

CONCORD'S ENERGY GOALS

**ENERGY FUTURE TASK FORCE
TOWN OF CONCORD, MA
APRIL 3, 2017 SELECT BOARD MEETING**



WHY CONSIDER OUR ENERGY FUTURE?

- **Help combat future climate change**
- **Position Concord for leadership**
- **Establish a reliable, equitable, and environmentally sound energy plan that**
 - assures long term viability for Concord Municipal Light Plant
 - is integrated with CMLP's Strategic Plan
 - is integrated with Comprehensive Long Range Plan
 - promotes intergenerational equity

RECOMMENDATIONS GUIDED BY:

- 1. International commitments for greenhouse gas reduction expressed in the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change and Massachusetts's goals for greenhouse gas reduction expressed in the 2008 Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act.**
- 2. A commitment to bold approaches and actions to achieve greenhouse gas reduction consistent with the urgency of the current global climate crisis, and with Concord's long history of leadership and of stewardship of our natural world.**
- 3. A recognition that Concord is part of, and should actively contribute to, the fast-paced global, national, state, and municipal transformation from an economy powered by fossil fuels to an economy powered by clean energy.**
- 4. A commitment to Concord's sustainability principles.**

GOALS

- **25% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2020**
- **80% reduction in greenhouse gases by 2050**
- **These are town-wide goals and are applicable to all sectors. The baseline is 2008.**

RECOMMENDED IMMEDIATE NEXT STEPS

- 1. Issue a policy statement to establish decreasing emissions as a criterion in all Town decisions.**
- 2. Hire a Director of Energy [or other title] reporting to the Town Manager, and a consultant to assist the Director to guide the Town in designing and implementing a sustainable energy future consistent with the recommendations in this Report.**
- 3. Appoint a new advisory group to assist the Town Manager, the Director of Energy [or other title], and the consultant.**
- 4. Integrate the goals and recommendations of the EFTF report into CMLP's current strategic planning effort and with the Comprehensive Long Range Plan currently underway.**

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- **Three public meetings**
- **Meetings with CMLP**
- **Stakeholder interviews**
- **On-line survey**
- **Email correspondences**
- **Task Force meetings**
- **Finance Committee hearing February 27**
- **Select Board meeting April 3**

CONTEXT

- **What Concord is already doing**
- **Strategies and tactics from other cities and towns**
- **Whole systems planning**

CONCORD'S SECTORS

Agriculture

Built environment

Commercial

Energy

Health and safety

Land-use planning and management

Municipal

Transportation

Waste management

Water management

CONCORD MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT (CMLP)

- **The Task Force worked closely with CMLP.**
- **Electricity procurement decisions have a profound impact on GHG emissions.**
- **The Town Manager and Select Board should engage CMLP as a partner to integrate GHG emission goals in strategic planning.**
- **The Town Manager and Select Board should engage the Light Board as a partner to guide planning for and implementation of strategic goals.**

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING CMLP

- **Develop a set of cost-effective energy efficiency incentives and measures that meet or exceed those offered by Massachusetts investor-owned utilities**
- **Convert CMLP's electricity supply to non-emitting resources with a target of achieving 100% from non-emitting resources by 2030**
- **Reduce barriers for adopting energy efficiency measures**
- **Develop incentives to encourage users to switch from fossil fuels to electricity from clean energy sources for heating and transportation**

MEASURING SUCCESS

- **Maintain CMLP as a critical asset to achieve GHG reduction goals**
- **Integrate GHG emissions reduction into CMLP Strategic Planning**
- **Identify and implement a recognized methodology to track Concord's annual carbon emissions**
- **Shift transportation and heating fuel loads to electricity generated by clean power**
- **Engage all sectors in systems planning**
- **Enlist citizens to reduce emissions in personal choices**

ECONOMIC IMPACT

- **\$100,000 from free cash for Director-level position focused on town-wide emissions reduction**
- **\$100,000 from free cash for short-term consultant to assist the Town Manager and Director**
- **Commitment to 100% non-carbon emitting electricity by 2030 may increase electric rates over time, but Concord's rates are now 25% lower than rates from Investor Owned Utilities**
- **Conservation and planning efforts will build efficiencies, save electricity and reduce costs**
- **Promotes intergenerational economic equity**

WARRANT ARTICLE – TM 2017

Warrant Article 51– Concord’s Energy Goals

To determine whether the Town, informed by the Paris Climate Agreement of 2015, will vote:

- (a) to align the energy goals of the Town of Concord with the Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008 to achieve a minimum 25% town-wide reduction in Green House Gas (GHG) emissions by 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050 from the baseline established in 2008; and
- (b) by 2030, as an intermediate goal, **to urge** CMLP to reduce GHG emissions of its power supply portfolio and to offset any residual GHG emissions of its electricity supply through the purchase of RECs or other offsets, **with the understanding that this may increase the cost of energy purchased by CMLP and may require increases in electric rates;**

and further, to determine whether the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from funds available in the Treasury, the sum of \$100,000, or any other sum, to be expended under the direction of the Town Manager for the purpose of engaging one or more consultants for the purpose of developing and making publicly available an operational plan to achieve said goals;

and further, to **determine whether** the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds in the Treasury, the sum of \$100,000, or any other sum, to be expended under the direction of the Town Manager for the purpose of hiring a Director of Energy **(or other title)**, on an on-going basis, to be accountable to the Town Manager for recommending policy and measuring progress toward meeting these goals and implementing the operational plan, as well as tracking and assessing new energy technologies and funding opportunities, or take any other action relative thereto.