

# NCCE Meeting Notes

December 20, as continued from November 15

# November recap: Current activities

- BERDO
  - Condo/Rental issue
- Gas leaks working group
- On going energy coaching
- Residential energy disclosure:
  - Rental
  - Condos
- Residential sector?
  - Barriers/inertia
  - Five (5) recommendations document (online @ Commission website)
- Collaboration
  - Green Newton
  - Mothers Out Front
  - 350
  - City of Newton!
  - Other cities

- Policy Issues/Positions
  - Newton Power Choice
  - Electrification
- Advocacy
- GHG reporting (annual) (inventory)
  - Develop written directions on how to get inventory
  - “automate process”
- NCAP reporting requirements
  - Results
  - Benchmarks
  - Proposed modifications/updates
- Data Driven Decision making....
  - Data collection & strategy
  - Data framework

# November recap: Context

- MassSave – continually more aggressive electrification efforts;
  - upcoming hearing
- clean heat standard
  - like an RPS...heat supply from clean sources reqmnt.
  - 2026...30% better than today's benchmark.
- Navigating the rebates and credits, state vs fed.
- Mass CEC: neighborhood targeted electrification
  - Countryside Elementary School (GSHP);
  - Franklin Elementary School (in 6 mos)
- Grant funding
- Smart Grid/Smart Metering
  - EV metering rates....coming soon (2028) to a charger near you!
- State Legislative initiatives....
  - Omnibus climate bill
- Local/multi-city groups focused on various issues from time to time

# Future Activities

- Data issues
  - 3 years of data on MassSave energy audits
  - Develop proper “base” for projections
    - Target marketing
    - Baseline and projection tracking
    - Understanding impact on metrics
- City Council
  - Ordinances
    - BERDO
      - Large buildings
      - Small buildings
    - Electrification (energy code/10 communities)
    - Residential neighborhood gas transition
    - Gas leaks – highlight this to press utility
  - Liaison/relations
    - Working with/getting to know new councilors

# Future activities

- Climate Action Plan Update
  - Tracking and reporting on City progress
    - \$ from the Mayor/grant? Consultant? – gather info from all parties in the city, develop recommendations
  - Update – high level, what has changed, what are new/top priorities
  - Are grant funds available?
  - NCCE is independent of City
- GHG analyses for City Council and executive actions
  - How do we get ahead of items to be proactive?
- Engage in gas pipe installation/sizing/replacement/permission processes (grants of location)
  - Gas working group working on this
  - City authority is unclear/may be weak
  - Order 20-80 may change this context
    - Get a presentation on this for NCCE

# Future activities

- Plan for gas infrastructure retirement in Newton
  - City Council has passed an ordinance on this
  - Networked geothermal
  - Public Facilities Committee
    - Albright chair; Leary vice chair
  - A Future Without Gas (AFWOG)
  - GSEP reform/20-80 in useful context
- State legislative support
- Technical assistance for large residential BERDO compliance
  - Advocate for City support/\$
- Rental building energy disclosure/performance standards
  - Tenant protection framing
  - Building Electrification Accelerator (nationwide convener) looking at this
    - Legal analysis/framework still uncertain
  - Cambridge and Somerville have considered this

# Future activities

- Residential adoption/inertia/barriers
  - Green Newton lead
  - NCCE role?
    - Information, analysis, City interface
- Populations to support and be aware of
  - Low to moderate income – what actions can we take to target helping this population in particular?
  - Aging in place/demographic change – be aware of needs and investment timeframes
  - Renters



# Issues to track

- Residential performance and disclosure policies
- Gas leaks (working group)
- EVs

# Possible future NCCE Agenda items

- Get an update from the gas working group (AFWOG)
- discuss 20-80 order, Mark Dyen
- Identify champions for issues/actions
- Document curation/library/use of NCCE website
- Status update on library public engagement board
- Green Newton residential efforts
  - Low and middle income; demographics

# NCCE Roles

- Action
  - Ordinances
  - City plans (a la NCAP)
- Support
  - Data collection and analysis
  - Green Newton
  - Engaging with other City bodies with info and advice
    - Evaluation of City actions/decisions; support for other Commissions
- Research/Tracking
  - Laying groundwork for future actions and support
- Outreach and Education
  - Councilors
  - Public
  - Business community
  - Other communities

# Dimensions for evaluation

- Size of impact
- Timing of action
  - 2024 vs. later vs. continuous
- Timing of impact
  - Short (1-2 years), Medium (3-5 years), Long (6+ years)
- Likelihood of impact
- Unique role or expertise of NCCE
- Also: track/research a wider range of issues
- Resources – needed and acquired/findable

