



Climate Action Commission Minutes
Thursday 03/06/25, 4:30pm
City Hall Auditorium

1. **Present** - Rod Melanson, Megan Mansfield-Pryor, Ruth Indrick, Paul Perkins, John Zittel, Connor English, Laura Walters, Nancy Sferra

Public: Abby Westbury, Sorrell Dunn, Kristna Evans, Will Neilson, Amelia
2. **Minutes** – Note Taker: Laura Walters –
 - a. Approved January minutes (Nancy motioned, 2nd by Connor) – All voted in favor.
3. **Climate Action Plan Implementation Goals**
 - **Review of CAP Goals Spreadsheet:** Summary of 15 strategies/goals. Focus on selecting priority strategies.
 - **Survey Results** (6 CAC votes):
 - **Top priorities:**
 - Electrify and retrofit existing residential & commercial buildings (6 votes)
 - Renewable energy solutions (3 votes)
 - Efficiency & electrification standards for new buildings (2 votes)
 - Community preparedness for climate hazards (2 votes)

Discussion:

Council has been discussing climate hazards—should remain a focus.

Top 3 Focus Areas for 2025: Buildings, Hazards, Renewable Energy Solutions.

Public Engagement & Communication Strategy:

- **Ideas to reach a larger audience:**
 - Presentations at churches, schools, and clubs.
 - Utilize councilor ward gatherings to generate interest.
 - Caution: Capacity constraints of CAC.
 - Create an online recording about CAP.
 - Coordinate with existing city efforts.
 - Possible BCTV collaboration (e.g., “This Old House” style segment with Paul Perkins).

- Ensure communication includes **clear action items** for the public.
- **Action Item:** Strategic Planning Subcommittee to develop a public communication plan.

4. Energy Subcommittee Update (Connor)

Resilient Bath Efficiency Fund:

- a. **\$20K included in city budget draft** for initial proof of concept.
- b. Met with Misty Parker to discuss the administration of the funds
- c. Seeking **council approval to apply for grants** to expand funding.
- d. **Timeline:**
 - i. Program finalization: **April 2025**
 - ii. Budget approval: **May/June 2025**
 - iii. Public launch: **July/August 2025**
 - iv. Ongoing grant applications to expand in **2026**

Energy Coaching Initiative:

- e. **Regional interest** in expanding to the midcoast area.
- f. **Concept:**
 - i. **Coaches:** Guide homeowners through efficiency upgrade options.
 - ii. **Auditors:** Conduct home energy assessments and provide recommendations.
- g. **Challenges:** Funding, volunteer capacity.
- h. **Plan a Stakeholder Workshop:** To discuss partnerships, obstacles (e.g., funding, time), and program structure.
- i. **Potential Partners:** MCOGS, Habitat for Humanity, Bath Housing, Peoples+, York representative (to share groundwork insights).
- j. **General CAC Support:** Move this effort into CAC's broader agenda.

5. Communications & Engagement (Rod)

Climate Conversations Series:

- a. **E-Demo Day (Nancy) – May 17 (Tentative):**
 - i. Featuring: EVs, e-bikes, electric tools, lawn mowers, snow blowers, chain saws, and more.
 - ii. Partnering with transportation, bike/ped education committees.
 - iii. There is a group in Norway that has done an electricity fair- could be a resource
 - iv. **Follow-up:** Rod to coordinate posters/communications.
- b. **Climate Emergency Preparedness Event – March 12**
 - i. Speakers: Police, Fire (Sagadahoc), and Rod.

- ii. Ruth to provide opening remarks.
- iii. **Attendee Input:** Ask participants what information would help them feel better prepared.
- c. **Window-Dressers Program (Paul):**
 - i. Moving collaboration to Brunswick for better coordination and resources.
 - ii. Need two more measuring teams.
 - iii. Volunteers: Hillary, Sorrel (more needed).
 - iv. **Deadline for sign-ups:** August/September 2025.
 - v. Advertise as “**Supported by Bath Climate Action Commission.**”
 - vi. Rod to assist with promotion.

6. Carbon Fee / Climate Policy

Citizen Climate Lobby (CCL) Resolution:

- **Recap:** Two prior presentations from Peter Dugas.
- **Council precedent:** Historically **does not sign onto resolutions**, but council dynamics may shift.
- **CCL Request:** Endorsement of a resolution supporting a **carbon tax** (30+ Maine towns have signed).
- **Additional Referral:** Councilor Guzzetti requested discussion of **Climate Superfund resolution** (polluter-pays model).
- **Motion (Connor):** Move CCL discussion to the next CAC meeting and include the Climate Superfund resolution.
- **Seconded (Paul):** Approved unanimously

7Updates (Rod)

Annual Report from City Manager:

- **FY2023 report:** Near completion, expected in the next **two weeks**.
- **FY2024 report:** Target release in **May 2025**.

Coastal Resiliency Initiatives:

- **GMRI/EPSCOR Project:** Digital modeling of **flood vulnerability**.
- **Envision Resiliency:** Academic plan from 2014, currently displayed in **Portland/South Portland libraries**.
- **CSCI Grant Opportunity:** Proposal due **March 2025**; potential **\$100K** for community engagement & modeling.
- **FEMA HMPG Grant:** Downtown resilience study **Phase 1 near completion; BIW involved.**

8. Other Business / Public Comment

- **Will:** Attended regional group meeting on **elderly housing & renovations**.
 - **Key partners:** Bath Housing, Habitat for Humanity.
 - Group meets **every two months** (except summer).

- Suggested using this as a **model for climate-related community engagement**.
- **Motion to Adjourn:** Nancy
- **Seconded:** Connor
- **Approval:** Unanimous

Meeting Adjourned.

Next Meeting Date – 4:30pm on 2/6 @ City Hall