

Somerville Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change

Brainstorm on Covid-19 and local climate impacts
May 13/June 10

1. Impacts on the Community

Families

Time at home:

- Teens bored / tensions
- New home experience

Consumer spending down

Food insecurity

Rental insecurity
(landlords)

Job losses

Employment changes

City

Municipal budgets down

Schools (online/project)

Transportation

Air quality improved

Public transit down

Streets empty (traffic)

Cheap oil

Community

Mutual aid groups grow

Awareness:

- inequities (worsening)
- natural/open space
- short-sighted decisions

Politicization of science

Uptick in racism

Connect w/neigh. hard

Business (all orgs)

Closures

New ways of working

Shift to online

Last-mile delivery

Those w/capital:

- New investments
- Wealth capture?

Disposables use rises

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2. Impacts on Climate Action Area + Key

Questions: Mobility

- Demand for walkable/bikeable streets (equity?)
- Demand for mobility down
- More people in cars
- Stress air quality and inequities
- Will there be T investment?
- Will people trust the T is safe?

3. Potential Responses

- Teens as bike delivery couriers
- Bike training
- Organized shared streets
- Bike corridors

- Surveillance
- T modifications to service
- Modifications to T equipment?

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2. Impacts on Climate Action Area + Key Questions: Buildings and Power

Energy demand curve flattening
Energy usage down how much?
Demand for bigger houses (WFH features)
Demand for more space/worker
Not as much office space needed
Retrofit demand
Jobs in energy efficiency (labor costs?)
Capital seeking investment opportunities
Stress air quality and inequities
WFH affects workforce/job readiness
Normalizes WFH (?)
Public health risks if unoccupied
Is there historical precedent (e.g., 2008)?

3. Potential Responses

Find volunteers, train in energy efficiency
Take investment in financial vehicles for energy efficiency
Enable “hibernate mode”
Outreach on energy efficiency programs (e.g., All In Energy)

Shovel ready infrastructure projects?
Advocacy on green infrastructure projects?
Real estate disclosures if market cools? (Green mortgages?) (Inequities?)

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2. Impacts on Climate Action Area + Key Questions: Waste and Consumption

Trash data?
Consumption down, is waste up?
Single-use plastics up

3. Potential Responses

Teens picking up trash
Communications on recycling
Reinforce positive choices in consumption (including buy local)? (For resilience)
Low-carbon consumption substitutes
Inform public health (re: single use plastic)

Mutual aid to reinforce sharing?

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2. Impacts on Climate Action Area + Key Questions: Community/Equity

Jobs to offer?

3. Potential Responses

Connect w/universities and neighboring communities

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2. Impacts on Climate Action Area + Key Questions: Stormwater and Resilience



3. Potential Responses

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2. Impacts on Climate Action Area + Key Questions: State and Federal Policy



3. Potential Responses