

TOWN OF

Winchester

MASSACHUSETTS

Climate Action Plan | 2020



SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR

Winchester Climate Action Advisory
Committee

For Winchester Finance Committee

January 14, 2021

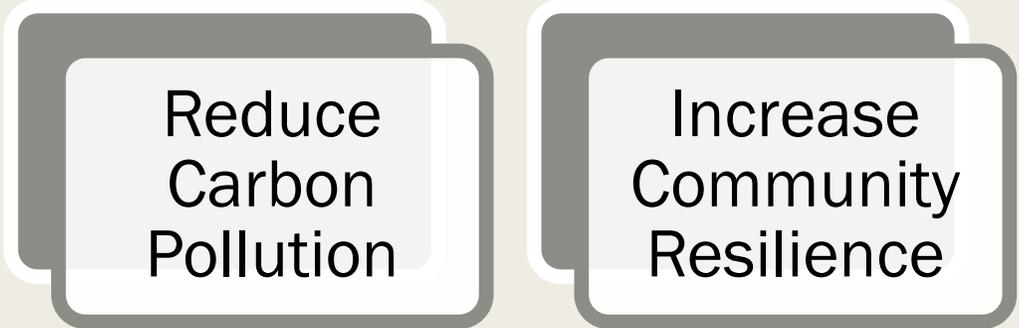
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FinCom's Questions

1. *What is the job of a Sustainability Director?*
2. *How do those responsibilities overlap / complement other environmental roles we already have on the Town payroll?*
3. *What kind of grant opportunities do we see the SD going after?*
4. *What options do we have to leverage the grant in ways other than a SD?*

Essential Definitions

- CARBON POLLUTION – CO² emissions from heating/cooling buildings and transportation
- RESILIENCE – capacity to prevent and recover from the impacts of climate change
- SUSTAINABILITY = CARBON POLLUTION + RESILIENCE
- DUAL GOALS of WINCHESTER'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN:



Reduce
Carbon
Pollution

Increase
Community
Resilience

Why hire a Sustainability Director?

To Save Lives
Protect
Health

Protect
Property

Enhance
Quality of Life

1. What is NOT the job of a Sustainability Director?

- Energy Conservation Coordinator is doing a terrific job at saving money by conserving *energy* in our *municipal* buildings
- Energy Conservation Coordinator and Energy Management Committee are NOT responsible for energy use town-wide in the *residential and business sectors*
- Energy Conservation Coordinator is NOT responsible for overall community Sustainability (Resilience)
- Energy Conservation Coordinator is paid from Personal Services in the Energy line of Town Meeting's 'Cherry Sheet'

1. What IS the job of a Sustainability Director?

The SD's primary responsibility is to protect residents from climate change impacts. The SD will:

- Lead to develop a more climate-prepared Winchester
- Create a town-wide cultural shift to reduce carbon pollution and increase community resilience
 - *Conduct public outreach*
 - *Develop a robust Town Sustainability Website and climate communications strategy*
- Collaborate with Staff across Departments to align Winchester with regional, state, and federal climate initiatives
- Achieve GHG goals set by the Select Board; monitor GHG Inventory
- Protect Winchester's Aaa bond rating by demonstrating risk reduction from climate impacts such as extreme storms, high-heat days, vector-borne illnesses; incentivize residential adoption of green infrastructure, renewable energy, energy efficient heating/cooling technologies, alternative transportation options including walking/biking; build public understanding and acceptance of the need to fund climate actions
- Write grants to address climate vulnerabilities and reduce energy use by residents/businesses

These Eastern
Massachusetts
Municipalities
have
Sustainability
Directors.
Why?

- Acton (hiring)
- Amesbury
- Andover (Coordinator)
- Boston
- Brookline (Administrator)
- Cambridge
- Chelmsford
- Concord
- Framingham
- Holliston (hiring)
- Lexington
- Medford
- Natick
- Newton
- Quincy
- Salem
- Sherborn (Coordinator)
- Somerville
- Waltham
- Wellesley
- Weston (hiring)
- Worcester (Manager)

R.O.I. for a Sustainability Director for area Towns

- Sustainability Directors bring in substantially more money than the cost of salary + benefits
- Concord's Sustainability Director brought in over \$800,000 in grants/2019 (\$150,000 in 2018)
- Winchester has been leaving money on the table
- *MA Towns with Sustainability Directors have realized an annual ROI of between 4.2 to 8.3 times salary and benefits*

Winchester is a leader in Energy Conservation - but *way behind in Sustainability*

- Yes we are a Green Community – so are 271 other MA municipalities (>77% of MA)
- Heat – Winchester is woefully unprepared for the rapid increase in high-heat days; no designated day or overnight cooling centers; inadequate data bases of our vulnerable residents; no significant education programs or A/C assistance
- Communications – municipalities with SDs have robust Town climate websites and sustained multi-venue, multi-language, public health and education campaigns
- Green infrastructure – nearby Towns employ large and small-scale green infrastructure, which incentivize adoption by residents
- Tree canopy protection – many of our neighbors have robust Bylaws to protect their trees
- Staff/\$ dedicated to climate-related issues - nearby Towns comparable in population and annual budgets devote more resources to reducing risks of climate impacts

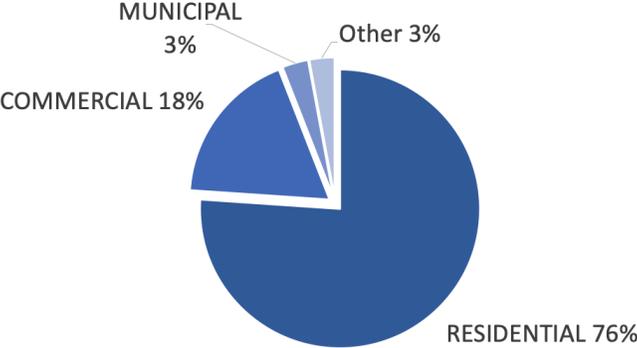
How did we get here?

Lotta work over decades – institutional memory:

- Select Board appointed the Climate Action Advisory Committee (CAAC) to *advise the Town on climate matters*
 - CAAC wrote initial CAP in 2011
- Select Board committed Winchester to reduce carbon 80% by 2050
- Town Manager appointed the Climate Action Plan Committee (CAP) to bring Winchester into alignment w Federal and State directives
- CAAC/CAP made multiple updates to Town Meeting and SB meetings; 17 events
- Personnel Board, and Conservation Commission unanimously voted support for SD
- Select Board unanimously voted in Winchester's 2020 Climate Action Plan on June 1, 2020
- Town Meeting approved SD position; and accepted the 2020 CAP Report
- Both the CAP and the GHG Inventory have a shelf life and the clock is ticking
- Hiring a Sustainability Director is the next and most essential step to bring Winchester forward toward increased climate-preparedness

Winchester's greatest opportunity to reduce carbon pollution is in the residential sector

WHO is responsible for carbon pollution in Winchester?



2. How do those responsibilities overlap / complement other environmental roles we already have on the Town payroll?

- Energy Conservation Coordinator is responsible for *municipal energy* - 3% of Winchester's Carbon Pollution. 0% responsibility for *Community Resilience*
- Town Staff (Conservation Administrator, Engineer, Planner etc) have been invited to take on portions of the SD responsibilities, e.g. house/update the GHG Inventory – no time to manage these additional responsibilities. Town Staff we have spoken with strongly support hiring a SD
- No one else in town has responsibility for *residential* energy reduction nor community *resilience*
 - e.g. Winchester's MVP Report to the State: "The risk of heat to the Town's most vulnerable populations, and emerging vector borne diseases, is a major concern." #1 on the list of "Highest High Priorities: Create a comprehensive extreme heat strategy identifying urban heat islands, mitigation measures, and a response plan." p7, 14 <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program-planning-reports#w-> There is no designated Staff member to coordinate this

3. What kind of grant opportunities do we see the SD going after?

- Barr Foundation climate resiliency, clean energy and mobility grants:
<https://www.barrfoundation.org/climate>
- MA State Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grants:
<https://www.mass.gov/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-mvp-program#:~:text=The%20Municipal%20Vulnerability%20Preparedness%20grant,resi-liency%20and%20implementing%20priority%20projects>
- Direct Current Fast Electric vehicle charging station grants – 100% reimbursement up to \$50,000, due 3/19/21: <https://www.mass.gov/how-to/apply-for-massevip-direct-current-fast-charging-incentives>
- A range of other climate grants:
<https://massachusetts.grantwatch.com/cat/10/environment-grants.html>
- The SD will continuously review climate news feeds and attend professional events to monitor new/developing grants

Other potential funding streams

- **Fees**
- **Savings** on new town construction (schools) via cost avoidance, grants, smart energy choices
- **Planning** with the Sustainability Director lens on BSF and CSF – over time, to systematically plan for and prioritize needed expenditures

4. What options do we have to leverage the grant in ways other than a SD?

- This MAPC grant is funded by the Barr Foundation, a major source of climate grants (\$6.9 million in the 4th Q 2020) in the greater Boston area. We made careful inquiries that this grant could cover salary (unusual) and surprisingly were told salary+benefits; we asked MAPC to confirm that w the Barr Foundation which they did; the Foundation is specifically encouraging municipalities to hire SDs because this is the mechanism now perceived to most effectively drive climate action at the municipal level
- SD will be cuing Winchester up for future climate grants, and will be targeting hundreds of thousands to millions of dollars; especially in light of the new Bill S.2995, *An Act creating a next-generation roadmap for Massachusetts climate policy*, now on Governor Baker's desk
- Town Meeting created this SD position last year; the CAP is built around implementation by an SD and the grant was written for this specific fulltime position
- **This is not a grant-funded position (except for MAPC seed money). This is an *essential* position that will also bring in grants**

References

- INTERNATIONAL REPORT: Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, “Global Warming of 1.5oC”, October 2018 <https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/>
- FEDERAL REPORT: U.S. Global Change Research Program, “Fourth National Climate Assessment, NCA4-Northeast Chapter”, 2018, <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/18/>
- MA STATE ACT: MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, “Global Warming Solutions Act Background”, 2020, <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/global-warming-solutions-act-backgroundIPCC>
- WINCHESTER’S 2020 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN: unanimously voted in by Select Board, June 2020, encompasses Carbon Pollution (energy use) and Resilience (sustainability) <https://www.winchester.us/DocumentCenter/View/4633/Climate-Action-Plan-2020>