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Sustainable Concord Engagement Update Fall 2019 Municipal Team and Interview Summaries

The following is a summary of the Sustainable Concord Municipal Team meeting discussion and Interviews conducted in the Fall of 2019.

Municipal Team Meeting Highlights from October 9, 2019

The KLA Team provided an overview of the Sustainable Concord project, including the scope and timeline. We had 12 Municipal Team members in attendance. Each person was given post-it notes and asked to provide achievements of the Town for each of the plan elements at stations that were placed around the Selectboard Chambers. Achievements include:

Plan Element	Achievements
Natural Resources and Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Purple loosestrife removal using beetles• White Pond slope restoration• Adopted a Tree Preservation Bylaw• Concord Wetlands Bylaw• 5 wildlife underpasses on Route 2• Added pollinator gardens at Public Safety Building, Heywood Meadow, and Harrington Park• More than 30% of Concord's open space is protected• Right to Farm Bylaw• Porous pavement at Walden Street parking lot• Water management plan – drought management• Irrigation registration program• Water impact assessment
Energy Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Carbon Free power supply• 349 residential solar arrays installed• Smart grid• CMLP has 2 solar arrays• Heat pump rebates
Buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring geothermal• Sustainable landscape demonstrations• Historic preservation and building principles• VFDs installed for waste and water treatment• Boiler replacement at both middle schools• LED lighting at Fire and Police Stations and other

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	town buildings
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic Vitality Committee • Concord Center Cultural District • Municipal broadband • Visitor Center and Tourism Manager position created • Exceptional community policing services • LED Streetlights • Communications Strategy • Two new boat launches and ADA accessible picnic area • Smoke and CO detector installation for seniors • Grant program for home repairs for seniors • Water Quality Treatment optimization program
Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EV Rebates (\$250 per station) • Electric School Bus • Regional bus/transit partnership • Bruce Freeman Rail Trail • Hybrid Service Vehicles • SCADA • Transitioning fleet to electric/hybrid • Bike share • Adopted Complete Streets Policy • Cut-thru traffic study • 5 public EV charging stations (2 more planned)

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Sustainable Concord Interviews

Interviews were conducted on October 10th, October 29th and November 1st with the following stakeholders:

- David Wood – Concord Municipal Light Plant
- Emily Wheeler – Agricultural Committee
- Melissa Simoncini – Water/Sewer Division
- Heather Bout – School Committee
- Dan Gainsboro – NOW Communities
- Ginger Quarles – Council on Aging
- Gary Kleiman – Concord Long-Range Planning Committee

We asked stakeholders similar questions, but also crafted specific questions based on the interviewee. The following are the combined themes from all of the interviews:

Questions/Discussion Topic	Responses
Key Projects/Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Gaining Ground is switching to no-till</i> • <i>Water Master Plan in progress focused on water supply. Doesn't include stormwater, wastewater. Existing contaminants, regulatory requirements, capacity assessment</i> • <i>Developed an integrated design approach to housing developments that keeps the building process adaptable and incorporates a broad spectrum of concerns. Approaches building from a "you can only do what you have the resources available to do"</i> • <i>Sustainability Implementation checklist in Envision Concord</i> • <i>New Middle School building is being proposed. Want to make it efficient as possible (goal net zero).</i> • <i>COA looks at total health of a person to provide services. They offer a variety of programming to meet the wide span of ages of seniors (ages 60-100).</i> • <i>About 2,000 seniors interact with the COA (out of 5,000).</i> • <i>349 residential solar arrays to date (19 more in process)</i> • <i>3 large PPA systems in town: 4.65 MW, 4.7 MW, and 650 kW</i>

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<p>Impacts experienced from climate change</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Damages to crops from increased rain in the spring • Flooding: sewer/stormwater/water quality/well-head protection issues/nutrient loading. • Drought: water supply issues, water quality. • Severe storms: power outages especially large-scale outage • High Heat Days (two Middle Schools don't have AC). • Extreme storms affect the budget because of snow removal, having to cancel school, salting. Also causes disruption to learning (i.e., tests being rescheduled on top of each other). This causes a lot of stress. • EEE spraying affected sports – had to move the dates for sports games. Affected a lot of schedules.
<p>How they are building resilience in their work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barretts Mill Farm is now growing their tomatoes in hoop houses, as is Gaining Ground, so their crop is protected from the extremes (heat and wet weather) and pests. • Water Department is requiring Water Use Impacts Assessment: any new or increased water demand (greater than 20 gpm). Report details what they are doing to offset their demand on the system. I.e., low flow toilets, efficient fixtures, appropriate soil depth, etc. • For Housing: currently planning specifically for winter extreme seasons and energy and climate realities. • All homes are designed to be Net Zero Possible • District-wide Strategic Plan for the Schools includes: Waste/Composting, Energy Audits • Social networking • COA continues to work hard to keep pace with growing senior population. They want the seniors to be able to age in place. • Looking at how CMLP's distribution system will be able to handle additional solar and increased electrification. They upgraded one substation from 50 to 70 kW; may need to upgrade some transformers and primary & secondary cables in specific neighborhoods. • In 2019: 60-70% carbon free electricity supply. • Integrating battery with new large solar.

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<p>Potential Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Better coordination on farming business advancements and local regulations</i> • <i>Develop a comprehensive understanding of water system and the needs (permitting, water resource planning, water quality).</i> • <i>Universal design for all new homes</i> • <i>Incorporate community gardens into developments and into neighborhoods to build community and create sustainability awareness</i> • <i>Use a combination of carrots and sticks for developers to adopt more resilience construction and development process.</i> • <i>Establish a municipal Transportation Planning function</i> • <i>Create a Net Zero Task Force (follow Cambridge process) and a Net Blue Task Force</i> • <i>Make it part of the performance review to ensure that the department heads are using the Sustainable Concord plan.</i> • <i>Create a non-binding checklist (like Durham, NH) for the Planning Board that asks applicants to answer questions about how/if they are incorporating sustainability measures.</i> • <i>Test out changes in zoning with developers. Does it go far enough?</i> • <i>Zoning (reduce parking maximums, especially in West Concord) and PRDs that are sustainable. Update subdivision bylaw?</i> • <i>Address grid issues to potentially do more solar at the High School</i> • <i>Hire a sustainability director just for the schools</i> • <i>Programs to keep seniors in their homes: deferred taxes.</i> • <i>More staff to implement additional CMLP programs</i> • <i>Community Solar program</i> • <i>The historic district allows solar, but not in the downtown district.</i>
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