

## REPORT OF THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY COMMITTEE 2012 Annual Town Meeting

The Sustainable Energy Committee is established and governed by Town Bylaw Article 12, which states in part:

*“The Committee shall report to Annual Town Meeting on*

- (a) the actions of the prior year,*
- (b) emissions trends and performance as compared to the Town goals,*
- (c) any proposed revisions to the multi-year Sustainable Energy Action Plan, and*
- (d) recommended action plans for the coming year.”*

### ACTIONS OF THE PRIOR YEAR

As part of the Committee’s report to Town Meeting last year, we recommended adoption of the Stretch Energy Code. We are pleased that Town Meeting agreed with our recommendation and adopted the Code under Article 38. The Code went into effect on January 1, 2012 and we expect that we will begin seeing positive impacts on energy efficiency as new buildings and additions are constructed.

The bulk of the Committee’s current efforts have been to promote the Municipal Light Plant’s **Wellesley Renewable Energy** program. The program allows customers to voluntarily purchase some or all of their electricity from renewable sources for a 4-cent premium on their electric rate. On March 1, 2012, a campaign coordinating committee, co-chaired by members Ellen Korpi and Richard Joyce, launched an outreach effort to residents and businesses with the goal of increasing program participation by 50%. The *Wellesley Renewable Energy* program offers customers a convenient way to contribute to Wellesley’s overall effort to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 10%.

Members of the Committee participated in a study conducted by the Town’s Public Transportation Working Group. The Working Group’s study ultimately led to Wellesley’s membership in the MetroWest Regional Transit Authority, as well as the creation of a Transportation Advisory Group (TAG) that will monitor demand for, and promote the use of, public transportation. Our Sustainable Energy Coordinator was appointed by the Selectmen as one of four members on the TAG.

The Committee has also been pleased to work on a number of other projects throughout the year, which included:

- working with facilities personnel to establish energy usage “feedback loops” for the purpose of monitoring and improving energy conservation and efficiency efforts in all School and Town buildings.
- working with volunteer organizations on the “Summer Cooling” campaign to educate residents on how to maximize system efficiency during warm weather months.
- working with volunteer organizations and the Municipal Light Plant on the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual “Sustainable Energy Day”, featuring the Sustainable Expo which promoted sustainable products and practices as well as a bicycle tour of homes showcasing sustainable features.

## EMISSIONS TRENDS COMPARED TO TOWN GOALS

Wellesley has reduced Town-wide emissions by 8% from the baseline year of 2007, through 2011.

This decline suggests that the Town is on track to meet the Goal of 10% emissions reduction by 2013. However, there are some counter trends that need to be addressed to continue this progress on emissions reduction.

The Residential sector is responsible for 30% of emissions, and has experienced an overall emissions reduction of 10.9% compared to 2007. Emissions from home heating have fallen almost 15% due to both improved insulation and the continuing shift from fuel oil to natural gas (NG). By contrast, electric *usage* has increase about 1%, but *emissions* from electricity have fallen by 1% due in part to the purchase of *Wellesley Renewable Energy*. This trend is consistent with the continued transition to air-conditioning and greater use of technology, countering some of the gains that have been made in electrical efficiency and conservation.

The Commercial sector, (including the colleges) is responsible for 30% of Town-wide emissions. The consistent trend of reduced emissions, both from electricity and the transition to NG, yields a 15% reduction in emissions overall.

Transportation produces 40% of Town-wide emissions. This sector is lagging well behind our achievements in reducing emissions from other fuels, with only a 0.5% reduction per year based on the improved fuel efficiency achieved as newer model vehicles come online.

## PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE MULTIYEAR ACTION PLAN

The Sustainable Energy Committee has no recommended revisions to the multi-year action plan originally proposed by the Green Ribbon Study Committee.

## RECOMMENDED ACTION PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

The Committee has the following recommendations for the coming year:

1. Continue to promote the *Wellesley Renewable Energy* Program.
2. Continue to partner with Town and regional entities to promote transportation alternatives.
3. Continue to energize the community and broaden the scope of outreach using strength of communication network that has been developed.
4. Approve the creation of an Energy Manager position in the Facilities Maintenance Department.
5. Continue to monitor and encourage energy conservation and efficiency at all schools and municipal facilities.

Respectfully submitted,

Sustainable Energy Committee:

*Christopher Ketchen, Chair*

*Robert Cooper*

*Richard Joyce*

*Suzanne Littlefield*

*Scott Bender*

*Elizabeth DeSombre*

*Ellen Korpi*

*Molly Fairchild, Coordinator*