



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.