

Somerville Climate Forward  
Energy Working Group  
June 7, 2018

**Attendance**

- Elizabeth Baumel
- Gabriel Marty
- Christine Andrews
- Patrick Roche
- Colby Cunningham
- Nancy Huntingford
- Malcolm Cummings
- Oliver Sellers-Garcia, City of Somerville
- Mike Powers, OSE Summer Fellow
- Hannah Payne, City of Somerville

**1: Advocate for more stringent RPS**

- Two year window for legislation? Why is this the case?
- Need to better define the timeline for the resources that the City can give to lobbying
- Is the cost of lobbying too high? What are the costs for?
- What does it really mean to put some meat behind advocacy? Not just using existing staff.
- What kind of advocacy is right here?
  - Mayor behind the scenes
  - Consensus with other mayors
  - Hire lobbyists
  - Activate residents
- Work with other cities on this. Maybe we don't have to do everything ourselves.
- Is it worth advocating for the bills that don't go far enough? Do we just want to back the bill that gets us to 100% fastest? Or do we need to think about any other criteria? For example, we need to think about what bill would not be too burdensome to ratepayers.
- Something else to put in a bill: getting rid of load zone barriers, getting rid of net-metering caps.
- Remember that we are just advocating for short term. RPS can change again.
- Will all of the actions be prioritized? Yes. That's the point of the plan.
- MAPC does a lot of advocacy—more resources from municipalities would help.
- Citations for numbers are needed to make thinking transparent.

**11a: Community Choice Electricity Aggregation**

- Focus was too much on pushing people to 100%. The real power of this effect is raising the baseline for the vast majority of people who are not going to participate. The real opportunity for change is to raise the % of renewable.
- Larger group of communities seems like a good idea. We need to look into whether that would work in our favor. GIC analog: market pressure of a big player.
- Is there a disconnect in purchasing renewable energy outside New England? Consider modifying this. Would be good if there was a strategy/decision on where Somerville wants to displace fossil fuel energy generation.
- Do we need to address confusion from other third-party suppliers? (Possibly a tier-2 solution)
- This is a potential first point of contact with people—is there a way to think of CCE as helping build a culture of change?

### **11b: HeatSmart/CoolSmart**

- ISD needs to be an implementation partner
- Need to think of BTUs as a metric. It's a much easier way to measure thermal energy savings
- Costs seem low, including costs for the City to implement this program
- Important to keep the state incentives (MassSave, MassCEC) going. Does there need to be any lobbying to make sure this keeps happening?
- Timeline for feasibility study of district energy (tier 2 solution). Could we define how soon this would be?

### **3: Point of lease energy disclosure**

- Make sure it's not just at the point when contract is signed. Important to be early enough that you can make a choice. How much ahead of time is enough?
- Connecting with Airbnb regulations
- Could we publish benchmarks of average scores?
- EU has point of sale disclosure law
- Use the same rating system as the point of sale requirement that is before MA leg.
- Can we use this as an opportunity to collect data? What can be made public?
- Cost to municipality for administering this type of program could be very high. Licensing program could be in the millions.