

# Inner Core Committee

A subregion of the Metropolitan Area Planning Council including 21 cities and towns:

Arlington • Belmont • Boston • Brookline • Cambridge • Chelsea • Everett • Lynn • Malden • Medford •  
Melrose • Milton • Needham • Newton • Quincy • Revere • Saugus • Somerville • Waltham • Watertown • Winthrop

**Inner Core Committee Meeting**  
Wednesday, April 3, 8:45 - 11:00 am  
MAPC 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
60 Temple Place, Boston, MA 02111

## Summary Notes

**8:45 – 9:00 am: Breakfast and Community Exchange**

*Municipal representatives:*

Erin Zwirko, Arlington  
Kara Brewton, Brookline  
Jeff Roberts, Cambridge  
John DePriest, Chelsea  
Annie Streetman, Medford  
Emma Schnur, Melrose  
James Freas, Newton  
Dan Bartman, Somerville  
Steve Magoon, Watertown

*Guests:*

Anna Valdez, G-BRAG, UMass Boston  
Hannah Payne, Somerville

**9:10 – 9:30 am: Energy Codes**

Nicole Sanches, Clean Energy Coordinator, MAPC

- Working to advancing Net Zero and carbon reduction goals through transportation, buildings, energy efficiency
- Collective procurement
  - LED Streetlight Retrofit Program
  - Clean vehicle services for municipal fleets
  - Aggregation to build more renewable energy
- Technical Assistance
  - Support for Green Communities
  - Peak Demand Management Program
- Resources

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- Clean Energy Forum in the fall
- [Local Energy Action Dashboard](#)
- Upcoming Opportunities
  - RFI for Residential Energy Efficiency
    - Contractor of energy audits for residents and installations; consumer protection through City-approved contractors
    - Cambridge is participating; others?
  - Green Communities TA
    - Deadline to submit is May 10 for submission, but let us know of potential proposals by April 19
    - 2-year grant for longer term projects
  - Peak Demand Webinar
    - April 9, 12:30-1:30 PM
    - [Register here](#)
- International Energy Conservation Code (IECC)
  - Governmental Members registered – March deadline
  - Voters for each Membership identified by primary member – September deadline
  - Voting window – November
- Stretch Code update
  - Don't have to update it based on new IECC, but should!
  - MAPC proposes a tiered Stretch Code, option for Net Zero Stretch Code
  - Upcoming public hearing on May 7 at 1000 Washington Street, Boston

## **9:30 – 9:50 am: Climate Perspectives Project**

Heidi Stucker, Assistant Director of Public Health, MAPC

- Focus groups and participatory art-making to collect perspectives on current and future impacts of climate change, focusing on workers and livelihoods at greater exposure to climate impacts and workers providing services to individuals especially vulnerable to climate impacts
- Industries: construction, farming, home health care, fishing
- Farming
  - Impacts
    - Temperature – parasites and ticks, unpredictable harvest times, cycles are off
    - Precipitation – mold, crop damage
    - Drought – too hot to harvest
    - Sea level rise – flooding of farmland (cranberry), salt water damage
    - Supply chain – inconsistent provision to consumers, need for more hay and

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- other materials to respond to unpredictable weather impacts
  - Resilience practices
    - More greenhouses and protected environments
    - Silvopasturing
    - Cover cropping
    - Composting
    - No till practices
    - Solar arrays
  - Needs
    - Knowledge and information
    - Financial support, compensation for good practices
    - Regulations and policies – not keeping up with current or future conditions
- Fishing
  - Impacts
    - Temperature – species migration, invasive species, abundant species comprising others, mismatch between species abundance and regulatory catch limits
    - Extreme precipitation and storm – flooding, damage, closure
  - Resilience practices
    - Establish markets and infrastructure for invasive species
    - Market building efforts with institutional buyers
    - Flexible procurement partnerships
    - Kelp aquaculture – allows for closer to year-round employment
  - Needs
    - Knowledge and information
    - Workforce/small business development
    - Regulations and policies, specifically catch limits
- Home Health Care
  - Impacts
    - Higher utility costs impacting clients
    - Homes that aren't weatherized and lack AC or adequate heating
    - Forced relocation can result in nursing home or other higher intensity facility
    - Disability or medical need can prevent clients from going outside for relief
    - Storm and weather prevent reaching client
  - Resilience practices
    - Not many in place
    - Union has formed a Climate Justice Caucus, education fund for training
    - Working with property management to connect clients with support closer to home in event of storm
  - Needs

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- Knowledge, training – emergency response
- Support – low-cost weatherization and utility assistance
- Regulations and policies, same privileges for home health care workers as other emergency response personnel

## **9:50 – 10:20 am: Somerville Climate Forward**

Hannah Payne, Office of Sustainability + Environment, City of Somerville

- Climate mitigation and adaptation action plan, working towards carbon neutrality by 2050
- Data driven climate planning
  - Greenhouse gas inventories, every two years starting in 2016
  - Climate change vulnerability assessment, 2017
  - Carbon neutrality pathway, 2017
  - Planning for future, 2018
- Actions
  - Better energy efficiency
  - Move to 100% carbon-free electricity
  - Switch off of fossil fuels to electric sources, from vehicles to heating systems
- Vulnerability
  - Heat
  - Precipitation
  - Coastal flooding
- [Climate Forward](#), climate change plan
  - Reduce the city's contribution and work towards carbon neutrality
  - Prepare, adapt
  - Fairly distribute opportunities created in response to climate change and alleviate unequal burdens of climate change, equity
  - 5-year action plan, taking the period between now and 2050 in short-term chunks since things change (climate, technology, etc.) so quickly
- Planning process
  - Worked with consultant
  - Community driven, nine working groups of residents and City staff
  - Cross-departmental process, collaboration
  - Four-step approach: research best practices, evaluate utility to Somerville, prioritize near-long-term actions, develop detailed plans with 22 priority actions (implementation steps, equity considerations, precedents, etc.)
- Plan
  - Buildings – net zero and resilient building standards, improved energy performance in existing buildings

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- Mobility – get cars off the road, electric vehicle charging strategy
- Environment – update storm water management, expand tree canopy, reduce consumption and waste (consumption-based inventory to understand bigger picture)
- Community – prepare people to respond to climate impacts, pathway to 100% renewable energy through aggregation, organize community climate leadership program
- Leadership – net-zero building standards for municipal buildings, state advocacy and regional collaboration for coastal resilience
- Plan implementation
  - Able to hit the ground running through clear action items and cross-departmental collaboration

## **10:25 – 10:55 am: Climate Change Science Projections Update**

Ellen Douglas, UMass Boston, Greater Boston Research Advisory Group (G-BRAG)

Anna Valdez, UMass Boston

- Greater Boston Research Advisory Group (G-BRAG) managed by the School for the Environment at UMass Boston
- Provide Greater Boston area stakeholders with projections to protect and prepare for climate change-related impacts
- 2016 Boston-specific Climate Ready report
  - Extreme precipitation
  - Extreme temperatures
  - Sea level rise
  - Coastal storms
- For G-BRAG update - outreach through April 2018; work continues through December 2022
- Brainstorm
  - Attendees answer questions regarding topics of interest and associated climate change impacts and information needed to address them, discuss thoughts in small groups, share ideas with room
  - Housing, transportation, public health, economy, governance, environmental resources, social justice and equity, other
  - Discussion: transit and delays; displacement risk, vulnerable populations, housing costs, flood improvements and insurance premiums; heat and impacts on mobility (working against bike, ped goals), energy impacts on public resources (senior centers, libraries, etc.), local businesses reliant on people being out and about; drought preparation and impacts; accuracy in flood

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plain maps; not knowing what you need to know; impacts on businesses and sectors impacted by climate change; how to communicate about climate change to different groups and cultures, increase understanding

- Learn more and take the survey [here!](#)

**10:55 – 11:00 am:**

## **Next Steps**

- 1 more Field Visit
  - Tentatively April 24, location and topic TBD
- Work planning at May meeting
  - Please participate in planning for the upcoming fiscal year, including focus areas of interest and meeting format and frequency
- June meeting
  - Vote on the FY20 work plan
  - Full agenda, topic TBD