

Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change
July 2, 2002, 7:00 PM
Tufts Administration Building

Commissioners Present: Dan Kirk-Davidoff, John Loretz, Michael Reinhardt, Jennifer Cronin
(Associate Commissioner)

Others Present: Lisa Callaghan, Vithal, Deshpande, Andrea Ranger, John Reinhardt, Marion Sitomer,
and Karl Thidemann

Agenda

- 1) Approval of minutes from previous meeting
- 2) Draft resolution for Board of Aldermen
- 3) Working group reports
- 4) IKEA Draft Environmental Impact report
- 5) ArtBeat tabling, volunteers

[Commission decisions highlighted in bold]

1) **The Commissioners approved the minutes from the meeting held on June 4, 2002.**

2) **The Commission approved the draft resolution on greenhouse gas reduction targets** (Attachment A) and agreed to submit it to the Board of Aldermen and seek a vote at the August meeting of the Board. **Vithal agreed to bring the resolution to the City Clerk, along with Lori Segall, in order to get it onto the agenda for that meeting.** Other Commissioners and members of the public attending the Commission meeting agreed to bring the resolution to specific Aldermen in order to get sponsorship and support.

Vithal informed the Commission that he had submitted his letter of resignation from the Commission. He was unsure about the City's intentions to appoint a new liaison, though it states explicitly in the Charter that there will be one ex officio member. John L. suggested that Lori contact the Mayor's office in order to determine the status of the ex officio Commissioner.

3) Dan reported that the Transportation working group had met and discussed a number of possible recommendations concerning bicycle and pedestrian improvements, parking policies, taxis and mass transit, and improvements to the city fleet of vehicles (Attachment B).

John Reinhardt suggested that a set of clear criteria needs to be established for making and evaluating any recommendations that go into the Action Plan, and that these should include ease of implementation, cost, and the time needed to put them into effect. We should also consider any negative implications and ancillary benefits. Vithal added that we need to identify priorities that are quantifiable.

Marion reported that the Residential Buildings working group had met and decided that its first priorities should be information gathering and meeting with appropriate city officials (Attachment C). The Commercial Buildings working group did not meet. After a brief discussion about where large apartment buildings fit in the overall scheme of things, **the task of making recommendations related to them was assigned to the Commercial Buildings working group.**

Andrea said that she had spoken with someone from Rebuild America since the last meeting and that she was expecting literature about the organization's projects. Andrea will also contact the Chamber of Commerce.

Vithal told us that he had talked with Stuart O'Brien from the City's Transportation Department, who expressed an interest in attending Commission meetings and working with us.

A discussion followed about how best to use Commission meeting time, including how to balance the needs for a focused, disciplined agenda and for information sharing that is frequently most productive if it is spontaneous. There was a general sense that the Commission is still young and feeling its way into an effective working style, but that defining a clear agenda and meeting goals ahead of time could help keep things on track. With that in mind and recognizing that vacation schedules might make it difficult to achieve a quorum in August, we decided to schedule a meeting for August 6, but may defer the next meeting until September if there is not a clear, substantive agenda.

4) John Reinhardt reported that there had been a well attended public meeting about IKEA's proposals for environmentally responsible development at the Assembly Square site. IKEA's environmental impact statement proposes incorporating an EPA Energy Star roof to reduce the cooling load of the building and to reduce the urban heat island effect. They have also taken some other positive steps and John suggested that the Climate Commission could applaud IKEA for what they've done and push for even more environmentally responsible development. John encouraged Commissioners and the public to attend a July 8 meeting at 7 pm in the Aldermen's chambers.

5) Somerville Climate Action and SERV will have a table at ArtBeat in Davis Square on Saturday, July 20. Commission literature and climate change information will be available at the table. Volunteers were still needed between the hours of noon and 6 pm.

The next Commission meeting will be on Tuesday, August 6 at 7 PM in the Tufts Administration Building.

Respectfully submitted,

John Loretz

Clerk, CEUCC
July 15, 2002

Attachment A

A Resolution by the Board of Aldermen City of Somerville

Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets

Submitted by the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change

August 8, 2002

Whereas serious and disruptive changes to the Earth's climate are being caused in large part by increased atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases emitted during fossil fuel consumption and other human activities;

Whereas the international scientific community and responsible US scientific bodies, including the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, and the National Academy of Sciences now agree that the evidence of human impact on climate change is compelling;

Whereas the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and many individual cities and towns have developed—or are in the process of developing—climate action plans that identify specific greenhouse gas emission reduction targets to be achieved in a cost-effective manner through a combination of energy conservation measures, energy use policies, and technological innovations; and

Whereas the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor of Somerville have previously endorsed the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign of the International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and have appointed a Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change to produce a municipal Climate Action Plan with a specific reductions target and recommendations for achieving measurable, cost-effective reductions on a realistic timeline;

Therefore be it resolved that:

- 1) The City of Somerville will reduce its emissions of CO₂ and other greenhouse gases to 1990 levels by the year 2010 and will reduce emissions to 10% below 1990 levels by the year 2015—targets consistent with those established by the Commonwealth and neighboring cities and towns that have adopted, or are in the process of adopting, similar action plans.
- 2) The Board of Aldermen charges the Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change to return by April 2003 with a set of specific recommendations related to municipal energy use and purchase, energy efficiency and conservation, transportation, new building design, urban redevelopment, and other related areas that, taken together, can achieve these emissions reduction targets.
- 3) The Board of Aldermen requests that city employees with decision-making and managerial responsibilities in all of the above areas and in others that may be included in the Climate Action Plan collaborate actively with the members of the Commission to ensure that the recommendations submitted to the Board are both practical and cost-effective.

Attachment B

Transportation Working Group Minutes June 25, 2002

Here are the possible actions we came up with at last night's (June 25, 2002) meeting. Let's each choose a quarter of them to look into.

- * Making Somerville more pleasant for bicycling: improved lane markings, bike paths, bicycle stands
- * Making Somerville more pleasant for pedestrians: improved designs of major intersects (e.g. Central Square in Cambridge), posted maps of pedestrian routes, traffic (raised intersections, speed humps).
- * Parking policy: requiring Somerville Permits more widely, and charging for them, with higher charges for bigger cars, higher charges for multiple cars.
 - Making more subsidized spaces available for Zipcar, similar orgs.
 - Remove subsidies of city employee parking, encourage to do the same
 - Reduce barriers to telecommuting, carpooling.
 - Require parking demand management plans for new development
- * Taxi policy:
 - encourage purchase of CNG cars (possibly via switchover of city vehicles to CNG, construction of city CNG station)
 - designation of more taxi stands (e.g. Davis Sq. T stop, shopping centers, hospitals)
- * Transit:
 - Better cross-town bus service, Jitneys to T stops from Assembly Square, Malden shopping areas.
 - More subway/light rail service (e.g. Union Square Stop on green line extension)
 - Post bus schedules and routes.
 - web-based computerized route finding (check out the Washington Metro website).
- *Education (bringing up a new generation of walkers and bikers).
 - Walking Bus idea (getting parents to take turns walking kids to school).
 - Serious elementary school, middle school bicycle education

*City fleet

- Require purchase of most efficient vehicle that meets need
- Particulate scrubbers on school buses.
- Conversion of some portion of fleet to CNG.
- Expand police bicycle patrols (and reduce cruiser use).
- Use biodiesel for city fleet.

Attachment C

Somerville Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change Residential Buildings Working Group

Minutes of June 19, 2002 Meeting

Present: Anja Kollmuss, Michael Reinhardt, Marion Sitomer

MCAN Residential Outreach Committee: Marion reported on the first meeting of the MCAN Residential Outreach Committee on 6/11/02. This group intends to:

- Develop materials describing existing programs for residential energy conservation for use by all climate action groups. Create a clearinghouse of resources/information for all climate action groups.
- Define outreach strategies/options.
- Develop strategies for interfacing with utilities and city officials.
- Pilot an outreach strategy.
- Research methods for user-friendly documenting/quantifying residential emissions.
- Research financing options for rehabs and retrofits.

Marion will continue to participate in this committee.

Defining Our Task: There was discussion about defining the responsibilities/task of the committee. It was agreed that we see our task as:

- Gathering information about options for promoting residential energy conservation/reducing residential greenhouse gas emissions, particularly around effecting behavior change.
- Gathering information about the state of residential energy use in Somerville.
- Enter into a dialogue with appropriate city officials to develop relevant policy as part of the action plan.
- As part of a dialogue, suggest emissions reduction targets for the residential sector as part of the action plan.

Anja's Audit: Anja reported on her recent energy audit with Conservation Services Group (through NStar). Her overall impression was favorable. The auditor seemed knowledgeable, and made some good recommendations. Concerns were:

- Report was not very user friendly.
- At the time of the audit, CSG is now offering a contract to do the work that they are recommending. Is this a conflict of interest? Who checks the work if the auditor and the contractor are the same outfit?

Homework: Anja will be away all summer. Michael will get NStar's Performance Report for residential conservation programs. Marion and Michael will get energy audits at their homes.