



CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY BOARD

March 16, 2022

6:00 PM

MEETING AGENDA

To participate in this meeting you may video conference in to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81743063892?pwd=eUpaRWlsNTdUMExtbWd3T1hCV0hPQT09>

To call-in by phone dial (877) 853 5257 or (888) 475 4499 and use the Meeting ID 817 4306 3892 and Password 932273. Please note that dial-in participants will be muted and will not be able to make comments.

1. Welcome (Courtney) [6:00]
2. Meetings and minutes (Courtney) [6:05]
 - a. Approval of minutes from Feb 16th
3. Chair's update (Courtney) [6:15]
 - a. New membership update/updating charge
 - b. Virtual Meetings
 - c. CSEC and CMLP Joint Meetings
 - d. Update on Sustainability Awards
4. Director's update (Amanda) [6:30]
 - a. Detailed Director updates can be found on [CAAB's website](#)
 - b. Metrics for ASHP
5. Workplan Check-Ins [6:45]
 - a. Home Energy Scores (Jake)
 - b. Climate Vulnerability Assessment (Paul and John)
 - c. Financing (Warren)
 - d. Planning Board Support (Courtney)
6. [Warrant Article](#) Positions [7:15]
 - a. Discussion to determine the warrant articles to which the board would like to take an official position
 - i. 15. Establishing an Electrification Trust
 - ii. 38. Citizen Petition: Development Plan for Municipal Solar Generation
 - iii. Others as determined by the board
 - b. Discuss position of warrant articles
7. New business [7:40]
8. Public comments [7:45]
9. Adjourn [8:00]

Upcoming meeting dates and clerks (Meeting time: 6PM)

- Mar 16 - Jake
- Apr 20 - Brian
- May 18 - Michael
- Jun 15 – John
- July 20 – Paul
- Aug 17 - Warren
- Sept 21- Jake

Distribution

Committee Members: Courtney Eaton (Chair), Brian Crouse, Jake Swenson, John Bolduc, Michael McAteer, Warren Leon, Paul Kirshen

Town: Town Clerk, Matt Johnson (Select Board Liaison), Amanda Kohn (Sustainability Director)

Local Groups: Mothers Out Front, ConcordCAN, League of Women Voters

Town of Concord - DRAFT
Climate Action Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2022

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a virtual public meeting of the Climate Action Advisory Board (CAAB) was held on February 22, 2022 at 6:00 pm via Zoom.

Members present: Courtney Eaton (Chair), John Bolduc, Paul Kirshen, Michael McAteer, Jake Swenson, Warren Leon

Staff: Amanda Kohn, Director of Sustainability

Select Board Liaison: Matt Johnson

Members of Public: Dean Banfield, Brian Foulds, Jerry Frenkil

The Board voted to approve the minutes from the January 19 meeting.

Solar Warrant Article Discussion

Dean Banfield briefed CAAB on a solar warrant article that will come before town meeting. He made clear that he was speaking as a private citizen and not as a member of the town Finance Committee.

Objectives of the article: reinvigorate CMLP's solar development efforts and put in place a planning process for solar.

Dean reviewed the history of solar development and solar goals in Concord. Targets have been set that the town is not likely to hit without additional efforts. The state's targets have gone up in recent years, but the Concord town solar target has not gone up. The challenges the town faces with solar are that there are financial challenges and there are issues with the ability of the system to absorb more solar capacity. Dean advocated that there should be more investigation to determine how to address "solar saturation" and how to finance the solutions.

An advantage of solar is that the town can know what its future costs will be, because there are no variable fuel costs after the solar is installed. To meet the existing town target, we will need to find an additional utility-scale site in town.

Michael McAteer said the article seemed sensible and asked what outreach the article proponents have done to CMLP leadership. Dean responded that he has reached out to the CMLP Board Chair and she said she would bring it up on the Board's agenda for review.

Paul Kirshen asked about solar costs. Dean gave some general background on cost trends, but stated that there needs to be specific costing to figure out all the total costs to Concord.

Brian Foulds stated that the cost of solar to the town is higher than for other wholesale power the town buys.

Jake Swenson said the challenge is how to install solar in ways that advance the town's climate goals. There was discussion by several people of CMLP's sales and purchases of RECs.

John Bolduc said that he cares most about actual emissions to the atmosphere more than how the town accounts for its purchases.

Michael said that the article rightly focuses on the development of a plan. That is what is needed. It is unclear if CMLP currently has a realistic plan for developing solar.

Dean indicated that town meeting does not have the authority to tell CMLP what to do. Town meeting can express its preferences and desires but cannot issue orders to CMLP.

Courtney Eaton discussed progress on solar for the middle school and emphasized its importance. Brian F said he was not speaking for CMLP but indicated that discussions at its Board have focused on how to make solar at the middle school happen, not whether to make it happen. Brian also commented that at the moment commercial installations in town require solar+storage, because of solar saturation.

Jerry Frenkil remarked that in-town solar development is an environmental justice issue, because otherwise we are requiring there to be clean energy generators in other communities to meet our needs in Concord.

Chair's Update

Courtney attended her first town chair's update meeting. She learned that the town transportation committee is putting together a roadmap that will emphasize non-vehicle transportation. She thinks it would be good to bring someone from that committee to a CAAB meeting to discuss synergies. She received CAAB support for her to arrange this.

Director's Update

Amanda Kohn referred people to her written update. She commented on the transportation planning underway and indicated that there is a big backlog of transportation infrastructure projects; there will not be funding for all of them so choices will need to be made.

She asked CMLP about the Vineyard Wind agreement but it is still in process so there is not a detailed update on what it means for Concord.

She gave an update on the status of different legislation that has been filed in the state General Court. She has developed a tracker and is tracking relevant legislation. Over 140 climate bills have been introduced in the House or Senate.

Jake and Michael asked about the status of a state net-zero stretch code and Amanda clarified where things stand. Public comments can be submitted directly to DOER. The Town will also send a letter supporting updates to the code that align with the intent of the Town's net zero Home Rule Petition.

Amanda discussed what she has pulled together in updating the town's emissions-related metrics. She recommended that CAAB digest what she has done so far and then decide what else should be done. Some numbers would be difficult to update, because of the limitations of the data. John said that it is good that there are multiple indicators, but that it would be desirable to add in contextual data (e.g., how many vehicles are registered in town, how many houses there are). CAAB agreed to digest the data and discuss how to proceed at an upcoming meeting.

In response to a question from Courtney, Amanda gave an update on how the town's composting pilot is proceeding. Jake reported that he learned that there is high participation by Concord households in composting through private vendors.

Amanda will be out for two weeks in April.

Document of CAAB Processes

Amanda and Courtney put together a document that describes the processes CAAB will use. The document includes a timeline of deadlines and events that are significant to CAAB. It also discusses how CAAB will select a chair and vice-chair.

John said the document seemed complete and helpful. Others agreed. Courtney said that she and Amanda will keep working on it.

Workplan Check-Ins

At each meeting, CAAB will do a check-in on at least some of the priority work tasks for the Board. Board members indicated that they found the template prepared by Courtney helpful.

Financing Task. Michael, Warren, and Amanda gave an update on this, including:

- Michael reached out to Holyoke Gas & Electric and sent them a questionnaire to learn more about how they offer financing for town residents and businesses, including a loan fund for energy efficiency. He gave a little information about the loan fund but said he would have more information at a future meeting once he hears back from Holyoke.
- Amanda discussed a conversation that she and Warren had with Abode to learn about different financing options.
- Warren said there are already two identified financing options that could possibly be done without too much heavy lifting, both involving on-bill financing. One involves MMWEC (Belmont MLP is participating without being an MMWEC member) and the other involves nonprofit lender Slipstream. Amanda also reached out to ENE.

- John suggested that the town should also consider Property-Assessed Clean Energy (PACE), which can cover multi-family housing. The Town opted into PACE in December 2020.

Climate Vulnerability Assessment. John and Paul reported on their progress.

- Their focus will be on developing recommendations for the town on how to do vulnerability assessments that are based on future projections rather than past experiences.
- Paul discussed putting together a regional watershed model that can be used for several purposes, including drought management and ground water levels. It could be quite beneficial to the town.
- Amanda reported on a meeting on watershed issues among many communities in the region. They are looking at potential funding sources for the work.

Courtney and Jake will provide an update next meeting.

Warrant Article Review

Courtney identified articles on this year's town meeting warrant that might be relevant to CAAB. Several articles were of interest, including the Electrification Trust, Assabet River Bluff Preservation Project, turf fields and bags and more. She said CAAB should discuss them more at the March meeting.

Sustainability Award

Courtney reported that there have been proposals for the town to establish a Sustainable Champion award or some other sustainability recognition that might be awarded by CAAB and/or CSEC. She would like to have CAAB discuss this in the near future, potentially with CSEC.

Public Comments

Matt Johnson reported on testifying before a legislative hearing on the town's fossil fuel infrastructure request for a local option. Amanda noted that the matter is still in committee.

John asked about the ability of the town's electrical distribution system to handle additional capacity, such as electric heat pumps. Matt said that this is indeed a problem. Jerry reported that CMLP also thinks there could be issues with battery charging for EVs if many people in a neighborhood charge at the same time. There was consensus that there should be more discussion and investigation of these system capacity issues. Michael argued that this is another reason for greater communication between CAAB and CMLP. Jake asked for another meeting with CMLP.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was approved at 8:01.



Active/Ongoing Projects

- **Municipal Fleet Electrification Study** – An initial review of the fleet electrification and infrastructure needs assessment has been completed.
- **UNH Fellowship Application** – The Town has been selected to host a UNH Fellow. The Fellow will increase the Division's community engagement capacity by building tools, protocols, and content that will support efforts beyond the 10-week fellowship. A candidate has been interviewed for the position.
- **Tree City USA Recognition** – One of the four standards for becoming a Tree City USA is to celebrate Arbor Day. The Garden Club of Concord in partnership with CSEC and Concord Public Works will have an event on April 29th at 10:00 at the Bruce Freeman Trail Parking Lot (407 Commonwealth Ave).
- **2021 Annual Report** – I will aim to have a final progress report for the April or May meeting. I've provided the metrics in last month's report and now need to detail progress on the implementation steps.
- **Concord Middle School (CMS) Building Project** – Solar Design Associates (SDA) will be providing a proposal to extend services for the further design of the solar and battery system at CMS. SDA, the CMS design team, and town staff have met to share the current design status and to make plans for future coordination.
- **CSEC's Cooler Concord Sustainability Series** – CSEC is preparing a suite of engagement events for 2022. The series will kick off in April with a keynote speaker on April 27th. The Sustainability Division has been assisting through developing promotional materials, coordinating town resources and partnerships, and general programmatic support. Please see attached flyer for distribution or go to www.coolerconcord.org/events for more information.

Highlights from the Community

- **NEW - Mass Save is now offering rebates to Concord households and businesses** that currently heat with natural gas if they switch to heat pumps. Mass Save provides rebates of \$10,000 for air-source heat pumps or \$15,000 for ground-source heat pumps used as a home's sole source of heating. Rebates of \$1,250 per ton of capacity are available for air source heat pumps used for partial home heating if integrated controls are installed. Generous rebates for businesses switching from gas heating to heat pumps are also available.
- **NEW - By early April, CMLP expects to be ready to offer similar rebates to Concord households** that switch from oil, propane, electric resistance or ETS heating to heat pumps after January 1st, 2022. Customers who already do some of their heating with heat pumps will be eligible for partial home rebates if they add more. In Q2, we expect to launch rebates matching Mass Save's for commercial customers who switch from oil, propane or electric resistance to heat pumps, up to \$50,000 every three years.

- **NEW - The Massachusetts Clean Energy Center launched Mass Fleet Advisor.** This free service helps commercial fleet owners navigate the transition to EVs, from identifying zero-emission van and truck models, to identifying applicable funding opportunities, and providing direct planning assistance for charging equipment. With help from our EV Support Team, Concord Academy and the Fenn School have already requested services from Mass Fleet Advisor.
- **Expanded - Community Compost Drop off Site Pilot**– The two community compost drop off sites at 55 Church St and the Beede Center have doubled in capacity. The program has 124 participants so far and [registration is required](#). The bins will be tracked by their “fullness” to evaluate the program and to estimate the amount of compost diverted from the landfill. Municipal buildings will also be able to participate and the logistics are being ironed out as many buildings have different custodial staff.

Grant and Technical Assistance

- **Grants Awarded –**
 - MassEVIP DC Fast Charger Program – In partnership with CMLP, the Town has received funding for a DC Fast Charger for Rideout Park
 - Green Communities Grant – The Town received \$100,000 of grant funding that will be matched with funding from the schools and the CMLP rebate program for air source heat pumps for the pods at the Ripley School and Administration Building.
- **MVP Action Grant** –The Town is planning to submit two MVP Action Grants. One grant is to purchase land along the Assabet for conservation and affordable housing. The other grant is to create a regional watershed model to assess climate vulnerability. The grant’s request for proposals is expected to be released mid-March and will be due in mid-May.
- **USDN Nexus Guidance** – The Town has agreed to participate in the USDN pilot program. The first step is to put together a list of potential community partners. The list has been sent to the DEI Commission for feedback and is provided at the end of this document for those interested.
- **MAPC Technical Assistance Program** – In partnership with the Engineering and Planning Divisions, the Town submitted a proposal for a sustainable streets planning. The proposal listed several of the implementation steps from Sustainable Concord. MAPC will review and decide if to award assistance of all, a subset, or none of the proposed work.
- **MAPC Technical Assistance on Climate Adaptation** – MAPC has provided recommendations on how to incorporate climate adaptation into the Subdivision Rules and Regulations. These will be incorporated into the full overhaul of the Subdivision Rules and Regulations in the next fiscal year, pending approval of the budget as it currently stands. MAPC is learning the background on the Town’s Site Plan Review process and may also provide recommendations in this project area.
- **HMPG FEMA Grant** – **The grant application for the HMPG** grant application is on hold. The timing of the grant could preclude the Town’s eligibility in the fall funding round. Other methods of funding are being explored to complete the plan.

- **Grants Watch List**
 - MassEVIP for Fleets and Charging – Accepted on a rolling basis.
 - Green Communities – Not eligible for the next funding round since we received a grant from FY22 round two.
 - GAP III Financing
 - Community Compact Efficiency and Regionalization

Events and Engagement

- **Upcoming Director Speaking Engagements**
 - April 4th – Seeds and Weeds
- **NEW - CSEC Cooler Concord Sustainability Series** – see attached flyer
- **CAAB Monthly Meeting** - third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM
- **CSEC Monthly Meeting** – third Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM
- **Light Board Monthly Meeting**– second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 AM
- **Have a special interest?** Contact Amanda Kohn (akohn@concordma.gov) for information on how to join groups working together on EV adoption (Concord Drives Electric), expanding the use of air source heat pumps (Concord Heats Electric), and more!

State Legislation to Tracking

Extended - New Energy Building Codes Webinars and Public Comment: The [Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources \(“DOER”\) is releasing a Straw Proposal](#) containing proposed updates to the existing Stretch Code and a framework for a new Opt-In Specialized Stretch Code. A recording of a webinar held on February 8th and a PDF of the straw proposal slides will be available on the DOER website. DOER is seeking comment on this Straw Proposal and will hold geographically-targeted public hearings in late February/early March to receive verbal public comment.

DOER highly encourages written comments be submitted electronically to stretchcode@mass.gov with the subject line “Stretch Code Straw Proposal Comments”. Written comments will be accepted until 5 pm EST on **March 18th, 2022**. Written comments may also be submitted via mail to the Department of Energy Resources, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 1020, Boston, MA 02114, attention Nina Mascarenhas.

MA House and Senate Bills: There are over 140 bills across the House and the Senate that are suggested when you search for climate in the 192nd session. These are the 27 bills that I have currently added to my legislative tracker. Each committee needed to report on the bills that were under their review by February 3rd. The Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy Commission (TUE) asked for an extension for the bills highlighted in yellow until May 2nd. If you’re interested in creating your own dashboard to track your interests at the state policy level visit: <https://malegislature.gov/MyLegislature>.

Updates from last month are indicated in red.

1. [S. 1333 An Act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by permitting local option all-electric buildings and homes ordinances](#) – Reported favorably by TUE to Ways and Means
 - o Statewide act enabling Town to opt into all-electric buildings and homes ordinances rather than appeal as Concord has done through a Home Rule Petition.
2. [S.2136 An Act transitioning Massachusetts to clean electricity, heating, and transportation](#)
3. [S.2139 An Act to promote zero-emission vehicle fleets by 2035](#)
4. [S.2144 An Act promoting local energy investment and infrastructure modernization](#)
5. H.2145 An Act promoting the adoption of renewable energy for heating, cooling and hot water
6. [S.2148 An Act relative to the future of heat in the Commonwealth](#)
7. H.2167 An Act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by permitting local option all-electric buildings and homes ordinances
8. S.2191 An Act promoting energy storage systems
9. [S.2196 An Act relative to home energy efficiency](#)– Reported favorably by TUE to Ways and Means
10. [S.2202 An Act relative to building energy and decarbonization](#)
11. [S.2222 An Act relative to local energy investment and infrastructure modernization](#)
12. S.2229 An Act creating a 21st Century clean energy economy
13. S.2231 An Act relative to green financing
14. [S.2232 An Act relative to better buildings](#) – Reported favorably by TUE to Ways and Means
 - o Large commercial buildings will need to report energy use to DOER annually, establishes an energy performance standard for different building types, cities and towns can establish their own energy disclosure requirements.
15. [H.3261 An Act promoting local energy investment and infrastructure modernization](#)
16. [H.3292 An Act achieving a green future with infrastructure and workforce investments](#)
17. H.3294 An Act to support innovation and local investment in the green economy
18. [H.3320 An Act establishing the GREEN Initiative](#)
19. [H.3334 An Act relative to home energy efficiency](#)
20. [H.3340 An Act creating a green bank to promote clean energy in Massachusetts](#)
21. [H.3341 An Act relative to green jobs](#)
22. [H.3343 An Act relative to solar power and the green economy](#)
23. [H.3350 An Act relative to building energy and decarbonization](#)
24. [H.3366 An Act relative to better buildings](#)
25. [H.4117 An Act authorizing the town of Concord to adopt and enforce local regulations restricting new fossil fuel infrastructure in certain construction](#)
26. [H.4477 An Act relative to the electrification of new and substantially remodeled or rehabilitated buildings](#) – Public hearing set for 3/18. Written comments are being accepted. Focus is on biolabs and hospitals.
27. [H.4524 An Act advancing offshore wind and clean energy](#) – Passed in the House and referred to Senate Ways and Means

S.2647 – Extension Order from TUE until May 2nd

2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, [2136](#), 2138, [2139](#), 2140, 2141, 2142, [2144](#), [2148](#), 2151, 2154, 2156, 2158, 2159, 2174, 2184, 2186, 2191, 2194, 2198, [2202](#), 2210, [2222](#), 2224, 2226, 2230, 2236, 2237, 2473, 2515 and 2606

H.4400 – Extension Order from TUE until May 2nd

602, 2145, 2167, 3254, 3255, 3257, 3260, 3261, 3262, 3264, 3265, 3267, 3268, 3269, 3271, 3273, 3274, 3275, 3276, 3277, 3279, 3283, 3284, 3285, 3287, 3288, 3289, [3292](#), 3293, 3296, 3298, 3300, 3304, 3306, 3309, 3312, 3317, 3318, 3319, [3320](#), 3331, 3332, 3333, [3334](#), 3335, 3336, 3337, 3338, 3339, [3340](#), [3341](#), 3342, [3343](#), 3344, 3345, 3346, 3347, 3349, [3350](#), 3352, 3353, 3360, [3361](#), 3362, 3365, [3366](#), 3367, 3750, 3805, 3887, 3888, 3893, 4044, 4067, 4081, 4082, [4117](#), 4307, and 4524

Brainstorm of Potential Partners List for the USDN Nexus Pilot

The following organizations have not been contacted, but appear to have a mission in alignment with the goals of the USDN Climate Justice Nexus Pilot. Additions to or feedback on the brainstorm list can be submitted to Amanda Kohn (akohn@concordma.gov).

Racial Justice

- DEI Commission
- [COAR's mission](#) is to support self-learning and unlearning, to foster understanding and empathy, and to actively engage in antiracism efforts as individuals and as a community.
- [The Robbins House](#) is a Concord-based nonprofit organization focused on raising awareness of Concord's African, African American, and antislavery history from the 17th through the 19th centuries.
- [Communities for Restorative Justice](#)
- [Concord Prison Outreach](#)

Climate Change

- CAAB
- CSEC
- CCHS Sunrise Hub
- [Mothers Out Front](#)
- [ConcordCAN](#)

Community Organizing

- League of Women Voters has both a DEI Committee and Environment Committee
- First Parish does have a [Racial Justice Action Group and an Immigration Justice Task Force](#). And so does [Kerem Shalom](#). Both also do climate/environment work.