

Concord Energy & Environment Advisory Committee

February 15, 2020

2020 ACTION PLANNING DOCUMENT

This document is based on a review of “100% Renewable Energy Strategic Plan Chapter 8: Table of Recommended Action Steps,” as well as additional action planning relative to environmental issues (e.g., solid waste).

Key outcomes of the action planning meeting include:

1. Decision to form Working Groups to address: (1) communication; (2) Weatherize; (3) solid waste. Additional working groups may form as necessary.
2. Decision to encourage City to hire Sustainability/Energy Staff
3. Regionally neighboring Energy Committees will be kept abreast of EEAC activities with potential for collaborations (e.g., leveraging Weatherize “buzz”)

Communication, both internally with City Staff and externally with public and regional partners, is a critical priority for EEAC.

- EEAC requires an online presence and website to be successful
- Proposed Action: **Establish EEAC Communication Working Group** to address:
 - Online presence and website creation
 - Support City Councilors and Planning Staff in communicating with City administration
 - Build and maintain communications database (starting with review of outreach conducted as part of 100% RE Strategic Plan drafting and public engagement); leverage for Weatherize and subsequent public education campaigns
 - Explore revitalizing EEAC Facebook page
 - Send out brand/message (or Weatherize / solid waste content) in tax bill. Spring and Fall.
 - Build relationship with Janice, City Clerk
- Question: How to coordinate between communication and other working groups? Integrate communication into one or more working groups?

Energy Efficiency – 2020 Weatherize Capital Region

Strategy #3: Prioritize high impact low/moderate income community energy efficiency upgrades

Strategy #4: Facilitate community-wide energy efficiency improvements through public education and partnership with NHSaves

Proposed Action: Execute Strategies through **formation of EEAC “Weatherize Working Group”**

- Unil and Liberty Utilities NHSaves energy efficiency budgets are increasing. The utilities have approached EEAC seeking to partner on a “Weatherize 2020” campaign to conduct public education for residential, low- and moderate-income, and other sectors.
- Target sectors:
 - Residential: NHSaves offers 50% of weatherization (energy audit, air sealing and insulation) costs, up to \$4,000 for residential customers through the **Home Performance with Energy Star (HpwES) Program**.
 - Low Income: NHSaves offers 100% of weatherization costs for low-income customers.
- Timeline:
 - Form EEAC Weatherize Working Group
 - Henry has a Google Folder from Vital Communities on “All the Materials and Templates You Need to Run a Successful Weatherize Campaign.”
 - EEAC Weatherize Working Group undergoes “EEAC Weatherize Training” (1-hour)
 - Launch around Earth Day (April 22) with a “Weatherize Launch Event” or “Button Up Workshop”; market through the spring; develop spreadsheet of interested residents; engage and support throughout implement process into summer
 - Include information on rebate opportunities offered by NHSaves within any relevant communication materials the City may already be providing to residents
 - Engage additional sectors (e.g., build on progress of Low-income Working Group; expand energy curriculum in Concord Schools with NH Energy Education Project)

100% Renewable Electricity, Transportation, and Thermal

- EEAC will continue to monitor and support electricity, transportation, and thermal initiatives such as the solar RFP process. Initial communication and engagement through coordinated Weatherize Campaign will build networks and relationships to leverage into renewable energy, transportation, and thermal (e.g., future solarize campaign; heat-smart campaign; renewable school transportation; low-income renewable energy).
- Key Strategies:
 - Strategy #2: Prioritize making solar/renewable electricity available to low/moderate income residents
 - Strategy #3: EEAC will check in with Sam on communicating permitting process for solar projects
- Henry will follow up with City Staff on Community Power
- UNH Sustainability Fellow data collection and analysis will inform electric, thermal, and transport initiatives.
- EEAC will encourage City Council to support municipal net metering compromise.
- EEAC will engage Matt Cashman and School Board members on designing new Rundlett school to be net zero, have solar, etc.
- EEAC will participate in Drive Electric Week (fall)

Solid Waste

- Proposed Action: **Establish EEAC “Solid Waste Working Group”** to address:

- Recycling Education Campaign (informed by Goffstown: “Recycle Right 2019”)
 - Recycling market faces macro-scale problems; single stream was too good to be true and it does not work; when the City’s contract ends with Cascella, prices will go up; need for education and preparation now.
 - Concord provides recycling services to large multi-family properties, but contamination rate is over 50%. Meredith with Adam Clark (head of Solid Waste in General Services) on education.
- Composting Education Campaign
 - General Services offers sale of cheap composting bins; in need of promotion
 - Opportunity to reinvigorate downtown Green Business Group around composting.
 - The Works is the only large scale business that composts, but compost is exported to a Maine company (because of state rules requiring meat and dairy be composted at certain temperatures)
 - Ryan Hvizda, owner of Bona-fide Green Goods is a partner
- Citizen request to ban single use plastics
 - EEAC will encourage City Administration to support the legislation enabling municipalities to ban single use plastic.