

CAC 9/15/22 Meeting Information

Meeting Notes

Climate Action Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 1st, 2022

Present; Carol Harris, acting chair, Rebecca Bruyn, Fred Gaechter, Lili Flanders
Guests: Georgia Neill

Topic	Discussion	Action
Minutes	Minutes from 8/18/2022 meeting were approved by all.	To be sent for posting on town website. No further action needed
Article 53	Reviewed memo draft. Rebecca moved to have it sent to energy committee, seconded by Carol and approved by all.	Carol will send amended draft to energy committee for review.
Review and approve proposed Climate Coordinator job description	The job description was reviewed and some changes were suggested. It was decided to ask the town to create a fulltime position for this job. We discussed funding the position with revenue from the solar array to be installed at the transfer station. Carol moved to submit the job description, with edits, seconded by Lili and approved by all.	Carol will send job description to energy committee and town hall.
Truro Talks Articles	Most attendees had not read Lili's Oct. article and it was decided that members and guests could email suggested edits, to be approved on the 15th. Fred incorporated suggested edits to his Nov. article. There was a discussion about expanding points from Fred's Nov. for Dec. and future Truro Talks. It was agreed that TT writers would share drafts via email with committee members and guests, who would respond individually with suggested	Fred and Lili will send finals drafts to Carol to be approved at 9/15 mtg. We will discuss Dec. TT article and others at the 9/29 mtg.

	edits, and that revised drafts would then be reviewed and approved at future meetings.	
Updates on Current Actions	<p>Georgia and Lili summarized their experience at the COA lunch on 8/26: the COA members having lunch did not want to listen to or talk about climate change issues. Lili and Georgia left them with written materials.</p> <p>Carol shared that the banner has arrived and is ready for use.</p> <p>Carol summarized the meeting she'd had with Kristen Reed, Emily Beebe and Stephanie Rein earlier on 9/1: they asked for a list of projects CAC is working on and urged the committee to bring them actions which they can put before the voting public.</p> <p>Georgia had watched videos sent to her by the Wellfleet climate and energy committee and we discussed using same for Truro education.</p>	<p>Lili will host an information table at the community center on 9/7; Georgia will do the same at the library on 9/13. They will use the banner.</p> <p>Georgia will email committee members the Wellfleet videos to watch, so we can discuss using them for outreach/education.</p>
Proposed New Actions	<p>Jarrold Cabral will attend the next CAC mtg. to discuss Mill Pond Rd.</p> <p>Carol invited the EC, but has not heard back from them.</p>	To be decided based on discussion.
Other	Fred shared recent readings about net zero vs. zero approach to climate change.	More to come
Next meeting	June 9th	Meeting adjourned at 12:30pm

Respectfully submitted

Lili Flanders

October Truro Talks

Mini Splits: A Cleaner Energy Heating Alternative

As the days cool and we head deeper into fall, you may be testing your electric baseboard heating system, making sure your furnace is topped up with oil, or checking on your other supplies. But there's a cleaner alternative to heating your home: mini splits, also known as air-source heat pumps. These heating and cooling systems run on electricity, are highly efficient and produce significantly less greenhouse gas emissions than baseboard, oil, or propane heating.

Mini splits not only reduce reliance on fossil fuels, such as oil (good news for our fragile Outer Cape environment), but cost less to run than oil or propane heating, so you can feel good about using cleaner energy, even as you save money.

There are both state and federal incentives that make installing mini splits even more cost-effective. You can get more information about those, as well as financing possibilities at: <https://goclean.masscec.com/benefits-savings/>

If you have solar panels on your home, or are thinking of installing them, they could offset part or all of the electrical costs of running mini splits.

While using ducts with a heat pump is an option, one of the advantages of a mini split heating and cooling system is that it can be installed without duct work (making it an ideal upgrade for older homes). You can also choose which rooms you wish to heat or cool, according to your needs, further reducing heating and cooling costs. Most mini splits feature a "dry" mode, which reduces humidity. During sticky days, sometimes simply reducing the humidity in your home is enough to make it more comfortable. Another advantage of mini splits is how quiet they are; unlike most air conditioning compressors, the outdoor unit of a mini split system makes very little noise.

It's not too late to have efficient, clean energy mini splits installed in your home in time for winter. There are a number of Cape businesses that specialize in installing mini split systems, which can be found through an online search.

The process of installing a mini split system in your home includes mounting mini splits on the walls of the rooms you'd like heated and cooled, as well as placing one or more units outside (depending on the size of your home). An electrician will need to connect the new system to your electrical panel. The whole project can be completed in a few days.

Still confused about what exactly a mini split/air-source heat pump system is, or how it works? This short video from *This Old House*, offers a dynamic demonstration: <https://goclean.masscec.com/clean-energy-solutions/air-source-heat-pumps/>

Questions or suggestions about addressing climate change? Interested in learning about joining the Committee or volunteering? Contact Truro's Climate Action Committee at climateaction@truro-ma.gov



Truro Climate Action Committee

24 Town Hall Road, PO Box 2030

Truro, MA 02666

Email: climateaction@truro-ma.gov

Website: <https://www.truro-ma.gov/climate-action-committee>

Truro Climate Action Committee Goals: 2022/23

1. Goal: Develop a Climate Action Plan for Truro

Description: Draft a Climate Action Plan that will inform the municipality, residents, and businesses on actions to address climate change by obtaining input and review from Select Board, relevant boards and committees, residents, and businesses.

Assigned to: Carol, Fred, Rebecca

Resources Required: Select Board, Town Manager, municipal department heads, board and committee members, residents, businesses, Cape Cod Commission

Estimated Completion: Draft completed January 1, 2023, or earlier

Key Performance Indicator: 1st draft completed by August 2022, Final draft completed and submitted to SB by January 2023

2. Goal: Promote EV Charging Stations for Businesses

Description: Educate business owners on the benefits of EV charging stations and on the EV charger installation process via information sheets and direct mailing.

Assigned to: Bob, Rebecca

Resources Required: Town Hall to provide mailing lists for either print or electronic mailer.

Estimated Completion: Email May 15, follow up with businesses June 15

Key Performance Indicator: Two charging sites installed by end of 2022

3. Goal: Propose a Climate Change Agent for Truro

Description: Draft job description and submit to Town Manager, Health/Conservation Agent, DPW Director, Select Board, and other appropriate board/committee chairs for review and input.

Assigned to: Rebecca, Carol

Resources Required: Town Manager, Health/Conservation Agent, DPW Director, Select Board, and other appropriate board/committee chairs

Estimated Completion: Fall 2022

Key Performance Indicator: Draft of position completed by CAC

4. Goal: Outreach

Description: In-person information table at COA, Library, and other town buildings and events.

Assigned to: Rebecca, all

Resources Required: Banner/sign, printed CAC climate change information

Estimated Completion: On-going

Key Performance Indicator: Increase subscribers by ~50% from baseline of 72 subscribers in January 2022 to ~150 by end of 2022

5. Goal: Create or Improve Existing CAC Webpage

Description: Webpage development to make a user-friendly resource for climate information.

Assigned to: Carol

Resources Required: Webpage design, webpage administrator

Estimated Completion: December 2022

Key Performance Indicator: Feasibility research conducted by December 2022

6. Goal: Meet with Boards/Committees to Identify Climate Actions

Description: Conduct workshops with appropriate boards and committees to identify climate change responsibilities and decision-making

Assigned to: Carol, All

Resources Required: Board of Health, Building Committee, Council on Aging, Economic Development Committee, Finance Committee, Local Comprehensive Plan Committee, Pamet Harbor Committee, School Board, Walsh Property Community Planning Committee, Zoning Board of Appeals

Estimated Completion: On-going

Key Performance Indicator: Meet with a minimum of six committees by December 2022

7. Goal: Recommend Whole Government Approach

Description: Recommend that town government implement a whole government approach to addressing climate change

Assigned to: Bob, Fred

Resources Required: Select Board, Town Manager, appropriate department heads to review and determine how to implement

Estimated Completion: June

Key Performance Indicator: Five committees support this approach

Added to LCP , SB, and Town Manager goals or otherwise codified to be Town Policy

8. Goal: Work with Cape Light Compact

Description: Work with Cape Light Compact to promote energy audits

Assigned to: Bob, Rebecca

Resources Required: Cape Light Compact

Estimated Completion: On-going

Key Performance Indicator: Increase requests for audits of residential buildings from 23% as of January 2022 to 50% by December 2022

9. Goal: Inform Select Board & Municipal Managers

Description: Inform Select Board and Municipal Managers about state roadmap, laws, and codes

Assigned to: Bob, Fred

Resources Required:

Estimated Completion: June 2022

Key Performance Indicator: TBD

10. Goal: Write Articles for Truro Talks

Description: Write educational/information articles about addressing climate change in each issue of Truro Talks

Assigned to: Carol, All

Resources Required: CAC members

Estimated Completion: On-going

Key Performance Indicator: Article written every month

11. Adopt Specialized Opt-In Energy Code

Description: Inform and engage citizenry, Town Government, other boards, and committees to participate in the stretch code adoption process and adoption of specialized opt-in code

Assigned to: Bob, All, EC

Resources Required: EC commitment, several Truro Talks articles, SEMASS green communities' coordinator assistance

Estimated Completion: July 1, 2022, draft finalized, January 1, 2023, implementation starts

Key Performance Indicator: CAC and SB submit comments during public comment period before July1 deadline (TBD by DOER) or after the proposed draft is released, whichever comes first. Truro opts in to specialized code

12. Goal: Make Article 17 of the 2020 Warrant Binding

Description: Educate and engage citizenry, town government, other boards, and committees to make Article 17 of the 2020 Town Meeting Warrant binding policy at the 2023 Town Meeting

Assigned to: Bob, Rebecca, All

Resources Required: EC commitment, several Truro Talks articles, TPTRA outreach

Estimated Completion: September 2022

Key Performance Indicator: 2023 Warrant Article