

CAC Priority Setting Readout

Agenda

- Insights from the priority setting exercise
- Proposed subcommittee structure & potential project ideas
- Proposed activities for the full commission (future agenda items)
- Open discussion

Insights from Priority Setting: What do CAC members want to work on?

- Increasing **awareness & engagement** in the community
 - Climate actions / topics
 - City climate goals
 - Community, volunteering, partnerships
- By topic: **Buildings & Energy** had greatest interest (~33% of votes), Transport + Mobility had the least, remaining topics had strong interest (~15% of votes)
- Interest in **working with schools** across topic areas (e.g., school decarbonization, food waste in schools)

Insights from Priority Setting: Top-ranked initiatives

Topic Area	Initiative Name	Initiative Type	CAC would like to lead (# votes)	CAC would like to support (# votes)
Buildings + Energy	Community Choice Electricity awareness campaign & utility bill check-ups	City ideas for CAC initiatives	3	2
Buildings + Energy	Support district geothermal advancement	CAC ideas for CAC initiatives	2	3
Natural Resources + Waste	Land use in Somerville, e.g. green space, native vs. invasive plant work, depaving → cooling + carbon capture benefits, accelerating greening of abandoned property	CAC ideas for CAC initiatives		5
Community Health + Resiliency	Connected network of climate activism/resiliency clubs and hubs	CAC ideas for CAC initiatives	4	1
Non-specific / General	CAC meetings or subcommittee meetings with other Somerville commissions where there are overlapping priorities	CAC ideas for CAC initiatives	5	

Implications of Priority Setting: What should we focus on?

Proposed subcommittees

- Buildings and Energy
- Engagement and Outreach
- Accountability and Data

The balance of **topic-focused** and **function-focused** subcommittees will allow us to cover Buildings + Energy with the greatest depth, while supporting other topic areas of interest.

Subcommittees can be **revisited** / **modified** every year as priorities evolve.

Additionally, this exercise generated ideas for **full-commission activities** that we can add to future meeting agendas

Proposed subcommittee: **Buildings and Energy**

Note: These ideas come from initiatives proposed or voted for by CAC members. They should be taken as a starting point only.

1. Utility Bill Education

- a. Community Choice Electricity
- b. Financial Assistance
- c. Energy Usage and Efficiency

2. School decarbonization

- a. decarbonization ballot measure
- b. energy/water tracking data

3. Support geothermal district advancement

4. Mass Save/residential decarbonization outreach

- a. Landlords
- b. Property managers
- c. Renters

Proposed subcommittee: **Engagement and Outreach**

Note: These ideas come from initiatives proposed or voted for by CAC members. They should be taken as a starting point only.

1. Educate the public / organize events around climate topics

- a. Land use (e.g., depaving), tree planting, combined sewer overflow
- b. Recycling, composting / food waste
- c. Extreme heat, public health, climate resilience

2. Activation of the public

- a. Connected network of climate activism/resiliency clubs and hubs
- b. Climate Corps that trains/prepares people to support projects and networks
- c. List of climate-related volunteer opportunities for public to access/engage with

3. Support / enhance existing OSE & community events

- a. Table with existing City of Somerville / CAC / Climate Ambassador materials at community events
- b. Pumpkin Smash

4. Coordination with other Somerville commissions

5. Advocacy around ballot measures / policies (e.g., school decarbonization)

Proposed subcommittee: **Accountability and Data**

Note: These ideas come from initiatives proposed or voted for by CAC members. They should be taken as a starting point only.

- 1. Compiling and summarizing city updates on Climate Forward plan**
 - a. Host community events
 - b. Quarterly/yearly report on progress
 - c. Youth-friendly version of plan
- 2. Air quality/Heat stress impacts on community health**
 - a. Compile neighborhood air quality and health data
 - b. Support policy/advocacy for cooling and warming centers, cooling of green line extension
- 3. Comprehensive capital needs assessment for all city-owned buildings followed by a plan for decarbonization and electrification over time**

Proposed full commission activities (future agenda items)

1. Decide **Subcommittee leads & membership** (recommend each member join only 1 subcommittee)
2. **Partner mapping** for local climate action
 - a. Who are local climate organizations?
 - b. What Somerville committees/commissions are working on similar topics?
 - c. What organizations and people are we connected to in our personal networks?
3. **Strengths mapping** of CAC members
4. **Resident mapping** (potentially by ward)
 - a. Demographics – who lives in the community?
 - i. Resident personas/profiles
 - b. Where do people gather? (libraries, community centers, senior centers, schools)
 - c. Where do people go for information (radio, newspapers, social media, neighbors, etc)

Thank you! Any reactions or questions?