

REPORT OF THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE

The Town of Wellesley Sustainable Energy Committee (“SEC”) was formed by Town Meeting in 2010. The SEC is a seven-member committee comprised of four Town-wide representatives, Ellen Ledley Korpi, Chair, Scott Bender, Jessica Langerman (new member) and Stephen Tolley (new member), and representatives of the Board of Selectmen, Barbara D. Searle, the School Committee, Suzy Littlefield and the Municipal Light Plant (“MLP”) Richard F. Joyce. Outgoing members, Christopher Ketchen, Elizabeth DeSombre and Robert Cooper served through June 2012. Molly Fairchild has served as the SEC Coordinator since inception. The SEC was created to accomplish two primary objectives by the end of calendar year 2013:

- 10% Town-wide reduction in Wellesley’s carbon footprint; and
- 20% reduction of the carbon footprint for all municipal departments.

Considerable progress (see summaries below) has been made in achieving both of these objectives. Although the SEC was formed to principally initiate action to provide environmental benefits it has become abundantly clear that the Town’s energy conservation efforts are currently, and will be in the future, providing a reduction in operating costs for municipal buildings, homes, businesses and the colleges.

10% Town-wide Reduction

The SEC has taken a number of steps to promote energy conservation throughout Wellesley. In the summer of 2011 the “Summer Cooling” campaign was launched to promote the efficient use of residential and commercial air conditioning. The SEC also proposed the adoption of the Stretch Building Code which was approved by Town Meeting and went into effect on January 1, 2012. The single most important event this past year was the expansion of the Town’s renewable energy program. Wellesley’s participation rate almost doubled from 608 participants to 1,155 at the end of Fiscal Year 2012. With a participation rate of 11.4% the Town ranks third nationally behind only Palo Alto, California (21.5%) and Portland, Oregon (12.7%). More importantly, more than 4% of Wellesley’s total electricity consumption is now provided from renewable generation, making our community the first town or city in Massachusetts to receive the EPA’s “Green Power Community” designation.

20% Municipal Reduction

Overall, the municipal departments have made a great deal of progress in reducing their carbon footprint. As part of the Fiscal Year 2013 (“FY13”) budget, Town Departments will be purchasing 5% of their electricity from renewable generation. A second major reduction was achieved by converting the Middle School heating from oil to natural gas. In addition, three municipal buildings/functions have already achieved a 20% reduction from the 2007 benchmark. The Town Hall and Municipal Light Plant garage and warehouse have reduced their energy consumption by more than 20% and the LED retrofit of all ornamental street lights has resulted in a reduction of 20% as well. The SEC has established a system to measure and

communicate energy usage among all Town Departments and is optimistic that many of the schools and other functions will meet this goal in FY13.

Conclusion

The Town is on its way to achieving the Town-wide 10% carbon reduction goal. The SEC has established five primary initiatives for FY13 with much of the focus on commercial and municipal energy conservation opportunities and exploring the cost-benefits of a residential solar program.