



Committee Members

Mary Knittle, Chair
Evelyn Herwitz, Vice Chair
Patricia Austin
Ted Conna
Nathan Fournier
Mary Leovich
Deirdra Murphy

Contacting the Committee

Department of Sustainability and Resilience
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www.WorcesterMA.gov/GreenWorcester

Department of Sustainability and Resilience

Our Mission:

To implement the ambitious and urgent goals of the Green Worcester Sustainability and Resilience Strategic Plan (GWP), a roadmap for making Worcester the greenest mid-size city in the country.

Our Staff:

John Odell, *Chief*
Jessica Davis, *Project Manager*
Robert DeFosse, *Energy Services Manager*
Gabi Hajos, *Energy Advocate*
Miranda Hotham, *Zero Waste Coordinator*
Killian Madden, *Energy Advocate*
Amy Magiera, *Administrative Assistant*
Sarah Mount, *Energy Analyst*
Nick Pagan, *Senior Environmental Analyst*
Luba Zhaurova, *Director of Projects*

Accessibility:

The GWAC is committed to ensuring that its public meetings are accessible to all. Should you require interpretation, auxiliary aids, services, translations, written materials in other formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, please contact the DSR a minimum of 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Translations:

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Avisanos por
greenworcester@worcesterma.gov

CITY OF WORCESTER

Meeting Minutes

Green Worcester Advisory Committee

Monday, October 16, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.
Location: Esther Howland, City Hall, 455 Main St.

Chair Knittle called the meeting to order at 5:37pm.

Present

Mary Knittle, Chair
Evelyn Herwitz, Vice Chair
Patricia Austin (online)
Ted Conna
Mary Leovich (online)
Nathan Fournier (online)
Deirdra Murphy

Absent

Staff

John Odell
Jessica Davis
Miranda Hotham

1. **Welcome.** Chair Knittle facilitated the meeting and read the meeting rules.
2. **Approval of Minutes – September 18, 2023 (Attachment A)**
 - i. The committee unanimously approved the September 18, 2023 minutes with the change of ‘Worcester Tree Initiative’, not ‘Worcester Native Tree Initiative’.
3. **DSR Updates**
 - a. Specialized Stretch Code (Building Energy Code) Update – City Council vote (*Attachment B*)
 - b. Mr. Odell provided an update on the building energy code. It was passed by the City Council with a 10-1 vote, effective July 2024. This was a successful collaborative effort between Department of Sustainability and Resilience (DSR), Inspectional Services, Economic Development, and local community activists including GWAC members.
 - c. Member Conna stated that many community members and GWAC members played a big role in this effort

including Members Leovich and Conna testifying in front of City Council to endorse adoption of the code.

b. Grants:

i. MVP Grant: Miyawaki Forests Update

1. Mr. Odell reported that the MVP grant was awarded and DSR is now working on executing the contract between the City and the state. The next step is posting a Request for Proposals (RFP) to hire a consultant to design and implement the work which needs to be completed by June 2024. The RFP will be posted in the next couple of weeks and DSR will share it with GWAC to then share with other networks.
2. Vice Chair Herwitz asked once the RFP is posted, how long does it take to hire someone. Mr. Odell explained that the RFP will be online for three weeks, then there can be back and forth with bidders for a couple of weeks, and then contract execution may take a couple of weeks. Hopefully, by January 1 we will have someone hired.

ii. USDA Forestry Grant update

1. Mr. Odell said that DSR reached out to the USDA to ask for an explanation or information on why the City wasn't awarded a grant. DSR received a response from them, but it was a general form email and not specific feedback on the application. He followed up again and will report back to GWAC if an answer is received. He explained that DSR reached out to other communities who did receive the grant to gather information on their applications. Boston applied for \$11 million, and they were awarded the amount they applied for. Their application didn't focus so much on tree planting and focused more on tree maintenance and providing resources to hire people to manage the projects. Worcester applied for over \$23 million, and no one received more than \$17 million. Therefore, it seems that USDA wanted to spread the money out to a lot of applicants rather than fewer with larger amounts. So, a possible lesson learned is apply for a smaller amount for future grants.
2. Member Conna said he has a possible theory for why Worcester was not selected. When Worcester's urban canopy is compared to other cities, you can see that Worcester's tree cover is already greater than other nearby cities. So, it's possible that others looked like they needed it more.
3. Vice Chair Herwitz asked if there was a way to break up the proposal as it is now to seek other funding sources for it. Mr. Odell replied that there isn't a plan yet but we are actively looking and feel prepared to apply when available.
4. Member Leovich commented that federal grants are often seed money for projects, so she wasn't surprised that Worcester wasn't awarded the grant.

c. Community Engagement:

i. New Green Worcester ElectriCITY Aggregation Program contract letters (*Attachment C*)

1. Mr. Odell reported that a new Green Worcester ElectriCITY Aggregation program was successfully negotiated, and a press release went out about it this week. This contract provides lower pricing than National Grid's until August 2024. There is no guarantee for savings after that because National Grid's prices change every six months. This is the City's fourth year having an aggregation program and we have saved over \$12 million for rate payers. Additionally, we have increased from 30% to 40% premium green electricity, meaning close to two thirds of our electricity comes from green New England sources starting with the December 2023 meter reads through December 2025.

2. Member Conna asked about the language on the letter that was sent out citywide. He said the fine print makes no sense and requested contact information for the person who created it. He understood that the City doesn't have control over the language as it is regulated by the state.
3. Mr. Odell replied that the language guidelines are from the Department of Public Utilities, and he will provide a contact for Member Conna to contact.

d. Staff:

- i. Energy Advocates – introductions and current project: Main Streets (*Attachment D*)
 1. Ms. Davis explained that DSR hired two new staff, the Energy Advocates, at the end of August. They were hired with funding from the Community First Partnership by Mass Save for the next year and half.
 2. Ms. Killian Madden introduced herself and said that she has eight years of experience in home energy efficiency upgrades including solar and battery systems. She shared that she is looking forward to working with renters and landlords to help them improve efficiency and upgrade building stock.
 3. Ms. Gabrielle Hajos introduced herself and said that she has a background in environmental community engagement and renewable energy.
 4. Ms. Madden explained that the Main Streets initiative is taking place this month. It is a one-month promotion for small businesses, non-profits and houses of worship to access additional incentives for energy efficiency work. The initiative is managed by lead vendors hired by the utilities, Eversource and National Grid. Over 3,900 postcards were sent to those customers over the last week and we are hoping that some will participate in the program and get energy assessments, weatherization upgrades and heat pumps installed.
 5. Ms. Davis explained that Main Streets was the first initiative as part of this program, and it will be complete in the next month and then the Energy Advocates will shift focus to outreach to renters and landlords. Property owners will receive letters over the next couple of months explaining the program and incentives through Mass Save.
- ii. Administrative Assistant (Started 10/02)
 1. Mr. Odell reported that Ms. Amy Magiera was hired and started on October 2.
- iii. Lakes & Ponds Coordinator (Interviewing)
 1. Mr. Odell reported that second interviews are taking place now and hopefully there will be an update for the next meeting.
- iv. Zero Waste Coordinator – introduction and current projects
 1. Mr. Odell reported that Ms. Miranda Hotham was hired a few weeks ago and that she is present to introduce herself and her projects.
 2. Ms. Hotham introduced herself and explained that she met many GWAC members in her previous role at the Worcester Green Corps at the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce. She met local stakeholders and attended conferences and is looking forward to bringing her experience to this new position in the City. She is working on developing the Request for Proposals for the Zero Waste Master Plan to hire a consultant to develop the plan. The consultant will conduct research on the Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT) program, illegal dumping and accessibility to different types of recycling. The plan will have specific goals and timelines for achieving them. She is also working on a community engagement plan to get community involvement as soon as possible.

3. Member Conna welcomed Ms. Hotham and asked about PAYT program and if there are going to be changes to it. Ms. Hotham replied that no, the City is not looking into changing it, rather just researching it to learn more about its effectiveness. Member Conna said that PAYT is important, reduces waste, encourages recycling, and should be kept. However, he is fine with creating subsidies for lower income people to purchase bags.
 4. Mr. Odell explained that there are no changes to the program right now and that our goal is to minimize waste in a thoughtful and successful way. He explained that tipping costs (cost per ton to incinerate the trash) are increasingly expensive so there needs to be an analysis on the program.
 5. Member Leovich welcomed Ms. Hotham and said that she is looking forward to working together and interested in seeing how things progress.
 6. Chair Knittle welcomed Ms. Hotham and said she looked forward to working with Ms. Hotham as well.
 7. A member of the public, Feanna, welcomed Ms. Hotham and asked if there will be an analysis on food waste recycling. Ms. Hotham said she will be studying composting curbside, at schools and in municipal buildings to determine feasibility.
- e. Meeting schedule 2024
- i. Mr. Odell shared that DSR will be drafting the 2024 meeting calendar soon and asked that committee members email any preferences for meeting times or other conflicts. The two options are Monday and Wednesday nights.

4. Review and Discussion

- a. First Green Worcester Annual Progress Report Draft, July 2021 – December 2023 (*Attachment E*)
 - i. Mr. Odell explained the way the report is currently set up. DSR is looking for the committee's feedback on the layout and format of the report. The report covers July 2022- December 2023. Items have been listed and have a status with then a description. The next report will be annual. He explained what the items in the legend mean: not started, completed, ongoing, in process, and refocused. At the next meeting we will have every chapter, an executive summary, and our priority actions for the next calendar year.
 - ii. Vice Chair Herwitz said that it would good that it was easy to see the progress on each item and the refocused status is useful. She stated that part of GWAC's role is to help identify priorities. The report doesn't make it clear which items are related. She suggested organizing the actions into a hierarchy of what needs to come first, second and third to enable DSR to prioritize workflow. She doesn't think putting the actions in the order they are listed in the plan is the best format. Mr. Odell replied that DSR choose to organize the actions based on the order in the plan rather than create a new order. It makes it easier for readers to read the report since it will be in the same order. This may change in the future, but it seems the most intuitive way to organize it now. Vice Chair Herwitz suggested organizing the actions by status in this order: items are completed, refocused, in progress, ongoing, not started. The action numbers could still be included. This would be within each chapter, not for the whole plan.
 - iii. Member Leovich said that the sample is easy to follow so the structure makes sense. Including that this is a living document is crucial.
 - iv. Member Austin said that the format of the report is good.
 - v. Chair Knittle asked if there is a provision to explain the process for adding new items to the plan and how GWAC would go about doing that. Mr. Odell explained the process that a committee member can bring an action to staff to incorporate in the actions list for a future priority measure.

He said that DSR agrees that more items will come up over time that should be added to the plan. Adding action items will be a two-way street – DSR could bring items to GWAC for review also. After discussing offline, the action item would be brought to the GWAC for review.

- vi. Member Leovich said that she agreed with Vice Chair Herwitz in providing an explanatory text at the beginning of the report explanation that rationale of the structure would be enough to show continuity for the reader. Member Conna agreed.
- vii. Chair Knittle asked if GWAC will need to review the draft final report by the next meeting on November 27. Mr. Odell said that the draft final report will be available for GWAC’s review. Mr. Odell asked that any comments be sent to DSR to be considered and incorporated in advance of the November meeting. It’s possible that it could be approved at that meeting or it could be finalized at the January meeting. Chair Knittle requested advanced notice, so GWAC has sufficient time to review. Mr. Odell said the format is important as it will be the one used in the future, so feedback is appreciated.
- viii. Member Conna said that “In Progress” is too squishy and that it needs to be more concrete. The value of the report is to keep us on track. It’s important to recognize all the actions we’ve completed and also important to show where we are behind and what needs to happen next. It needs to be quantified in some way when possible. For items listed as “Ongoing” we need to assess how effective the action is and decide how to evaluate that. He said that “Refocused” makes sense but he has some concerns about some of the items.
- ix. Member Conna suggested a fourth category/column on the chart called “what’s needed” or something else. That column would be what is needed to be able to complete the action.
- x. Member Conna brought up that he takes issue with the status of Action 5 in Chapter 2 being listed as “refocused”. He doesn’t believe that the description is an adequate step to achieve the original goal. There are far more opportunities for sustainability performance measures than just the specialized stretch code. For example, he explained that at a past presentation at GWAC by the Worcester Native Plan Initiative, there was interest in developing requirements for developers to use native plants.
- xi. Chair Knittle said the items listed as “refocused” are not clear on whether they have completed or in progress. So, she suggested that “refocused” also include the status. Member Conna agreed and said that “refocused” implies that it has been completed but that doesn’t seem accurate for some of the items listed as “refocused”.
- xii. Member Conna said that he didn’t fully understand Action 9 in Chapter 2 because he didn’t know much about the Office of Urban Innovation. Mr. Odell replied that the way DSR originally interpreted this action as a need for data analysis and that office would be managing that. However, that office doesn’t exist anymore, it has collapsed into the IT department. Now, DSR is managing data analysis within the department. Member Conna said that he understood the explanation now.
- xiii. Member Conna said that Action 10 in Chapter 2 needs to be broken down into milestones to measure progress.
- xiv. Member Conna said that Action 12 in Chapter 2 listed as “refocused” to another progress description doesn’t line up with the initial goal – it seems like two separate actions. The city can work with the Chamber and still encourage it to develop its own sustainability committee.
- xv. Member Conna noted the absence of WPI from the list of educational institutions that DSR is collaborating with for Action 14 in Chapter 2, and suggested the city seek to partner with WPI and leverage the many sustainability resources it could offer.

- xvi. Member Conna commented that Action 1 in Chapter 3 is a large goal and that “in progress” listed as the status is not precise. He said that it’s important to know whether or not milestones or benchmarks are being met along the way to 2045. He also said he didn’t think the Specialized Stretch Code should be described as a “net zero” code in a written report (because it isn’t), but he thought using “net zero” as shorthand was acceptable in a political context.
- xvii. Member Conna commented that Action 4 in Chapter 3 is a big and important goal and the progress needs to be more precise than just listed as “In Progress”.
- xviii. Member Conna brought up Action 9 in Chapter 3 and said that this goal can and should be easily quantified, i.e., we have installed 18 new charging ports and x more need to be installed.
- xix. Member Conna asked what a “Level II Aggregator” is in Action 13 in Chapter 3. Mr. Odell replied that is it similar to the Cape Light Compact which purchases electricity for its customers and manages the money that goes to the Mass Save programs. Member Conna asked if the City should actually take that action. Mr. Odell replied that the City would probably need to create a new department and would implement the Mass Save programs in Worcester. However, that is not a priority now.
- xx. Member Conna said that he liked the idea that the report be for a calendar year and he suggested that this report should be until the end of 2023 and then be on an annual cycle.
- xxi. Member Conna said that the job that the Green Worcester Plan sets out is huge and DSR need more funding and resources to complete the work. The report can help make the case for more resources by showing the progress and then what is needed to accomplish the actions. In the city ordinance that defines the charge of the GWAC, it says that it is GWAC’s role to review the annual report.
- xxii. Vice Chair Herwitz commented that she didn’t think DSR staff have the time or resources to complete the report to the level of detail that Member Conna asked for. She suggested possibly having GWAC members help with chapters.
- xxiii. Mr. Odell replied that he appreciated the feedback and that DSR will need to see what is possible to include. DSR would appreciate GWAC’s feedback in email format because its too much to discuss in detail at the GWAC meetings. The goal is that it is easily readable and useful.
- xxiv. Member Conna agreed with Vice Chair Herwitz that GWAC members could help in some way but recognized that in order to do so it might require additional staff time. Also, he said that the sooner that DSR sends the draft to GWAC the more time they will have to fully review it.
- xxv. Member Leovich commented that committee members should be careful when saying what the plan priorities are to not speak for everyone. The priorities should probably be the way they were listed in the original plan. The proposed fourth column could be titled “gaps”. Member Conna said that “gaps” would be fine and there may be other options that don’t have any negative connotations.
- xxvi. Chair Knittle asked if the progress report will be submitted to City Council or City Manager. Mr. Odell replied that the report will be made public by sending it to the City Manager’s office and it will be up on the city website.

5. Standing Items

- a. Community Outreach – none.
- b. Community Feedback
 - i. A resident online, Joe Johnson, asked if the City Manager of Worcester has appointed a local Superintendent of Shade Trees and Pest Control as specified in MGL Chapter 132 - Forestry, Sections

11 and 13. He believes that Boston has a Superintendent of Shade Trees. Mr. Odell replied that he didn't know but would get back to him with an answer.

- c. Media – none.
- d. Upcoming Events (not DSR organized)
 - i. Mr. Odell shared the UMASS Chan EV Ride and Drive event, October 18, 2023, at the UMass Chan campus. People can test drive EVs and there are still open slots to sign up.
 - ii. Member Conna shared the rescheduled SolarFest event, Rutland, VT, Saturday, October 28.
 - iii. Member Conna shared there are two lectures upcoming on Climate Change at Clark.
 - iv. Chair Knittle shared that the City will be hosting a landlords summit this winter and she will share more details when available.

The committee unanimously voted to adjourn at 7:20pm.

Attachments

Attachment A: September 18, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Attachment B: Specialized Stretch Code Telegram & Gazette Article, 9/27/2023

Attachment C: Aggregation contract announcement letters

Attachment D: Main Streets program

Attachment E: DRAFT section of Green Worcester Progress Report

2023 Upcoming Meetings

Green Worcester Advisory Committee meetings begin on Mondays at 5:30pm:

November 27

Esther Howland



Committee Members

Mary Knittle, Chair
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CITY OF WORCESTER

Meeting Minutes

Green Worcester Advisory Committee

Monday, September 18, 2023, at 5:30 p.m.
 Location: Meeting Room A, 50 Manny Familia Way

Chair Knittle called the meeting to order at 5:38pm.

Present

Mary Knittle, Chair
 Evelyn Herwitz, Vice Chair
 Patricia Austin
 Ted Conna (online)
 Mary Leovich (online)
 Deirdra Murphy (online)

Absent

Nate Fournier

Staff

John Odell
 Sarah Mount

1. **Welcome.** Chair Knittle facilitated the meeting and read the meeting rules.
2. **Approval of Minutes – July 31, 2023** (*Attachment A*)
 - i. The committee unanimously approved the July 31st, 2023 minutes with minor grammatical edits.
3. **New Business**
 - a. *Presentation on a survey of trees planted after the ALB infestation 10 years later by John Rogan, Clark University (30 minutes and Q+A)* (*Attachment B*)
 - ii. Professor John Rogan and his team from Clark presented their findings from a tree health assessment of trees planted in the Asian Longhorn Beetle Regulation Zone between 2008 and 2023 and a series of residential interviews with residents who received the trees.
 - iii. Chair Knittle congratulated the Clark team on their work and their presentation.

- iv.* Vice Chair Herwitz thanked the presenters for their work and showed concern for their finding that trees planted on private property fare worse than trees planted on public land. She explained that for the city to meet its goals, the city will need residents to plant trees on their properties. She asked the Clark team if they have any suggestions for how to get residents to both plant and care for trees on their properties. The Clark team responded that involving the residents in the planting process is crucial to the tree's future success. They noted trees are particularly at risk when a home changes owners – new owners often remove mature trees. The team explained that increased communication between the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the tree recipients helped increase the tree survival rates and theorized that a contract between the governmental agency planting the trees and the homeowners may also increase survivorship. Vice Chair Herwitz followed up that communication will be key and managing the trees within the first three years is critical.
- v.* Chair Knittle added that she has worked closely with the Worcester Native Tree Initiative (WNTI) during the time the trees were planted. Part of the WNTI was a youth urban tree forester program where youth were paid to care for the trees. The program helped young people foster a love of trees and engaged the whole community. She also thanked Ruth Steward for her crucial role in the success of the WNTI.
- vi.* Chair Knittle asked if Tulip trees and Ginkgo Trees were interchangeable, and if the Tulip tree's reputation for breaking up sidewalks is accurate. The Clark team responded that the Tulip and the Ginkgo are not the same tree, and that they did not measure the effects the trees had on the sidewalks.
- vii.* Member Conna was surprised to learn how much better the public trees did than the private trees. He suggested that if we use public funds to plant trees on private land, the city should institute a retention contract. Mr. Rogan commented that there is an enormous complexity to tree management and how trees get treated across the city.
- viii.* Vice Chair Herwitz asked if the Clark team knows why the Ginkgos did not do very well in the city. The Clark team suggested that the Ginkgos might have been slow growing, and that the street trees might have received more sunlight and perhaps the Ginkgos planted on private property might have received more shade. The Clark team discussed the Ginkgos' non-viability with DCR, and DCR could not explain the result either. Mr. Rogan also noted that warm winters followed by extreme cold snaps in the spring tend to harm trees.
- ix.* Member Leovich, responding to Member Conna's suggestion of utilizing contracts, noted that the city needs use caution when using contracts which imposing regulations on residents. Residents who agree to receive a tree are doing the city a favor. Member Conna responded that the favor went both ways – the owners are allowing the city to plant a tree and the city is providing the owners a free tree. Member Murphy recommended instead of contracts we highlight that the city

can help residents support a new tree. She explained she often helps people plant gardens and people can be overwhelmed by the process of taking care of new plants. The Clark team responded that contracts were just an example of what the city could do. They also noted that trees had a better survival rate when government agencies, before planting the tree, asked residents what they imagine their backyard will look like in five to fifteen years' time, and then planting trees around those plans. I.e., if a resident plans to build a pool next year, agencies wouldn't plant a tree in the future site of the pool. Member Conna emphasized that the transition from one homeowner to another is a tumultuous time for the trees as new homeowners tend to change the home to fit their needs. He asked if a contract may be able to carry over from one owner to another. The Clark team responded that they are investigating the effect of homeownership on survival rates.

- x. David Coyne, a resident of Worcester, asked if it was possible to send out a letter to a residence about the importance of trees when a property changes hands. He estimated that about 1,500 homes change ownership annually in Worcester, and that if we sent a letter, in ten years' time the letter would reach 20% of Worcester homeowners. He also asked if the City should promote planting shorter trees that will not shade roofs – preventing the installation of solar panels. Jason Pincomb, a realtor in Worcester, responded to Mr. Coyne. He stated that Worcester has sold 625 homes in the past six months and an estimated 1,250 homes in the past year. He indicated that these numbers are low, and that Worcester should see 5,000 homes transferring home ownership annually. He also noted that inspectors tell homeowners that trees should be at least six feet away from homes to prevent the roof from deteriorating.
- xi. Member Murphy thanked everyone for their good points and stated that people save what they find valuable. Trees should be heralded for what they do for the community and residents, and this research helps promote that.

4. DSR Updates (15 minutes)

- a. Specialized Stretch Code (Building Energy Code) Update (*Upcoming 9/19 Hearing*)
 - i. Mr. Odell stated that the Specialized Stretch Code will be reviewed by the Economic Development Subcommittee on September 19th, and with a recommendation from the subcommittee, the code will be brought back to the city council for a vote. If passed by the council, the specialized stretch code will go into effect July 1, 2024. He also mentioned that representatives from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources will attend the Economic Development subcommittee meeting on September 19th to answer any questions people might have.
 - ii. Mr. Pincomb reiterated that housing stock is at an extreme low. He cited an MIT-Wentworth study looking at the cost to build houses under the new code. The study estimated there will be a 1.8 – 3.8% building cost increase for building a multi-family or single-family home. Mr. Pincomb

also implied that large renovations or additions to existing homes would trigger the new stretch code and require homeowners to upgrade their existing home to become all electric. Mr. Odell responded that the new specialized stretch code will not have any impact beyond what our current code requires on existing buildings. The specialized stretch code will only add language regarding new construction. Mr. Pincomb concluded with an anecdote about the difficulty selling a home with solar due to transferring the loans.

b. Green Worcester Plan Summit

- i. Mr. Odell stated that there is no update on the Green Worcester Plan Summit, but it is still a priority for the city.
- ii. Member Austin gave her support for the summit and offered to help the Department of Sustainability and Resilience's staff with the event. She underlined that this event will help highlight what the City has done and garner public support for future sustainability actions.

c. Grants:

i. *MVP Grant: Miyawaki Forests (Attachment C)*

1. Mr. Odell relayed that the city received 409k dollars from the State to fund the design and planting of two Miyawaki Forests in the city and design of two additional community green spaces.

ii. *USDA Forestry Grant*

1. Mr. Odell relayed that the city did not receive the USDA Forestry Grant. The City has reached out to the USDA to ask for feedback. Mr. Odell insisted that the work was not for nothing, and DSR will repurpose the grant as much as possible.
2. Member Conna asked if we will be able to review the grant applications of other cities who received the funding. Mr. Odell believed that the applications are public, but he will confirm.

d. Community Engagement:

i. *Flood Watch promotion: Blog (Attachment D)*

1. Mr. Odell described the City's Flood Watch program. The city is collecting data on where residents are experiencing flooding in the city. Residents are welcome to sign up to participate on the City's DSR webpage and then upload their photos.

ii. *Mobility Action Plan survey*

1. Mr. Odell stated that there is a survey on the Department of Transportation and Mobility's city webpage. The survey allows residents to share their experience moving around the city. He encouraged all residents to fill out the survey.
2. Mx. Mount corrected that the survey recently closed and that DTM has started to compile the data. Mr. Odell suggested people email DTM if they still wanted to participate in the survey.

e. Staff:

i. *Zero Waste Coordinator (Started 8/28)*

1. Mr. Odell stated that Miranda Hotham joined the city as the new Zero Waste Coordinator on August 28th.

ii. *Energy Advocates (Started 8/28)*

1. Mr. Odell stated that Gabi Hajos and Killian Madden joined the City as energy advocates on August 28th. Mx. Mount relayed that Gabi and Killian will be attending the next GWAC meeting to talk about the SMART Energy Advice Program and that anyone may email the pair at energyadvice@worcesterma.gov.
2. Chair Knittle added that MassSave will soon offer incentives for installing electrical vehicle charging stations for low-income residents.

iii. *Staff Assistant (Starting 10/02)*

1. Mr. Odell shared that a new Staff Assistant will be starting on October 2nd.

iv. *Lakes & Ponds Coordinator (Interviewing)*

1. Mr. Odell shared that the City is concluding their first round of interviews for the new Lakes and Ponds Coordinator.

5. Review and Discussion

a. First Green Worcester Progress Report Draft, April 2021 – July 2023 (*Attachment E*)

- i. Mr. Odell communicated that the First Green Worcester Progress Report Draft is still under development. DSR expects to have a copy for the committee to review by the next meeting.

6. Standing Items

a. Community Outreach

i. *Housing with a H.E.A.R.T., September 7th, 2023*

1. Mx. Mount relayed that Gabi Hajos, the new energy advocate, and Jessie Davis tabled at the HEART event on September 7th at the JMAC. They spoke to many people who were interested in our work and eight signed up to learn more about home energy assessments. To learn about the HEART project, go to masscec.com and search for Worcester HEART partnership.

ii. *WPI Climate Adaptation Tour*

1. Member Conna hosted a Climate Adaption and Resilience tour for WPI students. While preparing for the tour, he realized that hosting a tour that focuses on the city's topography, infrastructure, climate impacts, etc. would be a good way to teach the general public as well – not just graduate students.

b. Community Feedback

- i. *Worcester Magazine, 'Building code could help city in battling climate crisis' by Ted Conna and Paul Popinchalk (Attachment F)*

- c. Media
- d. Upcoming Events (not DSR organized)
 - i. Solar Fest, Rutland, VT, Saturday, October 28th
 - 1. Member Conna shared the rescheduled date for the Vermont Solar Fest Event.
 - ii. Clark Seminar Series
 - 1. Member Conna shared that Clark is hosting a seminar series at the George Perkins Marsh Institute. Three of the seminars are climate related: From Denial to Delay: Obstruction of Action on Climate Change on September 28th; The Climate Crisis: How Did We Get Here and What Can We Do? On October 26th; and Decarbonization and its Discontents: A Critical Justice Perspective on Four Low-Carbon Transitions on November 9th.
 - iii. Westborough Senior Center, Weatherman Talks
 - 1. Member Conna shared that Harvey Leonard, a local weatherman, is presenting a talk on Climate Change at the Westborough Senior Center on Wednesday September 20th.

The committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:20 pm.

Attachments

Attachment A: July 31, 2023 GWAC Minutes

Attachment B: Tree Analysis Presentation Slides

Attachment C: Miyawaki Forest City Council Memo

Attachment D: Green Worcester Dashboard Blog

Attachment E: Green Worcester Annual Report Draft

Attachment F: Worcester Magazine Article, “Building code could help city in battling climate crisis”

2023 Upcoming Meetings

Green Worcester Advisory Committee meetings begin on Mondays at 5:30pm:

October 16 Esther Howland

November 27 Esther Howland

**Meeting Room A is located at 50 Manny Familia Way.*

Virtual Meeting Information

This meeting will be held in-person at the date, time and location listed above. Meeting attendees will have the option to participate remotely by joining online or by phone. Note: If technological problems interrupt the virtual meeting, the meeting will continue.

Web: Use the following link to join the meeting via Microsoft Teams on the computer, [click here to join the meeting](#)

, or

Call: +1 469-998-7682,,182502054#. **Access Code:** 182 502 054#.

DRAFT

NEWS

'It's actually about protecting the ratepayers': Worcester backs building electrification rule



Marco Cartolano

Worcester Telegram & Gazette

Published 7:06 a.m. ET Sept. 27, 2023 | Updated 9:25 a.m. ET Sept. 27, 2023

WORCESTER — The City Council voted Tuesday to adopt a new state building code that calls for electrification of new construction starting July 1, 2024.

Councilors voted 10-1 in favor of adopting the specialized stretch code. However, some councilors worried about potential issues down the road.

City climate and nature activists pushed for adopting the specialized stretch code on the July 1, 2024, date while representatives of real estate agents and builders voiced concern with the speed of the implementation date.

The code requires electrification for new construction, both residential and commercial, instead of using fossil fuels for heating and other needs. In many cases, new construction that uses fossil fuels must be wired for a future switch to full electric in addition to having on-site solar where feasible.

In August, City Manager Eric D. Batista adjusted his recommendation of the policy to speed up the effective date by six months following calls to do so from activists. District 1 City Councilor Sean Rose accepted a request from Mayor Joseph M. Petty for the Standing Committee on Economic Development to make that date feasible.

The City Council initially received a recommendation that included an implementation date of Jan. 1, 2025, a date supported by the Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce.

On Tuesday, advocates for the specialized stretch code came holding signs calling for climate action.

Resident weighs in

Speaking in support of the new code, Worcester resident Oliver Chadwick said the pre-wiring requirement in the new code does not cost much more than the requirements in the current stretch code and protects consumers from having to pay at a greater expense to rewire the building for electrical use.

"Everyone's going to do the right thing eventually," Chadwick said.

Representatives of real estate agents and builders said the new code presents new challenges for the industry to learn, along with expenses. They said a faster implementation date gave builders less time to understand the code and could hurt new housing development.

Jon Weaver of Massachusetts Biomedical Initiatives said his concern was that the project might uproot his incubator's efforts to develop a biotech industry in the city. He was unsure if any new lab space construction that the industry needs could meet stretch code requirements, as companies needing temperatures below 20 degrees Fahrenheit cannot reach those low temperatures on an electric system.

John Odell, chief sustainability officer for the city, later said he will remain in touch with Weaver about the code, adding the state Department of Energy Resources has come out with studies showing that operating costs are lower if builders go all electric.

Rose said his research and consultation with experts in the city and elsewhere encouraged him to move forward with the policy.

'Super encouraged'

"When I think about this passing and the longstanding impact that it has on the future of our young people in the city of Worcester, I'm super encouraged by it," Rose said.

Petty, who also submitted an order requesting the city work to plant 1,000 trees by 2026 Tuesday, agreed the specialized stretch code was the right thing to do and was keeping in the spirit of the city's climate goals.

Councilor-at-Large Donna Colorio said she still had hesitations about the specialized stretch code, citing the testimony from representatives for builders and real estate agents. She was the lone vote against adopting the stretch code.

"This is not something I feel totally comfortable voting for," Colorio said.

District 3 City Councilor George Russell and Councilor-at-Large Morris Bergman signaled they would vote for the order but expressed reservations that issues may pop up in the future.

Russell called on Odell and the rest of city government to work for developers to be connected with promised rebates and discounts related to electrification.

Bergman said would support the item because the vote itself did not authorize any consumption of extra electricity. However, Bergman noted he had issues with arguments that other cities like Boston and Cambridge adopted the code when many more have not.

Bergman also added climate science could someday move away from promoting electrification as a sustainable alternative and he did not want to create a monopoly for National Grid.

District 5 City Councilor Etel Haxhijaj said the stretch would protect consumers from unpredictable rate hikes and be a step in creating a livable future for later generations.

"This is not just about saving the environment, it's actually about protecting the ratepayers, the consumers, the people moving into the new buildings," Haxhijaj said.



A notification from the City of Worcester about a change in your electricity supply price

October 13, 2023

Dear Worcester electricity customer and electricity aggregation participant,

Green Worcester ElectriCITY Aggregation prices are changing.

Your electricity account is enrolled in the City's Green Worcester ElectriCITY Municipal Aggregation Program. You are currently enrolled in the program's **Standard Green** offering for a price of 16.912 ¢/kWh, which ensures that an additional 30% of your electricity comes from New England-based renewable sources. This price is used to calculate the Supply Services portion of your National Grid electric bill, which is the part of the bill where you pay for the electricity you use.

In December 2023, the program's current electricity supply contract will come to an end, and a new, 2-year contract with Direct Energy will go into effect for a price of 16.31 ¢/kWh. The new contract will bring two changes:

- 1. More clean electricity:** The amount of additional electricity that you receive from new renewable sources in the New England region (MA Class I RECs) will rise from 30% to 40%.

You will also continue to receive the minimum amount of renewable energy from the New England region required by law: 24% in 2024 and 27% in 2025.

- ▶ The result: By the end of 2025, 67% of your electricity will be generated from new renewable energy sources in the New England region (MA Class I RECs) instead of from fossil fuels or less clean sources.**

- 2. Lower prices:** When the new contract takes effect, your electricity Supply price will change. Your new price will be both lower than the current program price and also lower than National Grid's upcoming winter residential and commercial Basic Service prices. (*Because National Grid's future prices are not known, program savings beyond July 2024 cannot be guaranteed.*)

**Your new electricity Supply price
from Green Worcester ElectriCITY:**

16.31 ¢/kWh

December 2023 - December 2025

**Compare to National Grid's
Basic Service prices:**

18.213 ¢/kWh - residential

17.262 ¢/kWh - commercial

November 1, 2023 - July 31, 2024

National Grid's future prices are not yet known.

Your options

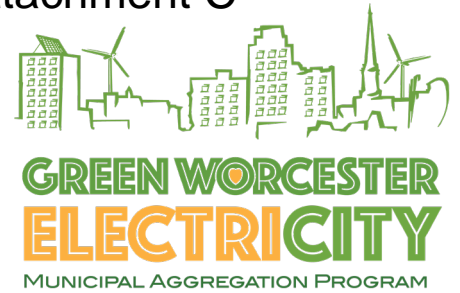
If you wish to continue participating, no action is required. If you do nothing, the new price of 16.31 ¢/kWh will automatically go into effect in December 2023, and you will first see it on your January 2024 National Grid electric bill under Supply Services.

You may also:

- ▶ Change to the Worcester 100% Green option and receive all of your electricity from renewable sources.
- ▶ Leave the program with no penalty or fee and either return to National Grid's Basic Service pricing or sign your own contract with an electricity supplier. Please note that it may take up to two billing cycles for this change to take effect.

(More on back. ▶)

Attachment C



Esta carta contiene información de importancia sobre su factura de la electricidad de la Municipalidad de Worcester. Esta carta está disponible en español en línea en masspowerchoice.com/worcester/renewal_green_spanish. Para preguntas, llamar al 1-833-926-1207.

Lá thư này bao gồm thông tin quan trọng về hóa đơn điện của quý vị từ Thành phố Worcester. Chúng tôi có lá thư này trực tuyến bằng tiếng Việt tại masspowerchoice.com/worcester/renewal_green_vietnamese. Xin gọi số 1-833-926-1207 nếu quý vị có bất cứ thắc mắc nào.

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本信函包含伍斯特市有关您的电力服务的重要时间敏感信息。请通过masspowerchoice.com/worcester/renewal_green_chinese获得该通知的中文版本。如您对此有任何疑问，请致电1-833-926-1207。

Program options & pricing

The following chart will help you to compare both options in Green Worcester ElectriCITY with National Grid's Basic Service. You are free to make a change at any time with no fee or penalty. To make a change, visit [GreenWorcesterElectriCITY.com](https://www.greenworcesterelectricity.com) or call customer support with Worcester's program consultants at 1-833-926-1207. Please have your National Grid electricity account number ready when you call.

You are enrolled here ▼

	Worcester's Standard Green <i>(automatic enrollment)</i>	Worcester's 100% Green <i>(option available by request)**</i>	National Grid's Basic Service <i>(if you opt out)</i>
Prices	16.31 ¢/kWh*	17.73 ¢/kWh*	18.213 ¢/kWh - residential 17.262 ¢/kWh - commercial 21.015 ¢/kWh - industrial
Price term	December 2023 - December 2025	December 2023 - December 2025	November 1, 2023 - July 31, 2024, residential & commercial. November 1, 2023 - January 31, 2024, industrial.
Renewable energy content** From new renewable resources in the New England region (MA Class I RECs)			
Added by Worcester	40% - 2023 40% - 2024 40% - 2025	78% - 2023 76% - 2024 73% - 2025	-
Required by state law	22% - 2023 24% - 2024 27% - 2025	22% - 2023 24% - 2024 27% - 2025	22% - 2023 24% - 2024 27% - 2025
Total from new renewable resources in the New England region (MA Class I RECs)	62% - 2023 64% - 2024 67% - 2025	100% - 2023 100% - 2024 100% - 2025	22% - 2023 24% - 2024 27% - 2025
From other clean or renewable sources required by state law**	37% - 2023 38% - 2024 36% - 2025	37% - 2023 38% - 2024 36% - 2025	37% - 2023 38% - 2024 36% - 2025
Exit terms	Leave any time. No exit charge.	Leave any time. No exit charge.	Leave any time. No exit charge. However, industrial customers only (rates G-2 and G-3) on the fixed-price Basic Service option may receive a billing adjustment, which may be either a credit or a charge.

* Program prices include a \$0.00075/kWh administrative fee and a \$0.001/kWh operational fee that will support aggregation program management and energy initiatives in the City of Worcester. Program prices could increase as a result of a change in law that results in a direct, material increase in costs during the term of the electricity supply agreement.

** The Massachusetts Minimum Renewable Portfolio Standard includes new (MA Class I) renewable energy sources in the New England region (such as solar and wind) and also additional renewable energy from alternative renewable sources, such as biodigesters, wood, landfill gas burning, and more. These additional renewable energy sources are either not zero emissions, not renewable, or not new, and therefore do not help to encourage the development of new, local solar and wind energy production. Because renewable energy must be purchased from these alternative renewable energy sources in addition to the renewable energy purchased from new regional (MA Class I) renewable energy sources, the renewable content for the Worcester 100% Green option exceeds 100% percent.

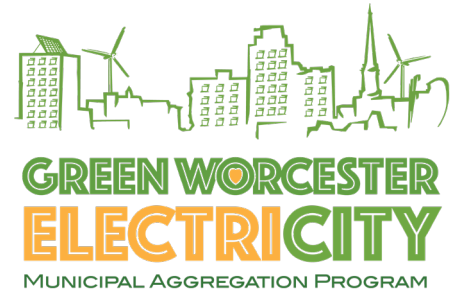
The Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires that all electricity supply products include a minimum of 59% from renewable or clean energy resources in 2023, 62% in 2024, and 63% in 2025. Both Worcester Standard Green and Worcester 100% Green exceed this requirement.**

Get more information about Green Worcester ElectriCITY's Municipal Aggregation Program

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A notification from the City of Worcester about a change in your electricity supply prices



October 13, 2023

Dear Worcester electricity customer and electricity aggregation participant,

Green Worcester ElectriCITY Aggregation prices are changing.

Your electricity account is enrolled in the City's Green Worcester ElectriCITY Municipal Aggregation Program. You are currently enrolled in the program's **100% Green** offering for a price of 18.763 ¢/kWh, which provides 100% of your electricity from New England-based renewable sources. This price is used to calculate the Supply Services portion of your National Grid electric bill, which is the part of the bill where you pay for the electricity you use.

By choosing 100% Green, not only do you receive 100% of your electricity from renewable sources, you also receive all of your electricity from within the New England region. Your choice helps to build demand for more renewable energy on our local power grid, which helps to green our grid.

In December 2023, the program's current electricity supply contract will come to an end, and a new, 2-year contract with Direct Energy will go into effect for a price of 17.73 ¢/kWh.

The new Direct Energy contract will bring lower prices. When the new contract takes effect, your electricity Supply price will change, and your new price will be both lower than your current program price and also lower than National Grid's upcoming winter residential Basic Service price. *(Because National Grid's future prices are not known, program savings beyond July 2024 cannot be guaranteed.)*

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18.213 ¢/kWh

November 1, 2023 - July 31, 2024

National Grid's future prices are not yet known.

Your options

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You may also:

- ▶ Opt down to Worcester Standard Green within the program.
- ▶ Leave the program with no penalty or fee and either return to National Grid's Basic Service pricing or sign your own contract with an electricity supplier. Please note that it may take up to two billing cycles for this change to take effect.

(More on back. ▶)

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Home / Announcements

/ Worcester Launches Energy Efficiency Initiative for Small Businesses



CITY OF WORCESTER, MA

Eric D. Batista
City Manager

WORCESTER LAUNCHES ENERGY EFFICIENCY INITIATIVE FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 10/6/2023 5:09 PM

WORCESTER, Mass. – The City of Worcester is partnering with Eversource to conduct the Main Streets energy efficiency initiative to help local small businesses, nonprofits and houses of worship reduce their energy costs and impact on the environment by offering enhanced incentives for the month of October.

Energy experts from AECOM and Complete Energy Services began meeting with businesses last week, and will continue to through Friday, Oct. 13, to provide no-cost energy assessments and answer questions about energy-efficient equipment upgrades and other improvements. The limited-time enhanced incentives can cover up to 90% off select energy efficiency solutions.

“The Main Streets initiative is a great opportunity for business owners to evaluate their energy usage and costs and see where they can make improvements to lower both their bills and environmental impact,” said Chief Sustainability Officer John Odell. “We encourage all business owners to participate in the free program and see what savings are available to them.”

The Main Streets energy efficiency initiative begins with a no-cost energy assessment identifying energy-saving opportunities such as new lighting, occupancy sensors, programmable thermostats, refrigeration controls, insulation and more.

Some of the improvements, such as installing new energy-efficient light bulbs, occur on the spot. Larger improvement projects, such as building insulation or energy-efficient motor controls, are scheduled for installation at a future date and evaluated for eligibility for incentives from Eversource through Mass Save® and interest-free financing to offset the cost of upgrades.

Eversource has been delivering postcards with information about the program to Worcester businesses. For more information about the program and to schedule a no-cost energy assessment at a convenient time, businesses can visit eversource.com/mainstreets .

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[Next Post](#)

Green Worcester Plan Progress Report

City of Worcester
April 2021 – October 2023

Executive Summary (to be written)

Reading This Report

As part of the Green Worcester Plan, the City made a commitment to transparency and accountability. This progress report provides a status update for all the actions listed in the Green Worcester Plan, since the inception of the plan in April 2021 through October 2023. This report is broken into ten sections, covering Chapters II-XII of the plan. Each table includes the action item, the status, and a short description of our progress. We are using the following system to designate each goals status:

Table Legend

Status	Description
Not Started	This action has not been started
In Progress	The City has begun executing this action
Ongoing	An action that calls for a recurring action
Completed	The action is complete, and all milestones have been reached
Refocused	Action wasn't feasible, relevant, and/or necessary and therefore, it was refocused to similar action in line with the intention of the initial action

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Chapter VI - Sustainable Transportation Choices	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Chapter VII - One Water – Integrated Water Management	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Chapter VIII - Towards Zero Waste	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Chapter IX - Sustainable Food Systems	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Chapter X - Pollution Prevention	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Chapter XI - Climate Change Resilience	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Chapter XII: Sustainability, Resilience, and Green Education in All Policies	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Chapter II – Stewardship, Transparency, and Accountability

Action	Status	Progress
1. New Department of Sustainability: Create a Department of Sustainability and Resilience within City government separate from a new Public Facilities Department (and retire the Energy and Asset Management Division)	Completed	The Department of Sustainability and Resilience (DSR) was founded in July 2021. DSR now has 12 staff members.
2. Sustainability and resiliency codes and regulations: Ensure that the City provides sufficient enforcement, training, and knowledgeable staff to develop and implement sustainability and resiliency codes and regulations.	Ongoing	The City, through the vote of the City Council, has adopted a highly efficient energy building code, the Specialized Stretch Code which will go into effect on July 1, 2024. The Department of Inspectional Services (DIS) will receive the needed training to enforce the new code.
3. Green Worcester Advisory Committee: Create a Green Worcester Advisory Committee made up of non-governmental stakeholders to serve as the forum for information exchange and to advise on the City’s sustainability and resilience activities.	Completed	The Green Worcester Advisory Committee had their first meeting on March 7, 2022. The committee has seven members, with each district having at least one representative.
4. Green Worcester Fund: Create a Green Worcester Fund for the City’s sustainability and resilience programs.	Completed	The City has a Carbon Mitigation Fund that provides modest funding to DSR, allowing them to partially fund their staff and pursue carbon mitigation projects.
5. Sustainability Performance Outcomes for New Development	Refocused	The City is pivoting from developing our own performance metrics to implementing the State developed Specialized Stretch Code.
6. Develop and implement a Sustainability and Resiliency Dashboard.	Completed	DSR published a dashboard highlighting the City’s accomplishments and outlining how residents can help us meet our sustainability goals. It was launched for Earth Day 2023 and is updated on a continuous basis
7. Annual Progress Report: Prepare an annual public progress	Ongoing	The City is committed to updating this report annually. In the future we will adapt the timescale of this report to capture developments over the previous calendar year.

8. Outreach Strategy: Implement a transparent Green Worcester outreach strategy to include traditional and new media and activities.	Ongoing	DSR is spearheading Green Worcester’s outreach strategy. DSR has monthly communication strategy meetings and is reaching out to people through monthly newsletters, surveys, the Green Worcester Dashboard, social media posts, and radio PSAs.
9. Data and Data-Driven Decisions: Work with the Office of Urban Innovation to develop relevant datasets to measure progress and make data-driven decisions about sustainability and resilience.	Refocused	DSR has hired an internal Energy Analyst, has created the Green Worcester Dashboard to better display our data, and has begun compiling data from other departments to keep better track of our energy and sustainability data.
10. School Curriculum: Integrate sustainability and resilience into the curriculum at all levels in the Worcester Public Schools	Ongoing	The City has begun making connections with Worcester Public School staff, and city staff has met with environmental groups at the high schools to discuss sustainability and resilience in Worcester.
11. Promotion to Private Stakeholders: Publicize and promote the Green Worcester Plan to important city stakeholders and civic groups such as the large and small business community, realtors and developers, neighborhood associations, educational and medical institutions, faith communities, immigrant associations, and social services groups.	Ongoing	DSR held 35+ public presentations for city stakeholders including the Worcester Garden Club, the Worcester Board of Health, and the Worcester Business Improvement District.
12. Business Committee: Encourage the Greater Worcester Chamber of Commerce to create a sustainability and resilience committee.	Refocused	DSR has developed a working relationship with the Chamber of Commerce on sustainability, energy, and zero waste related projects.
13. Worcester Civic Group on Sustainability and Resilience: Promote and help create a citywide sustainability/resilience umbrella group or coordinating network to link existing organizations, provide public information and access to ongoing activities, and work with the City and other partners to achieve Green Worcester goals.	Not Started	
14. Collaboration with Educational Institutions: Promote continued collaboration with the City’s educational institutions to achieve Green Worcester goals.	Ongoing	The City has made several successful connections with local higher education institutions, including Clark, WSU, and Holy Cross, and is continuing to build our connections with educators in lower education in Worcester.

15. Pilot “Sustainability District”: Designate one or more pilot “Sustainability Districts” as areas to test, refine, and promote new sustainability and resilience efforts.	In Progress	The City lobbied with local neighborhood groups to be part of the geothermal networked neighborhood pilot project managed by Eversource, but our efforts were not successful. We will continue to look for similar opportunities.
16. LEED Certification: Consider seeking LEED certification as a sustainable community.	Not Started	
17. Mayors’ Covenant: Join the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy.	Not Started	
18. Urban Sustainability Network: Join the Urban Sustainability Directors Network.	Completed	DSR joined in July 2022 and we have used the network for learning opportunities such as webinars, connecting with other municipal staff and posting our job openings.
19. Carbon Neutral Cities: Seek nomination for membership in the Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance.	Not Started	

DRAFT

Chapter III - 100% Clean and Affordable Energy

Action	Status	Progress
<p>1. Zero Emissions: Eliminate 100% of greenhouse gas emissions citywide.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The City has adopted a highly efficient energy building code, the Specialized Stretch Code which will go into effect on July 1, 2024, making us the first Gateway city in the state to do so. This new code is essentially a “net-zero” code and requires mixed-fuel new construction to be pre-wired for electrification and install solar PV on a formula basis.</p> <p>The Green Worcester ElectriCITY Aggregation program will be providing 40% additional premium renewable electricity to residents and commercial customers with the new aggregation contract beginning in December 2023 and ending in December 2025.</p> <p>A Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory was completed in 2022, comparing the progress from 2009-2019.</p> <p>The City is completing the most recent Energy Saving Performance Contract with Honeywell and launching the next phase soon. This contract will include an audit to determine our next steps for energy efficiency in municipal buildings.</p>
<p>2. Community Choice Program: Achieve 100% renewable electricity sources by 2035 via aggregation.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>See above (Chapter III, Action 1)</p>
<p>3. Carbon Neutral Cities Alliance: Seek nomination for membership</p>	<p>Not started</p>	
<p>4. Net Zero City Operations: Aim to make city facilities and operations net zero by 2030, including the city vehicle fleet.</p>	<p>In progress</p>	<p>The City is completing the most recent Energy Saving Performance Contract with Honeywell and launching the next phase soon. This contract will include an audit to determine our next steps for energy efficiency in municipal buildings.</p>

		See Chapter VI, Action 6 for details on city fleet.
5. Flexible Commutes for City Employees: Develop commuting and/or work at home programs for City employees to cut emissions.	Not started	
6. Identify opportunities for innovative energy pilot projects.	Ongoing	The City lobbied with local neighborhood groups to be part of the geothermal networked neighborhood pilot project managed by Eversource, but our efforts were not successful. We will continue to look for similar opportunities.
7. Building Disclosure Policy: Adopt a building performance disclosure policy for non-residential buildings.	Not started	
8. PACE Program: Opt into the proposed Massachusetts PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program.	Not started	
9. Public EV Charging: Establish EV charging stations in all City-owned parking areas with 20 or more parking spaces.	In progress	The City installed 6 charging ports in 3 public municipally owned garages (Pearl Elm, Worcester Common, and Federal Plaza) for a total of 18 new ports in 2023. For more details, visit: Vehicle Electrification City of Worcester, MA (worcesterma.gov) and see Chapter XI.
10. Multifamily EV charging: Require EV stations and EV-ready parking at all new 5-unit plus multifamily buildings with on-site parking	In progress	Effective July 2024, 20% of residential and business parking spaces will be required to be wired for electric vehicle charging due to updated building codes
11. Solar Zoning Ordinance: Develop and adopt a solar zoning ordinance with clear standards for siting solar farms and solar installations (residential and commercial).	Not started	
12. Solar Map Tool: Work with educational institutions to create a solar map tool with information on solar opportunities in Worcester, including information on utility poles, roof material, and so on.	Not started	

13. Regional Electricity Aggregation: Work towards becoming a Level II Aggregator	Not started	
14. Energy Ownership Models: Support efforts to diversify energy ownership models.	Not started	

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