# Climate Action Commission

November 10, 2026

# Agenda

1. Approve **October 2026 meeting minutes** (5 minutes)
2. Share recent and upcoming l**ocal climate events, activities, or resources** (20 minutes)
   - Public comment
3. Initial discussion of **draft bylaws** (15 minutes)
   - Public comment
4. **Accountability & Data** standing committee committee: potential priority data analysis projects related to city climate resilience data, questions regarding Climate Forward plan (10 minutes)
   - Public comment
5. **Buildings & Energy** standing committee (10 minutes)
   - Public comment
6. **Engagement & Outreach** standing committee (10 minutes)
   - Public comment
7. **CAC term limits** and process for **appointing new member**s or reappointing current members (5 minutes)
8. Preparation for **December meeting** (10 minutes)
   - Public comment

# Bylaws Discussion Points

**OVERALL**

- What other input do you have?
- What did we miss?

**ARTICLE II. COMMITTEE WORK**

- Section II. Public Involvement: Is this something we want to invite? Does the requirement to attend 50% of meetings strike the right balance?

**ARTICLE III. MEMBER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

- Section I. Membership: How do the membership requirements look to you? Thoughts on the timeline for membership application?
- Section II. Member Participation Standards: Does this philosophy of broadening member participation requirements feel right to you?

# Accountability & Data - potential project ideas

- Air quality monitoring and tracking (in schools; Groundwork Somerville has some across city)
- Require building owners to tell the City when their current HVAC systems were installed
- Tracking municipal schools (and/or residential or multifamily buildings) energy and water use for 12 months
- School classroom energy use deep dive and quantification (investigate every classroom during school hours)
- Comprehensive capital needs assessment for all city-owned building followed by a decarbonization and electrification over time plan
- Comparative neighborhood-based study/community health survey on air quality
- Cooling/warming centers (e.g., GIS map)
- Transparency and accountability on implementation of Climate Forward plan
    - Quarterly review of CF progress. Where are we on the 77 actions and more importantly the outcomes?
    - Easier-to-digest updates on the Climate Forward plan's progress
    - More accessible, youth-friendly version of the Climate Forward plan

# Accountability & Data - questions for OSE

Note: These will be discussed on 11/19 with Emily Sullivan (Climate Change Program Manager)

1. What data would the office like to have?
2. What data do we already have?
3. Who normally does data work? What projects have been completed? What projects are ongoing?
4. Where do we get previous volunteer data collection projects in Somerville?
5. How was the climate forward plan progress reviewed/assessed last, and is somebody already working on repeating that assessment?
6. We saw fliers/fact sheets made for advertising climate forward plan summaries from 2019-2024, is someone already working on it for 2025? Is support on that needed?

# Buildings & Energy - Proposed topics for Meeting 1 (I / II)

**Topics to cover in meeting**

- Buildings and Energy is a vast topic. Even the handful of focus areas (e.g., schools decarbonization, geothermal, etc.) are big areas to tackle on their own. At the first meeting, it would be good to understand each person's interests and what they hope to achieve and whether it makes sense to have two buildings and energy committees.
- Why we wanted to join this committee, who might lead the meeting, frequency/timing of meetings, ideas of projects this committee could work on in the near and long-term, and 1-2 discussion questions we want to pose to the group in the November meeting

# Buildings & Energy - Proposed topics for Meeting 2 (I / II)

**Proposed projects**

- Clarifying and strengthening the City's relationship and communications with building owners
- Increasing the City's capacity for provision of energy coaching to building owners
- Researching and cataloging financing options for the decarbonization of individual buildings that are low cost and that make the financing of these projects less daunting and more manageable for building owners
- Increasing the ability of tenants to encourage and persuade building owners to decarbonize their buildings
- Developing ways for the City to publicly commend building owners who decarbonize their buildings and finding ways for these building owners to encourage other building owners to decarbonize their buildings
- Working with Somerville's state representatives and state senators to introduce and pass legislation that encourages and incentivizes building owners to decarbonize the buildings they own
- Review of existing building focused climate actions and goals, review of Mass Save impacts

# Recall: Buildings & Energy ideas from priority setting

*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

# Engagement & Outreach - Proposed Ideas for Meeting 1

- Get to know each other, what connections they have, what brings them to this committee, what each person's skill set is to contribute, and what we want to prioritize working on over the winter time
- Resilience hubs: inventorying assets and capacities and coordinating based on the plan / resources / goals, engaging with places that could be hubs but don't yet identify as such to empower them to step into that role

# Recall: Engagement & Outreach ideas from priority setting

*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)**