



MEETING AGENDA
 Town of Concord
Comprehensive Sustainability & Energy Committee (CSEC)
 Date: Thursday, Jan 13, 2022
 Time: 7:00 - 9:00 PM
 Location: **Zoom**

In accordance with M.G.L. ch. 30A, §18-25, notice is hereby given that the Comprehensive Sustainability and Energy Committee will hold a public meeting on **Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 7:00PM.**

To participate in this meeting you may video conference in to

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81071825294?pwd=WWRFT0t5VEliWjMvZTZCMnhBSGdTUT09>

or use

Meeting ID: 810 7182 5294
 Passcode: 995347

To call-in by phone dial 301-715-8592 with Meeting ID and Passcode above. Please note that dial-in participants will be muted and will not be able to make comments.

1. Welcome and Call to Order (Jerry) [7:00]
2. Approval of minutes from December 16th (Karen) [7:02]
3. Chair’s Update (Jerry) [7:10]
4. Director’s Update (Amanda) [7:15]
5. Sustainability Series [7:20]
 - a. Cooler Concord Climate Challenge (Brad)
 - b. Keynote (Janet)
 - c. Your Sustainable Home Now (Doug)
 - d. Sustainability and Business (Michael)
 - e. Cooler Concord support (Hany)
 - f. Promotion (Jerry)
6. Annual report (Jerry) [8:20]
7. CSEC statement for Special Town Meeting (Jerry) [8:30]
8. Liaison reports (Janet: EVWG, Doug: CAAB) [8:50]
9. Public Comment [8:55]
10. Adjourn [9:00]

2022 Comprehensive Sustainability & Energy Committee (CSEC):

Jerry Frenkil	Resident (current Chair)	Bob Shatten	Resident
Janet Miller	Resident (*18 Chair)	Michael McDonald	Resident
Doug Sharpe	Resident (*19 & *20 Chair)	Amanda Kohn	(Sustainability Director)
Karen Gibson	Resident (Clerk)	Matt Johnson	(Select Board Liaison)
Sharon Jones	Resident	Nathan Bosdet	(Town Planning Bd Liaison)
Hany Teylouni	Resident		

Comprehensive Sustainability & Energy Committee (CSEC) 2021 CSEC ANNUAL REPORT

The Comprehensive Sustainability and Energy Committee (CSEC) consists of up to nine members appointed by the Town Manager with the approval of the Select Board. The Committee assists the Town to identify, design, and implement programs and projects fostering energy conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy generation, and to track and report on the financial and environmental impacts of such programs.

CSEC's aim is to engage residents of Concord to become more aware of the role that we all must play in the next three decades and beyond to become responsible for our energy future. We work in concert with Concord's Sustainability Director, Amanda Kohn, to represent sustainability-focused practices in Concord and to volunteer with seasonal events being coordinated through her office. CSEC also works alongside the Climate Action Advisory Board (CAAB). Whereas the CAAB is involved with the evolution of new sustainability policies in Concord as they develop a resiliency strategy, the CSEC committee is engaging Concord residents in learning about and adopting new sustainable approaches and practices. Our goal is to determine what actions Concord residents can take that would have the biggest impact, and how we, as a Committee can help facilitate those actions. In pursuing this goal, the committee is guided by the town's *Climate Action and Resilience Plan* released in June of 2020.

As with life throughout Concord and the country overall, Covid affected CSEC's plans and operations. All committee meetings, save for one in June, were held over Zoom and the committee's efforts focused on items that could be addressed through virtual meetings.

CSEC embarked, in early 2021, on a series of case studies about Concord residents who have transitioned their homes to climate-friendly heat pumps for heating and cooling. The twelve case studies cover a range of home sizes and styles, new construction and retrofits, and everything from partial conversions to whole-home transitions to electric. These case studies are available on the town's Sustainability page on the town's website.

In September, CSEC assisted CMLP with the *Climate Friendly Homes and Vehicles* webinar held over Zoom. This event consisted of separate presentations on Heat Pumps and Electric Vehicles followed by attendee questions posed to panels of Heat Pump and EV owners. CSEC assisted by authoring an article on *Beneficial Electrification* for the Concord Journal and several CSEC members served on the panels with one member moderating the EV Q&A session. Over 180 residents registered for the event.

Also in September CSEC was presented with a citizen request to support bulk food returnable containers. The motivation for the request was to encourage the use of returnable containers in lieu of single use plastic by altering state code and its local interpretation which currently prohibits reusing containers for bulk grocery items. CSEC responded by authoring a letter of support for returnables which was sent to the Board of Health. After a public hearing on the request, the Board of Health approved the request.

CSEC also embarked on planning a new program, targeted for the spring of 2022, consisting of a series of different events focused on various aspects of sustainability. Entitled the *Cooler Concord Sustainability Series*, the program is planned to kick off around Earth Day with a keynote address from MIT Professor Kerry Emanuel, a noted expert on the effects of Climate Change. The overall program is designed to reach out to various segments of the Concord populace and encourage them to take action. An updated Cooler Concord website will be used to promote the Series, register participants, and send out event reminders. A particularly noteworthy event is the Cooler Concord Climate Challenge, a workshop aimed at effecting rapid change based upon principles laid out in the book *Social Change 2.0* by David Gershon. If this workshop proves to be successful, subsequent workshops could be organized for various neighborhoods and organizations in Concord.

CSEC has also been monitoring the CMS building project and advising the CMS building committee's Sustainability sub-committee on Net Zero and Solar PV issues. A Special Town meeting is scheduled for January 2021 to approve the Net Zero Ready building project; achieving actual Net Zero status will require approximately 1 MW of PV capacity to be brought on-line by CMLP.

**Comprehensive Sustainability & Energy Committee (CSEC)
Statement on CMS PV**

The Comprehensive Sustainability and Energy Committee (CSEC) views the establishment of Solar PV and battery storage at the new CMS site as essential for achieving Concord's Sustainability goal of 20 MW of solar generation from town property by 2030. The Town currently has only 8 MW installed to date leaving a long ways to go. This project and several more of similar size are thus essential elements for meeting the Town's overall Sustainability plan.

These PV and storage projects provide substantial additional benefits to the town beyond reducing our carbon footprint. These projects improve overall resiliency as our grid becomes less dependent upon external energy sources and related cost factors such as we are currently experiencing with Natural Gas price increases. They also reduce the number of REC's CMLP must buy to achieve an emissions free energy portfolio. This is a significant equity issue as we should locate at least some of our energy generation in our own town.

PV and storage can also provide substantial financial benefits by effectively paying for themselves through recurring avoided costs of externally generated energy and capacity demand charges. In short, money spent up-front on PV and storage installations are investments in the town's Sustainable future, improving resiliency and energy equity, and reducing our overall energy costs.