

# CITY OF CAMBRIDGE CLIMATE COMMITTEE

June 13, 2024 | 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.  
344 BROADWAY & VIRTUAL ([ZOOM LINK](#))

## MINUTES

### Participants (24) (Email meeting notes)

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Tom Rawson

### Notes:

- Minutes for May approved.
- No member updates
- Green Cambridge 20 year anniversary
- Environmental Justice Discussion
  - Guest speaker came two months ago
  - A group did research on their own investigating frameworks that we could use. Subcommittee has also identified broad engagement with the community.

**6:00 PM Welcome & Approval of Minutes (Mallorie Barber)**

**6:05 PM Public Comment and Member Updates (All)**

- CargoB – Rental Bike Company – like ZipCar for cargo bikes
- Cambridge has an e-bike lending library

### **6:10 PM CRLS Student Report Out**

Purpose: *Learn about the student-organized Climate Week.*

- CRLS Report Out – Students not here so push to next month but we got a quick summary from Tom
- Students organized Climate Week – each student took over the class for the day presenting on a topic
- Some are still happening – scheduling didn't work to do them all the week planned
- Mallorie - Next year, committee should participate more actively in CRLS Climate Week
- Climate Committee is looking for more youth voices on the committee – can we take this opportunity to get engagement.

### **6:20 PM Environmental Justice Discussion (Sub-Committee)**

Purpose: *Ensure the Committee centers equity into our discussions and reviews.*

- Content: [Cambridge Climate Committee Environmental Justice Discussion](#)
- EJ context Discussion:
  - Definition of EJ – using MA definition using 4 criteria: Income, race, English-isolation, combination of race and income.
  - Identifying Cambridge EJ communities – trying to account for student population and we don't have the segregation of certain populations in certain areas
  - Measuring cumulative impact based on criteria like heat, flood, etc.
  - Demographics of Committee as originally nominated matched demographics of the city
- Recommended Questions Discussion:
  - "Who are the decision-makers?" Changed to "What voices are involved?"
  - Committee generally agreed to these questions
  - There was concern about whether these questions are asked only about Committee actions or about general city decisions.
  - Committee agreed to begin leveraging questions going forward with option to edit as needed in practice

### **7:30 PM Budget Update (Susanne Rasmussen)**

Purpose: *Update the committee on the newly adopted FY25 budget related to climate action.*

### **7:40 PM Director's Update (Susanne Rasmussen)**

Purpose: *share information about current city activities relating to climate action.*

- First time in over 30 years that there has been concern about expenditures/revenue growth. In budget is consolidated spending, sustainability is the largest category.

- Reviewed budget – the categories are generally all the same but the activities change – total of \$73M
- New office of sustainability – does not have capital funds – operating and staff - 10 positions to start - \$1.5M for programming. Grew by almost 45% but didn't happen to anyone else. She discussed the new org. chart under The Chief of Climate. Sustainable transportation will be in CDD but everything else will be in Climate Office.
- Look at the budget book – website for budget department and click on FY25
- We will look at the GHG data for publication in Fall of next year
- Continuing Electrify Cambridge, Bloc Power, and All In Energy, money for BUEDO including resource hub and day-to-day. Also applied for \$20M state grant for BUEDO technical assistance with Boston with support from MassCEC. Building Performance Standard consultant to develop scope. Efforts to create a microgrid in the Port. Resonant Energy – solar administrator to target potential community solar project. Set aside for new strategies for financing/community ownership for energy resources. \$300k for resiliency – e.g., heat mitigation, tech support, upscaling Climate Leaders program
- Climate Chief – interviewing going on now – expect onboarding between August – September.
- Working on BUEDO regulations and trying to figure out very technical details. Also making sure BUEDO buildings have reported.
- ARPA programs that allow direct investment in private property. EE/RE subsidy for small businesses need to be allocated by the end of the year \$1M. \$1.5M for affordable housing. Also subsidies to buy bicycles, including e-bikes and cargo bikes. All businesses would have to demonstrate Covid impacts. It's a requirement to use existing incentives first.
- On Tuesday, annual utility presentation at the planning board. City gives update on DPW and water. Vicinity and Eversource also gave updates. Vicinity is really exciting about decarbonizing operation. Biggest heat pump in America! 2030 100% e-steam. Filtering PFAS from water costs a lot.
- Eversource has been doing a lot of work on forecasting/planning. With projects currently planned or happening, they don't see any additional need for investment within 10 year plan.
  - Eversource's presentation at the Planning Board indicated that no new substations are required within 10-year planning horizon: [https://cambridgema.igmp2.com/Citizens/Detail\\_Communication.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=4546&MediaPosition=&ID=1573&CssClass=](https://cambridgema.igmp2.com/Citizens/Detail_Communication.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=4546&MediaPosition=&ID=1573&CssClass=)
  - Vicinity's presentation confirmed that their steam will be carbon-free by 2030 and that they plan on installing *America's largest heat pump* at Kendall Station in 2028 [https://cambridgema.igmp2.com/Citizens/Detail\\_Communication.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=4546&MediaPosition=&ID=1572&CssClass=](https://cambridgema.igmp2.com/Citizens/Detail_Communication.aspx?Frame=&MeetingID=4546&MediaPosition=&ID=1572&CssClass=)

## 7:20 PM Recommendations to the State Climate Chief (Sub-committee)

*Purpose: Learn about state-level recommendations that may relate to current or future Cambridge climate work.*

- Subcommittee asked questions of Climate Office in relation to recommendations
- 8:04 Adjourned

**July Preview:**

1. Presentation on residential and small business building decarbonization efforts
2. Discussion on community engagement processes