

## **Somerville Commission on Energy Use and Climate Change**

Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2015

Tufts Administration Building, 167 Holland St., Somerville, MA.

### Attendees:

Oliver Sellers-Garcia – (member ex-officio) Dir. Office of Sustainability and Environment

Andrea Ranger – Commissioner

Vanessa Boukili – Commissioner

Alyssa Saunders – Commissioner

Matt Miller - Commissioner

Eliza Johnston - Commissioner

Toni Whitmore – Attendee

Jerrad Pierce– Attendee

Melissa Lowitz – Attendee

Ramon Bueno -Attendee

Meeting notes from July 2015 were approved

### Residential Energy Efficiency Program:

Next Step Living – contract signed and executed for a 3 year partnership– working with Century Bank for the no-interest HEAT loans and other partnerships. NSL is targeting mid-September for a kick-off event.

Outreach by NSL to occur at various places. Maybe show the Mayor getting an audit? etc. Sustainaville website will have a link to them. Renew Boston type project has not been approved yet (Whole House program aka Multi-family program by Eversource).

National Grid will send funds to City of Somerville if the community hits certain audit and retrofit/weatherization targets.

Commission wants City to put in place a customer feedback system so City can know how the visits are going, rating/metrics after the visit, how the outreach is going, etc. Multilingual staff was confirmed for audits/outreach. NSL is aware of this, and it is high priority with the partnership. City of Somerville also is doing multilingual document writing for this project too. Andrea asked if Next Step Living could also do outreach to real estate agents. There appears to be a new section to the MLS which addresses efficiency. Also get audits done prior to selling in order to make upgrades and potentially get more money for the house.

Any ideas from commissioners, others on this topic/suggestions?

### Residential Solar:

Talked to Elizabeth Youngblood – Mass CEC – Solarize program has changed and is more comprehensive for what Somerville wants for its solar program. Commercial is a possibility to add to the Solarize program. Solarize program has the ability to get access to a solar map with them (competitor of Mapdwell) or a Google option. Somerville would issue an RFP, which is a new feature of the program as well. New benefit of Solarize is to be matched up with a technical assistance provider arranged by MA CEC. At the next CEUCC meeting, we could discuss Solarize application and potential program.

Somerville’s application to the DOER Municipal Energy Technical Assistance (META) grant is for helping the city explore options for community solar (another application). We want them to have mutual start timelines so that people who can’t do solar on their roofs can participate in Community Solar as an alternative. Once the programs are launched, we can get the activism/outreach with committee members and subcommittees.

#### Community Choice Aggregation:

Somerville’s Municipal Aggregation Taskforce which includes a few commission members/attendees, and City staff in various departments recommended that Somerville participate in MAPC’s group procurement for a CCA broker/consultant.

The Taskforce met on August 10 to discuss RFP. Topics included:

- Should the green energy portion of the supply come from purchasing RECs and/or using cost savings to develop renewable energy projects?
- Must emissions reductions come from MA RPS Class I projects/RECs?
- What is the preference for the length of contract? 1-3 years? Recommendation for length of supply contract is 2 years
- Should we require that respondents demonstrate that they can analyze RECs for additionality? Is there a preference for projects that are already built?
- Balance between cost savings and emissions reductions: taskforce supports a “cost neutral” approach to increasing green energy %, but not an increase above the base rate.
- The respondents should demonstrate past CCA and/or community education experience. What experience is most advantageous to Somerville?

#### Municipal Electricity Capacity Charges:

Capacity charges from ISO-NE or the Utilities are due to increase significantly starting in summer of 2016. Possible maximum capacity is built into a charge for the city (Andrea is mentioning topic) MAPC recommends peak demand management to help city make these choices. New topic for Rob King/city and information on the topic to be passed from Andrea to Rob (there are webinars on the issue) so he can inform key members of the city on this issue and plan for peak demand events to reduce City usage and therefore costs.

#### Greenhouse Gas Inventory:

Coming along well and almost complete with data collection for City. Mayor was participated in a meeting with department heads to kick off project. Analysis to happen in September and report will be presented to the public from the AECOM consultants. Final presentation likely in October.

#### Climate change planning for fiscal year 2016

Top priorities will be the GHG inventory, completing a vulnerability assessment, and starting community engagement. Greenhouse gas inventory tells where you start from and vulnerability assessment shows where you're weak (vulnerable to storms, flooding, fire etc.) The Boston Metro Mayors Coalition Climate Change Preparedness Task Force is working on regional vulnerabilities. The Taskforce, which includes Oliver from Somerville, will participate in a workshop scheduled for September on vulnerability assessments. An RFP for a consultant to do vulnerability assessment may be released in October. Ramon offered that California has a new reference document on this topic.