

Energy Future Task Force

Established by the Concord Select Board (appointed by the Town Manager with the approval of the Select Board in February, 2016)

Background:

The historic global commitment to climate and energy solutions emanating from the 2015 Paris COP21 summit calls on nations and communities to develop plans for a low-carbon energy future and a 2^o World. The Town of Concord should set goals and targets for the community that will guide future energy supply and energy use planning and ensure that these goals are incorporated into the 2016-17 Comprehensive Long Range Plan. In so doing, Concord will benefit from active partnership with CMLP in identifying opportunities to meet the changing marketplace and the global demand for a reduced carbon economy. CMLP will continue to play a central role in Concord's ability and commitment to achieve its future energy goals.

The Task Force's charge is to create the framework for the development of an energy and sustainability plan for Concord, to identify short and long-term energy goals, and to identify the means for effective controls and measurement of stated goals. The framework will be the basis of a multi-year, stakeholder engagement process to develop a long-range plan for a low-carbon future.

Purpose:

The competitive energy landscape is rapidly changing with widespread consumer-driven interest and adoption of distributed generation. The Task Force will identify current energy and sustainability planning activities in Concord, review planning efforts already undertaken by communities in Massachusetts and elsewhere, and make recommendations for how Concord could proceed to develop an energy plan. The Task Force will advise the Town Manager and Select Board on organizational efficiencies among town departments and committees and make recommendations for where the energy plan will reside within Concord's organizational structure to assure long term accountability of its goals and effective implementation of the plan.

The task force shall make its recommendations, with rationale, to the Select Board within six months after the committee is fully established.

In carrying out its charge, the Task Force should address several strategic questions:

- What should be Concord's short and long-term energy goals and principles? Consideration should be given to core principles of reliability, equity, environmental stewardship, cost, and service.
- How should energy and its use be incorporated into the Comprehensive Long Range Plan with the knowledge that an energy plan may have a longer time horizon than the CLRP?
- How can and/or should the mission of CMLP evolve to address new market competition, emerging opportunities and new business models for operations?
- How do we ensure that efficiency and conservation continue to be priorities?
- What local governance structures need to be amended to support an energy transition plan?

Responsibilities and Duties:

1. Identify and review current enabling legislation or acts, charge and mission of departments and committees in Concord involved with energy and sustainability planning for Concord;
2. Identify and inventory Concord's current energy uses and develop a baseline for future initiatives.

2. Meet with all town departments to look for areas of mission overlap, synergies, and capacity for overseeing implementation of a long-range energy plan for Concord;
3. Host a public meeting or forum early in the process to solicit public input on matters concerning Concord's energy future;
4. Review and evaluate investor-owned and municipal utilities' development of an energy service model and non-wires alternatives, CSEC plans and contributions, Green Communities goals, national carbon and Net-Zero planning efforts, and other plans to make recommendations to the Select Board and Town Manager for future energy goals that Concord should seek to achieve;
5. Make recommendations to the Town Manager and Select Board as to where, within the structure of Town government, an energy future plan would reside to ensure accountability and effective implementation;
6. Prepare a draft report of recommendations, with rationale, including the Task Force's findings; and, hold a public hearing to review the report before it is finalized and submitted to the Select Board;

Task Force Membership:

1. Member recommended by the Light Plant and Light Plant Board
2. Member recommended by the Department of Planning and Land Management
3. Member recommended by School Committee and School Administration
4. Two members at-large with expertise in energy and utility matters, and local government.
5. As the Task Force carries out its charge, if it believes additional expertise is necessary, the Select Board may modify its membership.

Task Force Term of Office:

The members of the Task Force shall be appointed by the Town Manager, subject to approval of the Select Board. It is expected that the work of the task force be complete within 6 months of the time that it is fully seated.

Other Considerations:

The Task Force shall conduct its business in full conformance with the Open Meeting Law, Public Records Law, Conflict of Interest Law and other state and local rules encouraging openness and transparency in governance. The membership shall elect its own chair. *The Task Force chair shall consult with the Town Manager to discuss the need for staff or financial support for the Task Force's activities.*