



Sustainable Lexington Committee Climate Action Update

Board of Selectmen Meeting
February 24, 2014

Climate Action Resolution

Resolved:

That the Town (a) consider climate change in all appropriate decisions and planning processes; (b) take action to prepare for the impacts of a changing climate; (c) reduce greenhouse gas emissions; (d) develop and implement a comprehensive climate action plan; all with the goal of making Lexington a truly sustainable community.



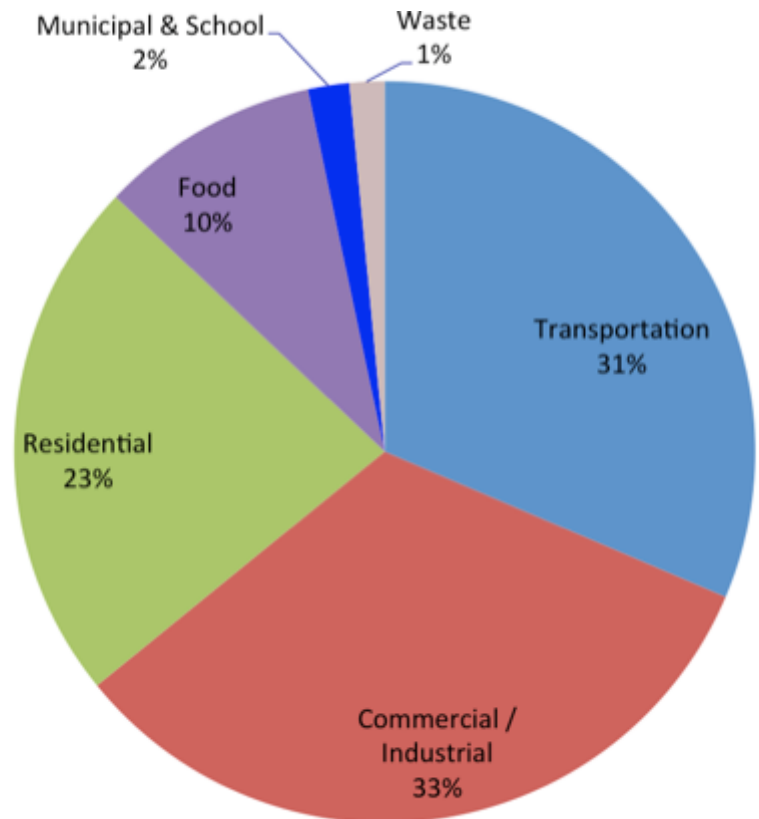
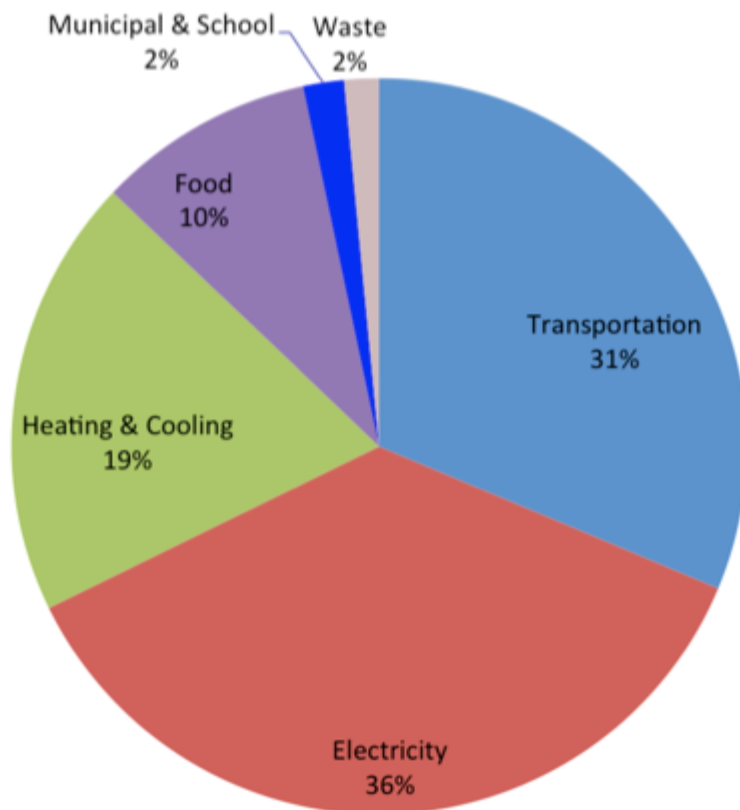
Climate Action Plan Overview

- Better Buildings – 20% by 2020
 - Develop greening historic buildings guidelines
 - Implement benchmarking and energy reporting
- Energy
 - Explore municipal aggregation – Cleaner & lower cost power
 - Enhance grid Reliability & Resilience
- Water / Public Health & Safety
 - Address flooding & water quality / supply interruptions
- Appropriate Town Decisions
 - Energy, Buildings, Infrastructure, Public Health & Safety
 - Incorporate emission reductions & Resilience into formal planning
- Community Engagement
 - Task Force structure includes all stakeholders and Town staff



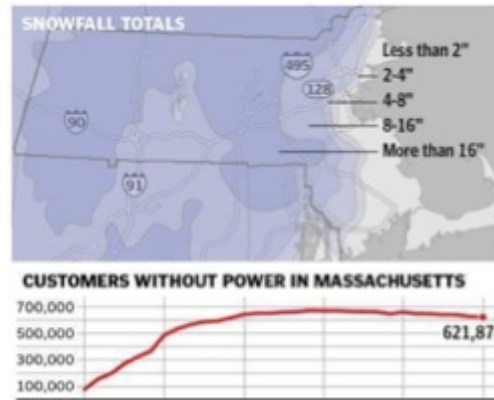
Highest Priorities

- Buildings & Energy
 - Responsible for most of our emissions



Highest Priorities

- Lexington's highest vulnerability
 - Electricity & Water infrastructure



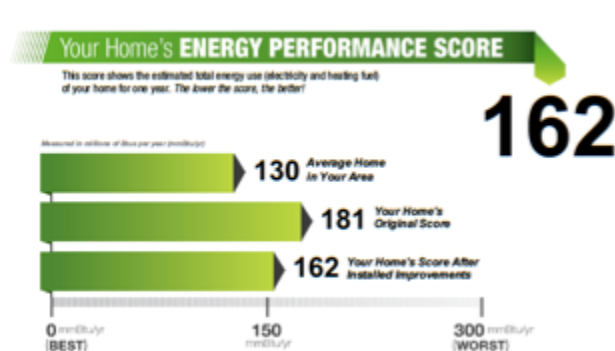
Current Status

- Better Buildings Program
 - 20% reduction by 2020
 - Engaged 900 residents and 30 businesses
- Solar Task Force
 - Excellent solar potential
- Solarize Lexington
 - Double solar installations in Lexington
- Developing Climate Action Plan



Better Buildings Next Steps

- Better Buildings
 - Guidance for Greening Historic Buildings
 - Benchmarking & Energy Reporting
 - Establish higher standards for new buildings
 - Home Energy Labels with assessments



Water Next Steps

- **Water Supply**
 - Address water quality and interruption events
 - Explore reciprocal supply agreements with
 - Burlington, Billerica & Bedford
- **Storm Water & Sewage**
 - Address flooding from extreme storms
 - Update storm water design standards
 - Expand sustainable rain water practices
 - Continue sealing sewage pipes



Energy Next Steps

- Energy
 - Explore Municipal Aggregation potential
 - Cleaner and lower cost power
 - Enhance Grid Reliability & Resilience
 - Track reliability hot spots
 - Strengthen vulnerable lines
 - Fast resumption of service after weather events
 - Municipal, commercial and neighborhood backup strategies



Appropriate Town Decisions

- Achieving Our Goals
 - Energy, Buildings & Infrastructure
 - Updating Town building energy standards
 - Enhance efficiency of existing buildings
 - Electricity, Infrastructure, Transportation appropriations
 - Public Health & Safety
 - Incorporate resilience into formal planning
 - Heat Waves, Cold Snaps, Water Quality & Flooding
 - Community Emergency Response Teams



Appropriate Town Decisions

- Appropriate Tools & Methods
 - Use Task Force structure for community engagement
 - Engage Stakeholders, Town Staff, Committees, Town Meeting
 - Incorporate Best Practices
 - Social Cost of Carbon / Total Life Cycle Analysis
 - Early Engagement
 - Identify Town Staff for Sustainability Planning
 - Somerville, Office Sustainability & Environment
 - Medford – Director, Energy & Environment
 - Arlington and Bedford share full time staff person
 - Grants available from DOER / Green Communities
 - Work with MAPC on regional issues



Recommendations

- **Form Municipal Aggregation Task Force**
 - Explore potential for cleaner and lower cost power
- **Form Water Task Force**
 - Explore reciprocal water supply agreements
 - Review / update storm water design standards
- **Support Better Buildings initiatives**
 - Greening Historic Buildings
 - Benchmarking and Energy Reporting
- **Incorporate best practices in Town decisions**
 - Social Cost of Carbon / Total Life Cycle Analysis
 - Buildings, Energy, Infrastructure, Public Health & Safety
 - Early engagement is critical for success
- **Consider creating Sustainability Director position**



Questions?

