



## Newton Citizens Commission on Energy City of Newton, Massachusetts

<http://www.newtonma.gov/building/projects/energycomm>

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Honorable Councilors Albright, Baker and Krintzman,

It has come to our attention that you are currently reviewing the Council's rules regarding its standing committees. We want to propose for your consideration creating a Committee on Climate Action Implementation. This committee would be the destination for all proposals related to, directly or indirectly, energy, climate, and greenhouse gas emissions.

Several goals set out by the Climate Action Plan call for the Council to adopt new ordinances (please see the table below). Additionally, the Energy Commission plans to propose other actions to facilitate progress toward the Plan's long-term goals.

In the collaborative work between the Energy Commission, the City, and the activists' organizations on implementing the Plan, we find no natural matches between various climate-related forthcoming proposals for new ordinances and the current standing committees of the City Council. As a result, sometimes it would be required to break up various proposed initiatives and submit the subproposals to different committees. For example, when dealing with the residential housing sector, it is unclear which committee should consider actions related to retrofitting existing houses and address new construction. At other times, it is unclear which committee is the most appropriate destination. This is the case with a proposal to require obtaining an Energy Scorecard (at the cost of \$150) with home renovations above a specific cost (possibly \$30,000).

Many actions related to the CAP's implementation are quite technical. With a Climate Action Implementation Committee in place, the same councilors would deliberate different but very much interrelated topics, incrementally accumulating experience and technical knowledge while also reviewing each proposal in light of other related proposals.

Halina Brown, Chair, on behalf of Newton Citizens Commission on Energy

Marcia Cooper on behalf of Green Newton

Mark Dyen and Cory Alperstein on behalf of 350.Mass-Newton Node

Rachel Adler-Golden and Cindy Callaway on behalf of Mothers Out Front-Newton

## Excerpts from Newton Climate Action Plan

E.3.2. Explore opportunities for requiring a standardized, broadly accepted, building energy performance scorecard, to be obtained by a potential seller and disclosed to potential buyers.

D.3.1. Work with City Council to amend the Zoning Ordinance to require new construction and major renovations seeking a Special Permit maximize energy efficiency, maximize the use of renewable energy including thermal energy, and use electricity for heating and cooling.

D.3.2. Work with City Council to require that all new construction and major renovations analyze the costs, benefits, and GHG impacts of maximizing energy efficiency; utilizing electric heating, cooling, and hot water; and using renewable energy, including thermal energy.

D.3.5. Work with City Council to adopt Zoning Ordinances that encourage additional, appropriate low-carbon, housing near public transportation.

C.4.1. Work with City Council to develop a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program to reduce single-occupancy vehicle trips through amendments to the Zoning Ordinance.

C.4.2. Work with City Council to explore reducing or eliminating the minimum parking requirement in the Zoning Ordinance and instead setting a maximum on parking allotments.