

January 24

Newton Citizens Commission on Energy

Gas Pipes Group Report discussion

- Report received in December
- Potential role for this analysis in Statehouse conversation this spring (starting February)
- Concern re: pipe size increase under GSEP program (to accommodate hydrogen)
 - Response: group looked at this and it seemed to be OK as implemented
- Recommend the City (and utility) prioritize big/high volume leaks
 - Most gas leaks from a small number of big leaks (50% of gas comes from 7% of leaks)
- Recommend plan to retire pipe
- Concern: language could be more “punchy”
 - Response: GTA media consultant can help with this
- This is a product of the NCCE – it is up to us what to do with it
- Table for now – discuss/settle by email
- Process for accepting
 - NCCE to review report and vote yes/no on approving a transmittal letter
 - Should we put a cover letter on the report – yes, with major take-aways
 - Methane leaks – environmental and safety
 - Phil and Jon to draft
 - CC Mayor and City Council on our acceptance

NCCE Priorities for (first half of) 2024

- Action
 - Ordinances
 - Large Building BERDO
 - “10 communities” electrification code
- Support
 - Data collection and analysis
 - NCAP tracking & reporting
 - CC has a docketed item asking Sustainability Dept to report
 - Publicizing #s collected by Liora
 - Green Newton -- Jon Slote liaison
 - Residential Retrofit campaign coordination/collaboration -- launch this spring
 - Data analysis (help w/ market segmentation, for example; campaign evaluation)
 - Engaging with other City bodies with info and advice
 - Evaluation of City actions/decisions; support for other Commissions
 - How to understand what’s coming up, how to get invited to speak on relevant items
 - How to decide which items to prioritize – Jay Snyder to screen
- Research/Tracking
 - Laying groundwork for future actions and support
 - Gas planning; leaks
 - Residential regulation
- Outreach and Education
 - Councilors
 - Meetings with new (and older) members where we do not have strong relationships – build relationships, understand questions, etc.
 - Chairs to talk with President of CC; Committee chairs (public facilities, land use, ZAP) – get the lay of the land, how to work together/help
 - Public
 - Public hearings educate both public and councilors
 - Business community
 - Rachel to engage with Chamber – BERDO, most particularly
 - Commercial “energy coach” need? (Boston is providing technical assistance to building owners) – when is this needed (both politically and practically)
 - Vendor engagement
 - Other communities

Actions known to come in 2024

- Electrification “10 communities” building code
 - ZAP passed a public hearing plan on Monday
 - Public outreach + statement to Council – February 26 public hearing
 - January 1, 2025 start date (to be presented as such)
- BERDO
 - Open concerns: What is included (re: large residential); “Maryland” model for performance to focus on electrification (only on-site emissions would be capped); DOER progress on reporting
 - Next step: new resolution/ordinance language needs to be drafted (city staff)
 - Goal: City Council in March