is now online.
- There is a SCF survey that we are looking to get more responses on, please share the link ([www.somervillema.gov/sustainaville](http://www.somervillema.gov/sustainaville))
- Consultant will come to September meeting to present their work to date and get feedback from the Commission on their screening methods and the ideas/strategies put forth so far
- The Aldermen will be provided regular updates through the Environment Committee at various points throughout the process to keep them in the loop since some of the recommendations coming out of the plan will likely require Board action.
- The RFP for the Climate plan consultants is online, had details on the scope of work for anyone looking for more detail about what the consultant is responsible for completing
- Members of the Planning Department and Office of Strategic Development are participating in working groups along with community members and interest groups
- City taking lead on coordination and logistics of the working groups, consultant team will be sending some staff members who live in Somerville to sample the meetings
- Working group notes will be put online so people can see what is happening in other working groups
- Groups may end up talking about same things which is a good thing because a goal is to find multifaceted/interdisciplinary solutions

#### HeatSmart/CoolSmart program

- Launched on Monday, this is a group-buy program for air source heat pumps
- Have a “coach”, Molly ([somervilleheatcoolmart@gmail.com](mailto:somervilleheatcoolmart@gmail.com))
- City has contracted with two HVAC suppliers: New England Ductless and NETR
- Air source heat pumps can do heating and cooling, usually supplement existing heating using more efficient technology
- Air source heat pumps are not too common in the New England area but they are effective in this climate
- Residents can have an installer come to their home to do an evaluation and develop a proposal
- Somerville discount will be 10-15%/head, there are also additional savings from MassSave, MassCEC, 0% interest loan available, income based incentives/rebates. Pricing is complex because it is tailored to the room(s) where each unit is installed, but the City has negotiated lower starting prices with the two installers.
- First kick off event is August 22<sup>nd</sup> 6pm at Argenziano School, including presentation from City and installers
- Materials about the program, including pricing guide are online: [www.somervillema.gov/hscs](http://www.somervillema.gov/hscs)

- Open to home owners and businesses, not renters
- Program open until 12/15, that is the last day for signing contracts
- City goal is to get 100 installed
- Somerville is the first City in the state to kick off a program like this
- City will conduct analysis and evaluation on sign ups, implementation, etc.
- Already had 15 people signed up from a Resistat email that went out on Friday
- City planning more outreach, trying to model after Solarize as much as possible
- Chose two installers for this program to increase capacity to serve the residents
- City is hoping to target residents with oil and electric base board since they would benefit the most from making the switch to air source heat pumps

#### Update on Somerville Community Choice Electricity program

- As of July 31<sup>st</sup> (month into program) at 7.5% opt out rate, 105 accounts have lowered to Somerville basic (no RECs, lowest price), 237 are up to opt up 100%
- There is a lot of information on [www.somervilleccce.com](http://www.somervilleccce.com) if individuals, community groups or advocacy groups would like more information to help spread the word about the 100% option
- Can sign up for 100% renewable by emailing or calling Dynergy
- Possible ways to spread the word: get individuals who already signed up to talk about how great it is to be 100% renewable; have a calculator/model for carbon reductions due to aggregation and opt up on the website?
- Based on current rates a \$100 bill would be \$110, about 10% higher for 100% renewable
- Request for more details on energy source? (Somerville buying RECs from Mass Energy Consumer Alliance and they likely have details on the energy generators)

#### Progress on biannual GHG inventory update

- Presentation by Lauren de la Parra
- Inventory process
  - Local government operations (LGO) and community-wide
  - Baseline = 2014, 2016 update completed
  - AECOM created a workbook template of activity data and emissions factors that City uses
  - Data collection and processing
    - LGO: buildings and facilities, public lighting, vehicle fleet, process and fugitive emissions; all empirical data for 2016
    - Community Inventory: Stationary Energy, Transportation, Waste (waste hauling not included but waste incineration is)
- Results: overall LGO emissions are down about 10%, down in every sector except transportation (-1239 MT)

- Still trying to determine where the building reductions are coming from in 2016 compared to 2014, need to dig into this as a next step
- Community Inventory total reduction of about 6%, this from the stationary energy sector, looks like it is primarily residential buildings
- Inventory will be published online
- Suggestion to promote the fact that emissions went down in the community, also highlight that there is more that needs to be done to reach carbon neutrality
- Would be great to have better data on household heating oil usage; also don't have data on diverted waste like electronic waste
- Somerville has a "data farm" which is central data repository, trying to figure out how to make GHG inventory data available through that, right now it is available via individual request by email but is not well formatted to the "data farm"
- Gas leaks are accounted for in the stationary energy category, about 10% of this category, <2% overall
- Could anything be shown in real-time? Maybe update city energy usage more regularly?
- Will get better residential electricity data through the aggregation process for future updates
- Action Item: Discuss follow up on analysis at next/future meeting; what are we learning by digging deeper into the data? Can we distinguish between real reductions and method changes, data source changes and weather effects?

#### Tracking state legislation

- S.472 has moved into State Ways and Means – Julie to track
- S.1874/H.1746 – energy storage – would be good to watch, has ambitious energy storage goals – Joshua to track
- S.1821/H.1726 Barret/Benson – "Carbon Tax" bill, concern that this will not be popular and could be regressive, Denise Provost testified at the bill hearing
- RPS vehicle 1849
- Renewable 1828
- Note: Joshua prepared and circulated the attached table post-meeting

#### Update on net-zero capital projects planning

- Oliver working with capital projects on developing a scope of work for consulting services
- There may be existing, outside standards that Somerville could use as resources for capital project planning
- Hoping to get an RFP out soon

#### Next steps on internal carbon pricing

- City going to look for intern to look into this in more depth in the fall

- Oliver has been in touch with a few other cities who are also looking into this
- September 21<sup>st</sup> at BU: panel on carbon pricing; participants from Yale and Microsoft which are good case studies and could have some relevance to Somerville

Attachment: MA Gen Assembly Legislation – CEUCC Tracking Table

Bill	Description	Tracking Commissioner
<b>2017 MA S 1849</b> – An Act Transitioning Massachusetts to 100 Percent Renewable Energy	This legislation would steadily transition Massachusetts to 100 percent clean, renewable energy by 2050.	Michelle Melton
<b>2017 MA S 1828</b> – An Act Requiring the Timely Adoption of Greenhouse Gas Emission Limits for the Year 2030	This legislation would establish a statewide greenhouse gas emission limit for 2030 of between 35 percent and 60 percent below the 1990 emissions level.	Michelle Melton
<b>2017 MA S 1886</b> – An Act Relative to Meeting the Energy Needs of the Commonwealth	This legislation would require the development every three years of a comprehensive energy plan for Massachusetts (the Plan). The Plan would be developed by state regulators in consultation with ISO New England Inc. And the state’s electric and gas utilities.	Ramon Bueno
<b>2017 MA S 472</b> – An Act Providing for a Comprehensive Adaptation Management Plan in Response to Climate Change	This legislation would require the development at least once every 10 years of a comprehensive climate change adaptation management action plan.	Julie Wood
<b>2017 MA H 2706</b> – An Act Relative to Solar Power and the Green Economy	This legislation would establish a solar program to achieve 17.5 percent solar electricity, measured by the sale of retail electricity to end-use customers in	Joshua Hodge

	Massachusetts, by December 21, 2025, and 25 percent solar electricity by December 31, 2030.	
<p><b><i>Accompanying Bills</i></b></p> <p><b>2017 MA S 1874</b> – An Act Relative to Energy Storage Procurement for 2025 and 2030; <b>2017 MA H 1746</b> – An Act to Advance Energy Storage</p>	<p>This legislation would require that on or before December 31, 2018, the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) shall set a statewide deployment target of 1,766 MWs of cost-effective energy storage to be achieved by January 1, 2025, and that on or before December 31, 2020, the DOER shall set a subsequent statewide energy storage deployment target to be achieved by January 1, 2030.</p>	<p>Joshua Hodge</p>
<p><b><i>Accompanying Bills</i></b></p> <p><b>2017 MA S 1821</b> – An Act Combatting Climate Change; <b>2017 MA H 1726</b> – An Act to Promote Green Infrastructure, Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Create Jobs</p>	<p>This legislation would require the DOER to establish a system of financial charges to be imposed on the sale or distribution of “greenhouse gas emitting priorities” (defined as “matter that emits or is capable of emitting a greenhouse gas when burned and is identified as a priority under the terms of this act. Except that natural gas, petroleum, coal and any solid, liquid or gaseous fuel derived therefrom shall be greenhouse gas-emitting priorities”). The charge in the first year of operation would be \$10 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>e and the charge would increase by \$5 every year until the rate is \$40 per ton of CO<sub>2</sub>e. The DOER would also establish a system of rebates to</p>	<p>Michelle Melton</p>

	residents from the charges collected.	
<b>2017 MA S 1869</b> – An Act to Protect Our Environment and Lower Our Carbon Footprint	This legislation would amend existing climate protection and green economy statutes to allow for a carbon tax and rebate mechanism.	Joshua Hodge