

## **Commission for Energy Use and Climate Change**

Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2017

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

### **Attendees:**

Ramon Bueno – Commissioner

Joshua Hodge – Commissioner

Eliza Johnston – Commissioner

Michelle Melton – Commissioner

Stephen Moore – Commissioner

Juliette Rooney-Varga – Commissioner

Julie Wood – Commissioner

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

Saritha Ramakrishna

Mary Mangan

Leigh Meunier

Larry Yu

Melissa Lowitz

Dan Flynn

Paola Massoli

Jocelyn Newhouse

Marian Swain

Monty Allen

Bruce Johnson

Albert Good

Emma Homstad

Emily Klotz

Liz Pongratz

Jessica Palacios

### Review and adopt the minutes from the October 11, 2017 meetings

- Approved

### Internal carbon pricing

- Not many examples of internal carbon prices for muni in this country. Two main options, 1) internal carbon pricing for corporations and universities, 2) shadow pricing.
- Talked to SomerStat about the possibility of implementing internal pricing; possible with Home Rule exception but likely not possible to disaggregate by city department. Therefore shadow pricing might be more feasible. Following up with procurement.
- Looking into what price mechanisms – social cost of carbon is one option, other is setting price based on what is needed to reach 2050 goal.

- Discussed how it would be incorporated into decision making – capital project/funding decisions only? Agreed that a customized pricing mechanism would be a better fit given our aggressive goals. Still some confusion of how the City makes decision and thus how/where to apply the carbon pricing.
- Oliver agreed that these are the key questions – likely focus on capital planning and key operation decisions but ideally expand to policy decisions.
- Two key decisions: What the price is and how it gets integrated into the City processes
- Juliette suggested that we could do some thoughts experiments with En-Roads. Offset markets are unreliable and variable. We could model it after the policy we WANT at the state level (or Canada's)
- The price has to be a signal to the right audience -- not useful as a once a year check but consider 'training wheels' to educate / train people in using it.

### HeatSmart/CoolSmart

- 23 contracts signed! Longer decision making process. Two vendor options slows down the process but likely leads to a better outcome for customer.
- December 15<sup>th</sup> is the contract sign date – but considering pushing this back
- Boston, Providence, Portland, Northampton – Boston is waiting for MassCEC program in 2018, Providence is also holding back to figure out outreach. Northampton + Portland/South Portland are making progress but going more slowly.
- Goal is 100, 50 get City gift card.
- Inspectional Services decided after program started that you needed a building permit. Not all cities will require permits. MassSave loan approval is also slowing down the process.
- City is considering a Phase II – City should be promoting thermal electrification on an ongoing basis, beyond this current program.
- Think about incorporating it in to Somerville Climate Forward for new builds as well as retrofits

### Somerville Climate Forward outreach

- What is the planned outreach for later on in the process when the plan is near complete?
- Consultants have prioritized actions based on their research and bundled by theme (near term/sector related). Actions range in scale.
- Next step is to take the prioritized actions to the working groups to get feedback prior to the meeting and have a productive conversation
- Content will be ready in January but likely final report in March/April
- More community meetings before the plan is complete
  - Do outreach to other experts within the City around themed priorities – e.g., bike/ped, garden/planning
  - Do pop-up, visual outreach in neighborhoods of interest – e.g., water filtration issues
- How have we been addressing our equity mission? Each action or bundle of recommendations need to address how the solutions can be implemented for lower income or renter populations. Suggestions will be scaled to Somerville and the needs we know we have.
  - Reminders to working groups that equity is a priority and need to have a checklist that each recommendation will be run through.
  - Give working group support to understand how actions might impact issues of equity

- Outreach is in phases – who needs to be involved before its finalized? They can get involved in the roll-out and the ‘splash’ of the release. Lastly there is the implementation.
- Identify audiences according to impact and interest – so that we can conduct outreach at each phase of the effort – planning, roll-out, and implementation
  - Meetings could be organized around themes, and interest groups that are not explicitly about climate change. For example, there could be a meeting about dealing with flooding in your home. Meetings do not need to be organized only around target populations/demographic groups.
  - Flood zone paintings – use community art to engage folks -other communities have done this, we can learn.
  - Identify neighborhood thought leaders, alderman, faith leaders to get them bought on and reach their networks
  - Talk to Museum of Science about how to translate science to communities. Or New England Aquarium.
  - Leverage John Snow Associates around public health messages
  - Partners, Somerville Hospital, Dept of Health can help message
  - Alderman are a valuable resource of information and can assist in outreach
- Topic for another meeting would be to discuss the priority bundles – and discuss directed outreach
- January commission meeting will be a working group meeting on Somerville Climate Forward

#### Updates on ongoing planning (Union Square, Central Hill campus)

- Union Sq redevelopment project – Planning Board will require conditions that relate to sustainability and planning. US-2 will incorporate these conditions in subsequent submission.
- Proposals received on Oct 31<sup>st</sup> – lots of interest, campus master plan. Commission could meet with the chosen consultant over the course of the project on two aspects of the plan:
  - Plans for district energy
  - Meeting carbon neutrality goal

#### CEUCC Priorities for 2018

- Carbon pricing – how to implement? Sville will be a real leader – lots of topics imbedded need to pull out relevant work-streams
- Implementing Somerville Climate Forward + carbon pathway implementation
- Somerville climate forward outreach is really important
- Engagement with schools and parents
- Renter-targeted initiatives
- Strategic electrification – Ngrid and Eversource have programs – we should hear more about them as these programs could impact our work significantly
- Transportation – MassDOT listening sessions, access, union sq, green line
- **Focus on a few topic and do them really well!**
- **Creation of Taskforces to address these priorities**
- **Other considerations from non-commissioners**
  - Tracking state legislation

### Tracking state legislation

- CAMP bill – climate adaptation in muni planning – supposed to be in W&M last week but then new amendments got tacked on, so it got pushed back a week. Hope is that the Senate will report it out and then the House will fast-track it. It will institutionalize the Governor's Exec. Order on municipal climate planning and has consistency initiative – will institutionalize adaptation planning into all state operations.

### Any and all business before the Commission

- SEEN update – hitting goals, doing well! Check out new water bottle station. Want to do a push around home energy assessments – door hangers (from National Grid).
- Juliette offered to provide info on district energy scenarios
- Learn more about Tufts district energy plant