



CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

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Laura Olton, Chair
Susan Morris, Vice Chair
Cynthia Mahr
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Martha Collins
Fred Bungler
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Climate Action Committee Retreat

April 1, 2022

Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Laura Olton. Present were Climate Action Committee (CAC) members: Laura Olton (CAC Chair), Sue Morris (CAC Vice Chair), Lise Olney, Martha Collins (participated remotely), Fred Bungler, Cynthia Mahr, and Ellen Korpi. Also present were Marybeth Martello (Sustainability Director) and Janet Mosley (Climate Action Committee Analyst).

Citizen's Speak: None

Minutes: Deferred until next meeting

Retreat Goals, Road Map, and Open Discussion

Marybeth Martello began the meeting by providing an overview of a "wish list" of desired outcomes from the retreat and an outline of the discussions topics to cover in order to reach those goals.

Retreat Wish List:

- Discuss and reach consensus on primary CAC roles/strategies
- Develop a list of CAC projects/tasks through June 2023 with schedule
- CAC identifies priority Climate Action Plan (CAP) actions to recommend to other departments
- Plan for the FY23 capital budget

Open discussion centered around the importance of other departments driving CAP implementation with CAC support and how the process of developing the CAP helped to raise awareness, buy-in, and ownership of CAP actions across Town Departments. The committee also determined that the change in CAC staff reporting structure would not impact the role of the CAC.

CAC Primary Roles

Members agreed that the CAC's primary roles should be:

- Data collection and tracking relevant to the GHG inventory and CAP implementation
- Climate action education, engagement, coordination, and fostering collaboration within municipal government and across the community
- Working with and advising Town Departments regarding priorities and best practices
- Advocacy relevant to CAP implementation
- Grant seeking

Discuss and build consensus around top priority actions for each Climate Action Plan (CAP) pathway

The following areas were identified as priorities starting now through fiscal year 2023 for the governance, energy, buildings, mobility, and waste pathways. Discussion of the natural resources pathway was deferred until a future meeting. Priorities should be revisited in six months. Key points for each action are noted in sub-bullets.

Governance

- Develop a community-wide education, outreach, and engagement strategy that is coordinated across Town Departments, including schools.
 - Want people to be educated about best choices when they need their next AC unit, car, water heater, etc.
 - Should include climate coach program for the community
 - Avenues for communication include the MLP monthly bill and school newsletters
 - Need to reach a wider audience
 - Previous outreach methods have been top-down; identify bottom-up, viral strategies
 - Pursue neighborhood-based strategies for engagement such as Cool Petaluma
- Establish a web-based dashboard to track Climate Action Plan progress to provide information, accountability, and transparency.
 - Determine how a portion of the capital budget can best be used to accomplish this action
 - Add gas leaks to GHG inventory and include in dashboard
 - Work with Building Department and Assessor’s Office to obtain data needed for metrics
- Develop guidelines/frameworks for incorporating sustainability considerations into municipal planning, budgeting, and operations.
- Identify, evaluate, and pursue opportunities to advocate for state laws and policies that will further Climate Action Plan goals and other sustainability priorities.
 - Fixing gas leaks is a key area of on-going advocacy led by Lise Olney
 - Create a spreadsheet to organize, track, and prioritize advocacy activities
- Develop a Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - The Select Board office is moving this forward. CAC will support as needed.

Energy

- Pursue municipal solar and energy storage projects
 - MLP is leading the planning process for projects at Municipal Way, Main Library, and Hunnewell School
- Advocate for access to State initiatives for procuring non-emitting energy sources
- Seek new PPAs to increase the amount of non-emitting energy sources in the MLP’s portfolio
- Redesign MLP’s energy efficiency incentive program
 - A short-term plan based on consultant recommendations will be shared soon

Additional Notes:

- The MLP is in the process of hiring a new staff member who will lead sustainability efforts, including developing longer-term energy efficiency and beneficial electrification incentive programs
- The MLP is moving forward with plans to develop a system to install advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) that will enable smart meters and various demand management programs
- WECARE has been largely successful with an overall opt-out rate under 7%.
- MLP is working with various departments to install EV charging stations at the Middle School, Town Hall, DPW, MLP, and Police Station.

Buildings

- Building Energy Tracking and Reporting (BETR) and Building Energy Roundtable for large commercial, institutional, and multi-family buildings
 - Work with Planning Department proactively to encourage proposed development of laboratories are as sustainable as possible
- Residential education and engagement programs (as part of larger program prioritized in Governance)
- Advocate for resources to provide comprehensive home energy assessment that will guide residential owners towards net-zero ready retrofits.
- Net-zero stretch code advocacy and education
 - Advocate at state-level for workforce retraining in building construction related industries
 - Regional collaboration to create list of contractors that meet pre-set criteria indicating they follow best practices
- Work with realtor interest groups to develop utility usage disclosure and home energy rating program on property transfers and real estate listings.
- Update Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines with net zero plans for existing buildings

Mobility

- Create roadmap/policy for municipal and public EV charging infrastructure.
- Create roadmap/policy to electrify municipal fleet
- Educate residents and municipal employees about the benefits of buying and driving EVs
- Advocate to make state and federal incentives for EV buses and charging infrastructure available to third-party school transportation companies

Waste

- Reestablish food rescue and diversion programs in schools
 - A pilot composting program at the high school is close to starting
- Develop a commercial food waste diversion program
- Develop municipal zero-waste goals

Next Steps

- Marybeth will research comprehensive education, outreach, and engagement programs such as:
 - Cool Petaluma,
 - Lakewood, Colorado's Sustainable Neighborhoods Program,
 - MassEnergize, and
 - Low Carbon Diet.
- Marybeth will consider next steps for the CAP dashboard with input from IT.

- Marybeth will provide focused/strategic CAP presentations for certain boards and committees with significant recent turnover and departments that the CAC has not yet engaged.
- Janet Mosley will move forward with data collection and tracking activities, focusing first on starting the BETR program and then on laying the groundwork for CAP metrics.
- Marybeth, Lise, and other CAC members will create a spreadsheet to organize, track, and prioritize advocacy activities.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 pm.