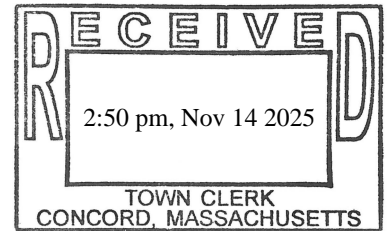


CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE
Wednesday, November 19, 2025, 7:00 PM
MEETING AGENDA



Meeting Locations:

- In person: Select Board Meeting Room, Town House, 22 Monument Square, 2nd Floor
- Remotely, through the following Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89658925084?pwd=dqCN47QKgw07ZKlda071EnKYbbbIfk.1>
Meeting ID: 896 5892 5084
Passcode: 771884
Dial In Toll-Free: 888 475 4499
- Documents relevant to this meeting will be posted when they become available at
<https://concordma.gov/4043/Meeting-Materials>

1. Welcome – comments and announcements [7:00]
2. Meetings and minutes [7:05]
 - a. Approval of Oct. 15 minutes
 - b. Upcoming meeting and event dates: November/December
3. CAC Chair updates [7:10]
 - a. Level set on Open Meeting Law, communications with the public
 - b. State legislation update - [House bill 4744](#)
 - c. Other recent national and international news on climate
 - d. Preparing for CAC annual report; 2026 Annual Town Meeting
4. Deputy Town Manager’s update [7:45]
5. [Climate Action and Resilience Plan](#) [8:00]
 - a. Update on vendor selection, recap of RFP process, questions
6. GSEP/non-pipeline alternatives [8:10]
 - a. Draft Resolution in Support of the Transition to Clean Heat in Concord and in Massachusetts
 - b. Other updates on activities
7. Other Updates [8:30]
 - a. Networked Geothermal
 - b. Schools: solar, trail connection, composting, Youth Climate Solutions Challenge
 - c. Transportation
8. Public comments [8:45]
9. Adjourn [8:50]

Distribution:

Committee Members: Fran Cummings, Brad Dye (Chair), Kathryn Hopkins, Brad Hubbard-Nelson (Clerk), Shelly Karlin, Paul Kirshen, Bob Shatten
Town: Town Clerk, Wendy Rovelli (Select Board Liaison), Megan Zammuto (Deputy Town Manager), Shannon McAndrew (Management Specialist)
Local Groups: Mothers Out Front, ConcordCAN, League of Women Voters

Climate Action Committee (CAC) Meeting Minutes - 10/15/25

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a public meeting of the CAC was held on October 15th 2025 at 7:00 pm in person at the Select Board Meeting Room and via Zoom (hybrid). A recording of this meeting is available on [YouTube](#).

Committee members attending: Brad Dye (BradD, Chair), Brad Hubbard-Nelson (BradHN, Clerk), Shelly Karlin, Fran Cummings, Paul Kirshen (online), Kathryn Hopkins (online). Absent: Bob Shatten
Town Staff: Megan Zammuto, Shannon McAndrews.
Community Members: none present

Meeting began at 7:04 pm

1. Welcome – comments and announcements
2. Meetings and minutes
 - a. Approval of Sept. 17th minutes. *Adopted 5-0 one abstention (Shelly moved, BradHN second).*
 - b. Upcoming meeting and event dates: BradD mentioned several upcoming events relating to sustainability, including:
 - i. Saturday 10/18 9am-10:30am: Effective Governance training, at Town House.
 - ii. Saturday 10/18: West Concord Day - River Litter art installation at Fowler Library
 - iii. Tuesday 10/25 8am: Sustainable Concord Coffee, First Parish Church. Sami Poudel from Concord Public Works on Stormwater utility and enterprise fund.
 - iv. Saturday 10/25 11am-2pm: Town of Action, Green Energy Home Tour at a home to be announced (register on [EnergizeActon.org](#)).
 - v. Tuesday 10/28 9:30am: 141 Keyes Rd, TAC Meeting, Stantec presents on Transportation Study.
 - vi. Tuesday 10/28 4pm-5:30 joint TAC, CPW, etc meeting at Harvey Wheeler on Transportation Safety and public works project prioritization.
 - vii. Wednesday 10/29 3-4pm: Trick or Trek bike ride on Bruce Freeman Rail Trail
 - viii. Sunday 11/2 2-4pm. Codman Farm 3rd annual Mothers Out Front Pumpkin Smash event
 - ix. Thursday 11/6 6:30pm: Ecology of Concord, author Prof Richard TT Forman. Goodwin forum at Concord main library.
 - x. Tuesday 11/18 6pm: Beaver Land: How one weird rodent made america, author Leila Philip presents at Goodwin Forum, Concord main library.
 - xi. Wed 11/19 7:30am at 141 Keyes Rd, 6pm at Harvey Wheeler: two comprehensive strategy workshops for transportation strategy.
 - xii. Sat 12/13 Next Town Clerk committee member training on Town Meeting
3. CAC Chair updates
 - a. New members: Fran Cummings: Long time Concord resident, recently moved back from Acton. Former state policy director at DOER and RET (now CEC), more recently as energy consultant.
 - b. Status updates on action items and old business from September 17th agenda : None
 - i. BradHN asked about whether the CAC member expiration dates on the [CAC web page](#) were correct, since there are none expiring in 2026. He also requested that draft agendas be circulated in advance to allow for comments; BradD replied that he will make an effort to do so.

- c. Sun Day debrief: BradHN reported that the event on 9/21 went well, at First Parish Church which provided a custodian who ran the sound system. Great lineup of speakers, which were brief. Lots of helpful volunteers. Good community building event. Attendance was 100-150 people. The challenge is getting people outside the “choir” to come to an event like this. Promotion could have been better if started earlier.
 - i. Could be repeated again another year, but we need to decide if it is worth the effort. Takes a bunch of work.
 - ii. Shelly said it was a good opportunity to share ideas and see people you don’t often see.
 - iii. Kathryn advocated for doing it again as an annual event.
- 4. Deputy Town Manager’s update: Megan Zammuto (Attachment 1).
 - a. Concord Free Public Library sustainability meeting the previous Friday, attended by Megan, BradHN. Excellent strategy session on library climate plan. Including being an education hub for sustainability in the community as well as decarbonizing the buildings.
 - i. BradHN: Funding the decarbonization by 2030 is an ambitious goal.
 - ii. Next meeting will be in December
 - b. Concord Public Schools installing a V2G/V2X (Vehicle to anything) charging infrastructure at the Knox Trail bus facility.
 - c. Update on the SUASCO watershed effort: contract for \$450K 2 year grant, kick off meeting with OARS and MAPC.
 - d. Update on Decarbonization Roadmap, which is moving forward, working closely with Power Options, who had questions about the buildings.
 - e. Met with sustainability people from Fenn School and Concord Academy, on their master planning around sustainability.
 - i. Fran commented that it would be good to somehow network these nonprofit entities to take advantage of synergies.
 - f. Middle school solar project, slides included in attachment. Still vetting bidders for selecting the firm.
 - g. Continuing work on the Green Communities reporting with Mass Energy Insight.
- 5. MA Climate Action Network presentation: Jack Lundgren presented MCANs work on model embodied carbon RFP language for local communities. (Attachments 2 & 3). Crucial part of the climate puzzle, separate from operational carbon. Large fraction of emissions from new construction since operational carbon has been reduced. Brookline, Cambridge, Newton and Boston have made progress in limiting embodied carbon through regulations.
 - a. MCAN approach is to use model RFP language for municipal construction projects, so that selection team can choose architects who are capable of producing low embodied carbon designs. Two versions for buildings > or < than 50,00 square feet. Some of it comes from LEED V5 introduced this year. For the larger projects, asking for full lifecycle assessment. Ambitious but achievable. Reducing embodied carbon by typically 50% can be achieved.
 - b. Comments from CAC
 - i. BradHN said that the new Middle School design team discussed embodied carbon a lot. Would be interesting to see how what they asked relates to the model RFP language
 - ii. BradHN asked about LEED V5, which contains much of the embodied carbon language and lifecycle assessment. LEED V4 is still an active spec framework, and new buildings could choose between V4 and V5.
 - iii. Shelly asked whether this applies for road construction. Jack said it only applies to buildings, and roadways and other hardscape are a separate issue
 - iv. Kathryn about steel and certifications on materials, to vet the process without scaring away developers.

- v. BradD asked about whether a town could regulate or encourage low embodied carbon for private development. This is something to think about, whether this should go in the updated climate action plan.
- 6. Climate Action and Resilience Plan update
 - a. RFP status and next steps. Issued RFP on 9/22, due Friday 10/24. Issuing an addendum tomorrow, changing optional interview date and award date. Proposal review date now 10/30, potential interviews on 11/3 and an Award date of 11/13
 - b. Built in opportunity for questions, and there were some questions for the committee to consider. (Attachment 4). The committee discussed responses to questions:
 - i. Question 2: The Town will not be selling carbon credits. Light plant director Jason Bulger said that the requested carbon analysis could be useful to help us to prioritize actions.
 - ii. Question 3: yes there is flexibility
 - iii. Question 9: the RFP stated that an interim report should consider expectations and desired outcomes goals for the year 2100, a significant additional analysis effort.
 - 1. BradHN made the point that the horizon of the climate action plan is 2050, and the RFP shouldn't say anything about 2100, since that time frame is so uncertain, and arbitrary.
 - 2. Paul had added that with the intention that we think longer term than 2050, to avoid making decisions about actions taken now that would lead to maladaptation, preventing future actions. We have scenarios including temperature, precipitation and land use, which we want to be prepared for.
 - 3. The committee discussed whether to change the language to specify that mitigation goals are focused on 2050 and adaptation goals on 2100. Megan asked for a vote on what response to make. BradHN proposed to take the language about 2100 out of the RFP in an addendum, 2nd by Shelly. The committee voted in favor 3-2 with one abstention. The letter accompanying the addendum will explain that adaptation planning should be done considering the longer time frame of 2100.
 - iv. Question 10 asked whether the Town will require an updated GHG inventory from the consultant. BradHN responded that the committee is planning to do such an inventory for 2025, but the consultant need not be involved, and that the most recent 2022 inventory using the MAPC tool should be sufficient for the consultant to work with.
- 7. Other Updates:
 - a. Networked Geothermal. BradHN gave a presentation to the CMLP light board, the same as presented at the September CAC meeting (see posted minutes). The light board was receptive and there were good questions. The board thought the idea of CMLP working together with the gas utility would not work out. Despite their reservations, he thinks there should be conversations with National Grid to clarify how such a collaborative effort might work.
 - i. BradD asked whether that presentation could be useful for future presentations or reports. BradHN said it is part of the meeting minutes from September, and he will save it with the CAC file archive.
 - ii. Next step: the light board is interested in MCI as a project, and the group should meet with MCI planners. Fran made good arguments that this should be a baseline assumption. CAC may be able to seek funding (through env bond bill).
 - b. GSEP/non-pipeline alternatives. Fran suggested that the committee should make a resolution supporting this from the Town. Kathryn suggested this be on the agenda for next month.
 - i. Fran will write up a proposal, which we review and discuss in November.

- c. MCI Concord. BradHN reported that the MCI planners made a good presentation at the LWV First Friday the week before. Not discussed further beyond what was reported in item 7 above.
 - d. School solar/BFRT link projects. BradHN asked whether they were giving up on the solar canopies completely, which Megan didn't think was the case. Fran asked whether if the bids came in higher than expected whether the system would simply be scaled back..
 - i. BradHN reported on a meeting with the Sunrise club at the high school, about 6 students and advisor Rebecca Meeks. They have decided to take part in the Youth Climate Solutions Challenge being run by MassEnergize. Someone from the committee should work with them on their project. Funding for the project comes later this year and next.
8. Public comments: None given
9. Adjourned at 9:20pm. Next meeting scheduled for November 19th.

Attachments:

- 1. Climate Action Committee - October Staff Report
- 2. Embodied Carbon Model RFP Language - Jack Lundgren, MCAN
- 3. Presentation on Embodied Carbon, by Jack Lundgren, MCAN.
- 4. Climate Action Plan RFP questions
- 5. Middle School Solar presentation.

Events/Meeting List

Thu 11/20 6:30-8 PM; Concord Free Public Library; Safe Cycling in Concord Presentation with Prof. Peter Furth. To view more detail and register, visit <https://concordlibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/safe-cycling-in-concord-with-dr-peter-furth>

Thu 11/20 7-8 PM; Zoom talk co-hosted by Walden Woods Project and RESTORE: the North Woods; Ecologist George Wuerthner will provide background on the Endangered Species Act as it relates to wolf restoration, and discuss opportunities for wolf restoration in New England. Register at: <https://www.walden.org/events/potential-for-wolf-restoration-in-new-england-with-george-wuerthner>

Sun 11/23 2-3 PM; Goodwin Forum at the Concord Free Public Library; Human Rights Tea and Climate for Freedom Award honoring Second Chance Cars.

Tue 12/2 5-7 PM; Nashoba Brook Bakery; OARS Giving "Back" Tuesday event kicking off the Clean Up Your Assabet theme for the month of December.

Sat 12/6 1-2 PM; Roosevelt Room, Maynard Public Library. A new resident to Maynard wanted to trace the path a drop of water takes from his home to the ocean. OARS hosts his talk about this 62 mile, 2 day journey from Maynard to the ocean and what he learned about the rivers, the towns and cities along the way. To register, please visit <https://maynardpubliclibrary.assabetinteractive.com/calendar/maynard-to-the-sea-a-solo-canoe-trip>

Fri 12/12 10-11:30 AM; Goodwin Forum at the Concord Free Public Library and on Zoom; Concord-Carlisle League of Women voters hosting a conversation about Concord Town Elections

Sat 12/13; Save the date for next Town Clerk committee training, on preparing for Town Meeting. More details TBA by the Town Clerk. CAC members strongly encouraged to attend.

Climate Action Committee — November Staff Report

Prepared November 14, 2025

Prepared by: Megan Zammuto, Deputy Town Manager and Shannon McAndrew,
Management Specialist

1) Green Communities Reporting Complete

Last week, the Town of Concord submitted its annual Green Communities reporting data to the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER). This reporting fulfills a key requirement of Concord's designation as a Massachusetts Green Community, a program that recognizes municipalities committed to advancing energy efficiency and clean energy leadership at the local level.

Being a Green Community means that Concord has formally adopted energy-reduction goals and implemented policies to promote renewable energy and reduce municipal energy use and greenhouse gas emissions. In return, Concord is eligible to receive state grant funding to support local energy and sustainability projects—ranging from LED lighting upgrades and HVAC improvements to electric vehicle infrastructure and building decarbonization studies.

Annual reporting is important because it demonstrates Concord's continued progress toward these commitments, ensures ongoing eligibility for future funding, and helps track the measurable impact of the Town's energy efficiency investments over time. This year's report included updates on completed and ongoing projects, municipal energy use data, and key metrics showing how Concord continues to lead in sustainable municipal operations.

2) MVP Action Grant — Communication Strategy and Planning

Status:

- Project team is working on outreach strategy, coordinating a spring regional public meeting to be hosted at the Harvey Wheeler Center, and identifying criteria to select a steering committee.
-

3) Decarbonization Roadmap — Data

Status:

- Initial energy and operations data transmitted to PowerOptions team; follow-up data requests are in progress.

4) Climate Beacon Conference

Shannon attended the Climate Beacon Conference in Boston on Thursday, October 23, which was free for municipal officials.

- Secretary of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Rebecca Tepper, made opening remarks and highlighted the Environmental Bond Bill ('Mass Ready Act').
 - o Nearly \$2.9 billion in authorized funding for climate resilience and infrastructure over the next five years.
 - o Major increases to the MVP Program and new loan/financing mechanisms via a Resilience Revolving Fund for municipalities and public water/wastewater agencies.
 - o Targeted funding for coastal and inland flood mitigation, nature-based solutions (e.g., shoreline stabilization, marsh restoration), and urban tree-planting/heat-island relief programs.
 - o Grant and loan opportunities for water infrastructure (culverts, dams, stormwater systems), enabling municipalities to better respond to climate risks beyond typical local revenue capacities.

Embodied Carbon:

- Shannon attended an embodied carbon session led by the Carbon Leadership Forum, following the October MassCAN presentation.
 - o The Carbon Leadership Forum shared its Embodied Carbon Toolkit and updates from the Town of Brookline's 2021 Annual Town Meeting vote to encourage the use of low-carbon concrete in municipal projects.
 - o While Brookline's policy is not mandatory, it establishes a municipal procurement preference that helps signal market demand for low-carbon materials.

5) Climate Action and Resilience Plan – In Action!

Time-of-Day Rates:

- Designed to be revenue neutral; the Light Plant does not collect more revenue than the prior year.
- Charge customers based on the true cost of energy during specific time periods.
- Give customers the ability to manage usage and save money while benefiting all ratepayers.
- Reduce consumption during peak periods, when energy sources are dirtiest.

Resources:

Webpage - <https://concordma.gov/4060/Time-of-Day-Electric-Rates>

Podcast -

<https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL1TTzrWEK00l9mtW5kGW7fCTDxxB5vkmf&si=kB9A4dHqI7LRUnO6>

Stormwater Utility Fee Resources:

A stormwater utility enterprise is a dedicated and consistent municipal funding mechanism capable of funding responsible stormwater management within a community. A stormwater enterprise is typically established to address the needs and challenges effectively. It operates by ensuring compliance with environmental regulations, maintaining and improving stormwater infrastructure, constructing climate resilient infrastructure, and public education on stormwater issues. The utility plays a crucial role in preventing water pollution, reducing flood risks, and maintaining the overall health of our local water bodies.

Resources:

Webpage <https://www.concordma.gov/4069/Stormwater-Utility-Fee>

Podcast – Airing in December

Appendix

Green Communities Annual Report Energy Summary

Annual Report - FY2025 - Concord

Locked for review. [Annual Report Summary](#) submitted by Megan Zammuto at 11/7/2025 11:20:31AM

CRITERION 3: Energy Summary (MMBtus)

Non-Weather Normalized

Category	Baseline (FY2011)	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
NULL	431			
Building	73,951	66,330	71,898	71,847
Open Space	209	69	36	79
Street/Traffic Lights	1,301	1,069	960	962
Vehicle	19,230	16,490	17,263	17,288
Water/Sewer	11,130	9,207	9,145	10,599
Adjustments				
Building Stock Changes	-8	-597	-612	-653
Regional School Districts				
Totals	106,245	92,568	98,690	100,122
% Diff from Baseline		-12.9%	-7.1%	-5.8%

Weather Normalized

Category	Baseline (FY2011)	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025
NULL	431			
Building	71,890	69,964	75,637	69,952
Open Space	209	69	36	79
Street/Traffic Lights	1,301	1,069	960	962
Vehicle	19,230	16,490	17,263	17,288
Water/Sewer	11,130	9,207	9,145	10,599
Adjustments				
Building Stock Changes	-8	-630	-644	-636
Regional School Districts				
Totals	104,184	96,169	102,397	98,244
% Diff from Baseline		-7.7%	-1.7%	-5.7%

Climate Action Plan – Time-of-use-rates



ACTION NAME

Redesign electricity rates to support energy conservation, peak load management, electrification, and renewable energy generation.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION	Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP) plans to deploy smart meters for all customers. Smart meters will allow CMLP to implement Time of Use (TOU) rates better align customer, utility, and grid expenses. TOU rates provide peak load savings, benefits to the grid, allowing customers to best utilize solar + energy storage and providing environmental benefits.	
CHAMPION	CMLP	
IMPLEMENTATION STEPS	PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS	
	TIME FRAME	KEY PARTNERS
1. Model how time-of-use (TOU) rates would affect peak load management, renewable energy generation, energy conservation, and electrification efforts. Analysis of existing rates and modeling of new TOU rates should be performed collectively to ensure the outcome reaches the right balance between customer value and utility goals.	2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMLP • Concord Municipal Light Board • Sustainability Division
2. Deploy smart meters to all CMLP customers with advanced metering infrastructure to provide communication network and data management system.	2022-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMLP
3. Pilot TOU rates across rate classes and with a variety of customer types and then deploy TOU rates community-wide.	2022-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMLP • Concord Municipal Light Board
4. Design and implement marketing/awareness campaign to educate CMLP customers on the benefits of the rate re-design and the installation of smart meters.	2021-2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMLP • Concord Municipal Light Board • Sustainability Division • CSEC

Climate Action Plan – Stormwater Utility



ACTION NAME

Update stormwater regulations and create a stormwater utility.

DESCRIPTION OF ACTION

Concord will evaluate the opportunity to create a stormwater utility to ensure the proper management and maintenance of the Town's stormwater system. In conjunction with information from Concord's 2019 5-Year Stormwater Management Plan, this action will assess stormwater needs, permit requirements, and weather/flooding trends to inform updates to current stormwater regulations.

CHAMPION

Concord Public Works

IMPLEMENTATION STEPS

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

TIME FRAME

KEY PARTNERS

1. Conduct an inventory and assessment of current stormwater infrastructure, regulations, and future needs.	2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concord Public Works' Engineering Division • Planning • Buildings and Inspections • GIS expertise • Consultant
2. Research stormwater regulation and best practices from progressive towns and cities and evaluate state recommendations.	2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concord Public Works' Engineering Division • Massachusetts Statewide Stormwater Coalition • Charles River Watershed Climate Compact • EPA Green Infrastructure Modeling Toolkit • Consultant
3. Update stormwater regulations based on assessment.	2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concord Public Works' Engineering Division • Public Works Commission • Planning • Select Board
4. Conduct analysis of appropriate stormwater utility fee.	2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concord Public Works' Engineering Division • Public Works Commission • Planning • Select Board
5. Hold public meetings regarding creation of a stormwater enterprise.	2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concord Public Works' Engineering Division • Public Works Commission • Select Board • Finance Committee • Town Meeting
6. Rollout updated stormwater regulations and have hearing on stormwater utility fee.	2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concord Public Works • Public Works Commission • Concord Municipal Utilities
7. Distribute educational material to residents regarding residential stormwater runoff and solutions.	2021-2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concord Municipal Utilities • Concord Public Works' Engineering

To: Climate Action Committee

From: Megan Zammuto, Deputy Town Manager

Date: November 17, 2025

Subject: Climate Action and Resilience Plan Update – Consultant Selection

Background

The Town issued Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 26-2017 – *Climate Action and Resilience Plan Update* on September 22, 2025, seeking qualified consulting services to assist in updating Concord's 2020 Climate Action and Resilience Plan. The updated plan will build upon the Town's progress to date, identify new strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and further strengthen Concord's community resilience to climate change.

Proposals were due on October 24, 2025, and four proposals were received from the following firms:

- Blue Strike Environmental and RVA
- KERAMIDA, Inc.
- Kim Lundgren Associates (KLA)
- Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.

All proposals were determined to be complete and in compliance with the minimum submission requirements.

Evaluation Process

In accordance with the RFP, the Town Manager appointed a multidisciplinary Review Committee to evaluate proposals and conduct interviews. The committee included representation from key departments and advisory bodies engaged in climate and sustainability planning:

- Bob Shatten, Climate Action Committee
- Brad Hubbard-Nelson, Climate Action Committee
- Megan Zammuto, Deputy Town Manager
- Melissa Simoncini, Senior Environmental and Regulatory Coordinator, CPW – Water & Sewer Division
- Mark Gailus, Chair, Transportation Advisory Committee
- Delia Kaye, Natural Resources Director
- Laura Scott, Assistant Director, Power Supply & Energy Management, CMLP

Each proposal was reviewed for completeness, relevant experience, and responsiveness to the comparative evaluation criteria outlined in the RFP. Based on written evaluations, the top three firms—Blue Strike Environmental and RVA, Kim Lundgren Associates, and Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.—were invited to interview with the committee. KERAMIDA, Inc. was not invited to interview based on initial scoring.

Findings and Recommendation

Following the interviews, both Blue Strike Environmental and RVA and Weston & Sampson were rated highly by the committee. The majority of the review team recommended **Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.** as the most advantageous proposer for the following reasons:

- A well-prepared and comprehensive proposal demonstrating a clear understanding of Concord's goals and context.
- Extensive experience working with local governments and on regional climate and resilience plans.
- A thorough and effective interview presentation that highlighted a capable project team and a clear, practical approach to implementation.
- Strong technical experience and demonstrated ability to deliver high-quality, actionable plans.

Price proposals were opened following the qualitative evaluation, and all submissions were within the available FY26 capital appropriation of \$75,000.

Based on the evaluation process, scoring results, and the recommendation of the appointed Review Committee, the Town Manager has awarded RFP 26-2017 – *Climate Action and Resilience Plan Update* to **Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc.**

Next Steps

Weston & Sampson has now been notified, and contract preparation is underway.

This project advances one of the **Select Board's specific FY26 goals** and represents an important next step in implementing the Climate Action Committee's vision and recommendations. The CAC's early work in shaping the project scope and maintaining momentum on climate priorities was instrumental in getting us to this point.

Staff will coordinate a project kickoff meeting later this winter and will continue to engage the Committee as the process moves forward.

DRAFT proposed to be discussed and adopted by the Climate Action Committee and to be forwarded to the Select Board and Concord Municipal Light Plant Board for their adoption.

A Resolution in Support of the Transition to Clean Heat in Concord and in Massachusetts

WHEREAS: The Town of Concord promulgated a Climate Action and Resilience Plan in 2020 which stated that “as our electricity sources shift to renewable sources, and our Concord Municipal Light Plant (CMLP) aims for 100% carbon-free electricity, it is also critical that our buildings are built or retrofitted for electric heating and cooling systems that can take advantage of the clean energy source” (page 20), and the 2024 Town Meeting passed Article 31 providing that “Concord will strive to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030 and 85% by 2050 from the 2008 baseline year”;

WHEREAS: the Town of Concord and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts have mandates to eliminate most greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050, requiring that by that year buildings, which are responsible for 60 percent of Concord’s climate damaging emissions, must stop burning carbon based combustible fuels, such as “natural” gas, which is 95% methane; and

WHEREAS: Ground-source heat pumps, called geothermal technology, sometimes networked with underground thermal loops, are already being used to replace the burning of carbon fuels with **cleaner, safer non-combusting renewable energy** using heat pumps to heat and cool residential and commercial buildings; and

WHEREAS: Neighborhood electrification via home-by-home electric appliance installations or via networked geothermal are highly efficient, cost-effective ways of systematically replacing aged pipeline segments;

WHEREAS: Under the current Massachusetts Gas System Enhancement Program (GSEP), natural gas local distribution companies (LDCs), such as National Grid which serves Concord, could continue to spend billions installing new replacement methane pipes; and

WHEREAS: Under the GSEP, ratepayers would be paying off the new replacement pipes for 50 years, long after they have been retired, placing a burden on ratepayers and wasting resources that are needed for the transition to non combustible

fuels; and

WHEREAS: Advanced leak repair is vastly less expensive than replacing pipes and is safe and effective at controlling leaks; and

WHEREAS: The transition off methane cannot and should not be achieved by individual action alone, because higher income households will switch to heat pumps, increasing gas distribution rates and leaving lower income households to shoulder the burden of maintaining the entire system, and resulting in a less efficient system overall than networked non-combusting systems;

WHEREAS: Concord is a promising location for National Grid to test and demonstrate the transition to clean electric heat, because (1) Concord Municipal Light Plant has offered incentives and assistance for heat pumps and has achieved adoption of approximately 13% of homes (840 heat pumps in 2024, with an average annual growth rate of 39% over the last three years), this 13% adoption being about twice the equivalent adoption rate of two adjacent larger towns (6%), and (2) Concord has a number of buildings owned by nonprofit organizations and a number of locations with significant concentrations of current gas consumption (including Emerson Hospital and nearby facilities), and (3) Concord has a number of large development projects in the works that will be subject to the existing Fossil-Fuel-Free Bylaw;

WHEREAS: The Town of Concord has had multiple [insert qualifier/number?] Non Pipeline Alternative (NPA) segments designated by National Grid, as required of the LDCs by the DPU; and some of these segments could affordably be removed from the gas main and transitioned to neighborhood electrification or networked geothermal districts;

WHEREAS: The transition requires a strategic plan to retire the gas distribution system neighborhood by neighborhood, replacing it with non-combusting energy; and

WHEREAS: The Town of [fill in name] is committed to moving off methane and doing so in a fair and equitable manner;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Concord Climate Action Committee supports the creation of a strategic plan, consistent with the Concord Climate Action and Resilience Plan and

other Town plans, for the neighborhood-by-neighborhood transition from methane to clean heat, provided either through air source heat pumps and/or through thermal energy infrastructure such as networked geothermal districts; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the Concord Climate Action Committee supports the Department of Public Utilities to lead the planning process for a phased transition off methane to clean electrical and thermal energy, and, in consultation with the Town, to transition with least cost and disruption and with equity and affordability for all; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the Concord Climate Action Committee supports a transition that includes:

- Using advanced leak repairs where appropriate, prioritizing the largest volume leaks, to reduce or eliminate emissions for a decade or more until a pipe can be retired or transitioned,
- Retiring gas pipes by street segment or neighborhood, prioritizing leak prone pipes, while moving the connected customers to electric appliances and air source heat pumps, ground source heat pumps, or networked geothermal systems; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the Concord Climate Action Committee requests National Grid to meet with interested Town Boards and Committees to present and develop a plan to work with the Concord Municipal Light Plant, the Climate Action Committee and other Town bodies to design and implement pilot and demonstration projects in Concord in support of networked geothermal or other neighborhood-scale heat pump and electrification installations throughout Concord as part of a long-term transition consistent with Concord's Climate Action and Resilience Plan; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the Clerk of the Town of Concord send a copy of this resolution to the Governor Maura Healey, Senate President Karen E. Spilka, House Speaker Ronald Mariano, each member of the legislative delegation for the Town of [fill in name], [fill in names of legislators], EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper, and DPU Chair Jeremy McDiarmid.

SIGNED: _____ DATE: _____

[adjust signature(s) as appropriate]

Note: the following provisions, updated as necessary, could be added or taken up separately:

RESOLVED: That the [town official body] supports H.3539/S.2249 An Act Relative to a Tactical Transition to Affordable, Clean Thermal Energy, , and [H.3564 An Act Relative to Infrastructure Replacement Projects](#); **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the ____ supports pending legislation S.2105 (and still in committee H.3203) An Act Relative to the Future of Clean Heat in the Commonwealth, and S.2135 (and still in committee [H.3237](#)) An Act Establishing a Moratorium on New Gas System Expansion; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

Relevant Articles shared by Kathryn Hopkins

- Bill Gates [recent memo](#) about his views on climate change and efforts to focus on global health
- [NYT article on the Sierra Club](#)
- [COP 30 in Brazil this week](#)