

## Swampscott Energy Committee

### Agenda

Wednesday 15 September 2021 at 7:00 PM

Attendees: John Graff, George Delegas, Nick Scibelli, Diana Eddowes, Martha Schmitt, Ryan Hale

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1. Approve minutes from previous REC meeting - approved by voice vote
2. Report on action plans for current REC priorities
  - a. Residential Energy awareness & efficiency: “Green Building Standard,” Home Energy Score / MLS, MassSave Assessments in partnership with Revise, etc.
    - i. Marzie Galaska shared that the power provider for the Community Power Program will be changing, resulting in additional savings for residential customers. She will share the details when National Grid/ DPU issues their winter rates next week
    - ii. Diana shared that 38 audits have been completed and 7 more are scheduled (since June). Revise marketing is connected directly with Swampscott admin to execute additional promotion activities. Diana will also be scheduling a webinar in October/November including: GHG baseline, Revise overview of practical steps on how to save energy.
    - iii. George shared his experience with the Revise energy audit from the landlord’s perspective - in the case of buildings where utilities are paid by the building owner not the tenant, there is an incentive. He also related his experience with Community Solar and raised the topic of whether we would consider as a goal or program for next year.
    - iv. We agreed to devote more committee discussion time to comparing the options for residential customers (community solar, rooftop PV, PPA, for- and non-profit approaches), to learn from each other and determine the best way to educate and advise our community members.
  - b. EV adoption, charging station access, proposal to Select Board for “EV First” policy, etc.
    - i. We have received feedback from the Police Chief, who is aligned in principle with the policy and noted that it would like take about 10 years for the fleet to be in compliance because of the exemptions for transfers within the department and the remaining useful life of the vehicles. Ryan will follow up with Marzie and Neal about bringing this to Select Board again. Martha highlighted that the total emissions impact from Town vehicles are a very small (e.g., <1%) contributor to overall Town GHG. We need to understand how to turn the successes in changing behaviors at the municipal level to similar shifts in residential choices.
    - ii. Diana to ask Revise if they can help organize a “showcase EV day” either at Farmers’ Markets or Football games to promote EV and drive home energy audit participation.
  - c. GHG Inventory as part of “Climate Action and Resilience” plan
    - i. Martha has completed the baseline year for 2017 (aligns with MassCEC guidance). In summary: 60% emissions come from buildings (of which 40% is natural gas, 20% from oil), about 40% from vehicles (only 1-2% from waste disposal). Municipal and commercial are a small fraction -- the majority is residential use. Highlights the importance of electrification of residential heating.

We doubt that the mix or priorities would have changed since 2017 (confirmed by our contacts in Arlington). Community outreach and education, engagement with utilities, and understanding what incentives we can establish locally (e.g., stretch code/permitting, taxes, etc.) must be part of our action plan. Diana can include these talking points in the upcoming webinar with Revise. Ryan will reach out to Marzie and Neal to request a Select Board agenda slot to provide an update.

- ii. Nick provided an update that Swampscott Earth Removal Advisory Committee and Sustainable Marblehead have expressed interest in collaborating. Harbor/Waterfront Advisory and Open Spaces Committee are interested as well. Next step is for us to propose ways to collaborate and a working structure. We are following up on responses from other committees including Planning. We would target a joint meeting in October to agree on alignment, scope/framework, and resources - establish a working cadence building momentum into 2022.

3. Coordination with other Town Committees

- a. Affordable Housing - Martha offered to reach out and make a connection regarding home energy audit participation.

4. Other business

- a. Next meeting date: target thursday 14th October lunchtime meeting at Town Hall with Zoom option.
- b. Sierra Club is planning to publish a case study about Swampscott highlighting our recent achievements and our three priorities for the year.