

Report of the Drafting Committee to the Cambridge Climate Congress

March 4 2010

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Preface

The Drafting Committee respectfully submits the following report for consideration by the Climate Congress on its next session on March 6th, 2010. It is organized in two sections. **Part A** consists of proposals for action by the Congress on March 6 to carry forward the work of the Congress and build a stronger local response to the Climate Emergency. **Part B** is a summary of the many proposals for climate policy, awareness, and action put forward in the first session of the Climate Congress on December 12, 2009, in the second session on January 23, 2010, and in comments received since.

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1. Summary of December 12, 2009 Session
2. Summary of January 23, 2010 Session
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Part A: Action Items Proposed for Consideration and Adoption by the Climate Congress on March 6, 2010

The Drafting Committee offers three proposals for consideration and possible adoption by the Climate Congress on March 6, 2010. These proposals are not mutually exclusive alternatives. All of them could be adopted, or two, or just one. The Drafting Committee recommends that they be considered by the Congress in the order they are presented here.

If one or more are approved by the Climate Congress, it would be up to other bodies to implement them, and for this purpose the Planning Committee is requested to immediately forward the approved recommendations to the appropriate implementing bodies:

- *Proposal A-1 to community, neighborhood, environmental, faith-based organizations, other voluntary membership organizations, commercial associations, and private schools and universities; and*
- *Proposals A-2 and A-3 to the City Council (with a request for public hearings on the recommendations), the City Manager, the Climate Protection Action Committee, Cambridge Energy Alliance, and NStar.*

It will also be necessary for delegates to the Climate Congress and other citizens to continue advocating and demonstrating support for the recommendations to the City Council and in other forums in the coming weeks and months. For this purpose, the Planning Committee should be requested to keep delegates and interested observers informed of public hearings and forums where advocacy, testimony, and shows of support are needed.

PROPOSAL A-1: Recommendation for Civic Climate Emergency Response

Whereas

The Cambridge City Council has recognized a Climate Emergency, and a broad civic response to this emergency is needed if Cambridge is to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions fast enough to meet the standards that science indicates must be met to limit the risks of climate change;

The 2009-2010 Climate Congress of one hundred citizens has met three times to consider how to improve municipal and civic response to the Climate Emergency;

The Congress hereby recommends that City government should work in partnership with organizations, businesses, and individuals to develop and implement a campaign to raise awareness of the Climate Emergency throughout the city and summons all of Cambridge's citizens, businesses, and other institutions to action; and

The Congress hereby approves its Report of Proposals for Consideration by the City Council and the Public, based on the first two sessions of the Congress;

Therefore,

The Cambridge Climate Congress now calls on the citizens, organizations, businesses, and institutions that call Cambridge home to join in a civic response to the Climate Emergency and work together in partnership with the City government to implement climate protection actions and policies; and

The Cambridge Climate Congress urges citizens, organizations, businesses, and institutions to support an all-city Climate Emergency awareness and response campaign;

For these purposes the Congress proposes that concerned citizens form a Cambridge Climate Emergency Action Group (with this or another name to be chosen by the members of the action group themselves) whose purposes will be:

- 1) to collaborate with the City on the design and implementation of the Climate Emergency awareness campaign;
- 2) to analyze, evaluate, prioritize, advocate for, and, where possible, implement proposals from the Climate Congress's Report of Proposals for Consideration by the City Council and the Public and to adopt other meaningful policies and action steps to respond to the Climate Emergency;
- 3) to collaborate with the City on the implementation of climate emergency policies and action steps;
- 4) to advocate for and organize Climate Emergency response actions by Cambridge citizens, neighborhood groups, organizations, businesses, and institutions;
- 5) to advocate for and promote Climate Emergency awareness and action beyond the borders of Cambridge; and
- 6) to engage in any other movement-building activities determined by the Climate Emergency Action Group.

PROPOSAL A-2: Recommendations for City Response to Climate Emergency

Whereas

There is now a global Climate Emergency that requires urgent action at all levels to reduce the risks of disastrous changes to the climate through rapid reductions of greenhouse gas emissions;

Continued reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and in the use of fossil fuels will be required for the foreseeable future in order to lower the long-term risks of climate change to our city and the world;

Cambridge, as a center of science, innovation, and progress, has an obligation to be in the forefront of response to the Climate Emergency, and an effective local response is made more urgent by the lack of global agreements and federal policies for emission reductions;

Measured local greenhouse gas emissions have increased rather than declined as called for in the City's 2002 Climate Protection Plan, despite the City's efforts to motivate residents, businesses, and institutions to reduce their emissions and despite the government's efforts to reduce emissions from its own operations, which account for only a small fraction of all local emissions;

Citizens and organizations of all kinds need leadership, coordination, and reliable information to act effectively;

Therefore,

The 2009-2010 Climate Congress of one hundred citizens, convened from across Cambridge, hereby petition our elected and appointed officials to respond to climate change as an emergency and join with citizens, businesses, and institutions of Cambridge in a civic effort to reduce local emissions of greenhouse gases; and

The delegates to the Cambridge Climate Congress of 2009-10 request that the City Council and City administration take action on the following priorities and report back their progress to a second Climate Congress to be convened no later than October of 2010 and future annual Climate Congresses:

One. The City government should establish appropriate annual and long-term goals for reducing annual greenhouse gas emissions and a reliable, transparent method for measuring these emissions on an annual basis. These goals should be consistent with the reductions science indicates are needed to ensure a livable climate and with Cambridge's position as a regional center. The mechanism should support the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions, their major sources, and their change year-over-year to Cambridge citizens, businesses, and organizations. The scientific consensus on needed reductions is best reflected in the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Two. The City government should become a leader for Cambridge residents, businesses, and organizations, as well as for cities elsewhere, through actions that lead to results. The City must take action to reduce its own greenhouse emissions to the greatest extent possible and encourage others to do so as well. The City should consider the numerous proposals in the Congress's Report of Proposals and Priorities and implement those that will show positive results and inspire others.

Three. The City government should, in partnership with organizations, businesses large and small, and individual citizens working on this issue, develop and implement a campaign that raises awareness of the Climate Emergency throughout the city and summons everyone in Cambridge to do their part to reduce emissions. This campaign must engage all of Cambridge's citizens in an equitable manner, with attention to those in economic need and those who have been marginalized in the past because of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation or other circumstances.

Four. The City government, including the School Department, should create a robust administrative and governance structure for mobilizing response to the Climate Emergency and implementing climate protection measures. The City should build from its current efforts

to involve the leadership of its different departments and link with all major sectors of the city, including neighborhood, environmental and other voluntary membership organizations, businesses, schools, and institutions in a formal, open manner to devise, implement, and promote climate protection actions.

PROPOSAL A-3: Specific Recommendations for City Response to the Climate Emergency

Whereas

Innovative steps are needed to foster a broad civic response to the Climate Emergency that can inspire others;

The City will need to take specific measures to implement the Recommendations to the City Council for Climate Emergency Response in Proposal A-2; and

The 2009-2010 Cambridge Climate Congress of one hundred citizens has met three times to consider how to improve municipal and civic response and reduce local greenhouse gas emissions;

Therefore, the Cambridge Climate Congress proposes to the City Council that the following measures be evaluated among others needed to implement the Congress's Recommendations for City Response to the Climate Emergency in Proposal A-2:

A. Amendments to **City Council's Goals**: The City should formally adopt as goals: maximizing Cambridge's contribution to solving the problem of climate change, sustainability, environmental justice, and developing resilience to expected effects of climate change in physical, social, and economic structure of the city.

B. Designate a Chief Sustainability Officer or Sustainability Manager reporting directly to the City Manager, consistent with the practice of a growing number of municipalities and private corporations.

B. Direct the **Climate Protection Action Committee (CPAC)**, an existing body, to focus on measurement and policy and revise its charge to focus specifically on climate science and climate policy, including emissions measurement, setting of annual local goals consistent with current scientific information about reductions required to stabilize the climate, monitoring state and federal policies and their implications for local climate protection efforts, federal and state legislation, and policy advocacy.

C. Create a **Climate Emergency Response Board (CERB)**.

C.1. Purpose: The CERB would be charged with promoting and coordinating response to the Climate Emergency by all sectors of Cambridge, including individuals, households, voluntary membership organizations, businesses, institutions, property owners, and the city government through reduction of local greenhouse gas emissions and other means.

C.2. Membership: In order to function as an effective body, the CERB should be relatively small and consist of community representatives and relevant city department heads. Community representatives to the CERB should be nominated by organizations representing the different broad sectors of the community, specifically (1) neighborhood groups, (2) environmental organizations, (3) other voluntary and faith-based membership organizations, (4) large and (5) small businesses, and (6) institutions. The nominations should be made at a future Climate Congress or other suitable representative forum for each sector. The process established for nomination of Election Commissioners by citizens is a model.

D. Organize city staff to coordinate governmental and civic efforts to respond to the Climate Emergency and work toward the above-mentioned goals by

D.1. Designating a **Chief Sustainability Officer** with the skills, stature, and authority to provide leadership and reporting directly to the City Manager, thus building on the practice of a growing number of municipalities and private corporations; or

D.2. Creating a consolidated **Climate Emergency or Environmental Department** using already existing staff with its own annual budget, goals and reporting requirements, ideally directly to the City Manager; or

D.3. Designating a Chief Sustainability Officer (D.1) to lead a new consolidated Climate Emergency or Environmental Department (D.2).

Part B: Proposals for Consideration by the City Council and the Public

Preface

This section summarizes and describes the proposals made at the first session of the Climate Congress on December 12, 2009 and revised to incorporate suggestions made at the 2nd Congress session on January 23, 2010, in a survey, in public meetings and in comments received from delegates. Many of these proposals are for changes in City policy or ordinances and therefore would require action by the City Council. Others propose measures that could be implemented under existing policies and programs of the City and therefore would require funding and action by City Staff. Many proposals also call for actions by individuals, businesses, institutions, and civic groups and therefore require consideration by the public.

It is understood that the city will need to reallocate or raise the funds to carry out additional action on climate change beyond what is already in the budget, though this is not always stated in the proposals. The city's annual budget does not currently reflect apportioning resources to reflect the Climate Emergency as recognized by the City Council in May of 2009.

It is also well understood that Cambridge cannot solve climate change on its own and that none of these actions alone or in the aggregate will solve climate change. However, the aim is to develop an effective civic response to the Climate Emergency that will inspire more effective responses by others. In addition there are recommendations to advocate for policy changes at the state and federal and international levels which again can help move the world towards a solution.

The climate Congress convened by former Mayor Denise Simmons, endorsed by the City Council, several former Mayors and supported by the City Manager was asked to make recommendations to the City Council on specific actions the government could and should take to address the Climate Emergency. There are many good ideas that were raised that people can and should work on independently from the government, and one or more new citizen action groups may coalesce from the Congress. However, the majority of the proposals would also require action or support by city government and would require action by City Council and City administration as well as funding.

These proposals are the result of an open public discussion of what should be done at the local level in Cambridge to respond to the Climate Emergency. Actual implementation of these recommendations will undoubtedly require much more detailed work and analysis by city staff and others in order to prioritize them and thus focus resources on the most important and effective actions to be taken.

I. Government Leadership & Policy

a. *Municipal Leadership*

Proposal 1. Establish Measurable Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goals

a. That the City Council submit a request to the City Manager for an **explanation as to why the 2010 goal was missed**. The purpose of the explanation is to learn from it, not to attribute blame. The explanation should identify the sources of emissions most responsible for the total increase. The analysis should consider which emission reduction efforts were most effective, which were least effective, and the reasons for success or failure.

b. That the Council allocate, or request that the City Manager allocate, reasonable additional funding to **improve Cambridge's ability to measure our greenhouse gas emissions**. While this cannot be done with exact precision and will never be perfect, there are specific areas of measurement already known to the city staff that could be improved upon with sufficient time and funding allocated to the task. While the city should not spend a disproportionate amount of resources on measuring emissions, it is nonetheless necessary to intensify that activity so that we have a better sense of what areas of emissions to focus on in order to reduce them more effectively **(1) (2)**.

c. That the City Council request that the City Manager set **measurable greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals on an annual basis** that can be tracked and reported upon to the populace similar to an Annual Carbon Budget. While a single comprehensive measurement of the city's greenhouse gas emissions on an annual basis is not currently feasible it is nonetheless useful and necessary to set goals that can be measured and reported on annually. For example, the city could set a goal to reduce total residential electricity consumption by a specific amount. This particular contribution to greenhouse gas emissions can be measured and specific steps can be taken to reduce it without significantly inconveniencing the residential population, thus making it an easy target for emissions reductions. Other contributors to the city's greenhouse gas emissions can be measured now or in the future and, as this becomes the case, the city should set achievable annual goals for reducing them.

d. That the city government work to include, to the best of its ability, a **full life cycle accounting** of emissions in its estimate of **Cambridge's GHG emissions**. This would, for example, include the emissions that result from growing the food and manufacturing the products that are imported into Cambridge. It is noted that in practice this is an extremely arduous and difficult task and that it would take many years for the city to develop full life cycle accounting of GHG emissions, and that it would always be largely based on estimates and assumptions as actual measurement is nearly impossible. Nonetheless, it is also understood that these estimates may be enough to make important decisions and changes and it may be possible to account for the life cycle emissions of some goods (e.g. construction materials) based on estimates provided by, for example, industry or academia.

e. That the City Council set a **long-term goal (20 years or more) of turning Cambridge into a net emissions free, zero waste producing city** with measurable milestone goals along the way to allow us to track our progress.

Notes:

(1) According to City staff, the GHG emissions inventories done by the City for the years 1990, 1998, and 2003 were intended to develop a broadbrush view of emissions in Cambridge using the only community level protocol available. These inventories help point out the sectors where emissions are proportionally greater and help to identify areas that need to be emphasized such as existing building energy use.

(2) The Cambridge Energy Alliance tracks and reports city-wide greenhouse gases and reports its findings through newsletters and CEA's blog <<http://energytwodotzero.org>>.

Proposal 1: Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys, and Community Meetings

In the comments there was widespread demand for improved, more current, and more detailed measures of local greenhouse gas emissions (1b), which are seen as necessary for determining contributors to the problem, effectiveness of actions, and determining whether or not goals are being met. It was also noted that it is difficult and costly to develop such information. It was suggested that emissions analysis (1a) should specifically contain a cost/benefit analysis that examines each source of emissions against the potential ability for that source to be decreased in order to reduce sources that are more easily addressed even if they are not the greatest contributors. There was no disagreement with the proposal for annual local emissions goals and reports (1c). However, several commentators argued strongly that the City's emission goals should be recalibrated on a per capita or regional basis so as to allow for increased density in Cambridge as opposed to growth in suburban areas which are inherently less energy efficient. Although there is strong and specific support for the principle of life-cycle accounting of greenhouse emissions (1d), there are also strong doubts about the City's ability to implement this in the near future. There is mixed support for the concept of highly ambitious long-term goals (1e) in addition to near term goals that we have yet to meet.

Proposal 2: Learn from Best Practices, Lead by Example

a) That the city assign additional resources to studying and **learning from other communities** that are more advanced in their response to climate change. Some examples are the Kansas City Green Impact Zone or the Climate Action Leadership Group (<http://www.c40cities.org/cities/>), which consists of 40 cities worldwide that have committed to serious climate change plans (1).

b) That the city, in conjunction with local universities and relevant non-governmental and community-based organizations, **establish a clearing house** or knowledge base of strategies, policies, and implementation plans that can serve as a resource to other world-wide communities as they look for ways to respond to climate change. To the extent that this is already happening within other organizations, e.g. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, the city should devote additional resources to this process.

c) That the City Council declare it an explicit policy for Cambridge to **become a leader on climate change action** and to set an example for other communities around the world through its actions **(2)**.

d) That the city implement additional sustainable practices in its own operations and dedicate additional resources to working with the broader Cambridge community to **turn Cambridge into a credible example** to other communities.

e) That the city offer inservice workshops in all department to familiarize staff with the concepts of 'climate emergency', 'mitigation', 'adaptation', 'sustainability', and 'resilience'.*

Notes:

* Item added since the 1/23 Climate Congress.

(1) City departments routinely monitor best practices in other communities. ICLEI and other organizations already create case studies and other tools to disseminate best practices that are available over the Internet, through conferences, and newsletters. City staff participate in peer groups with colleagues in other cities and regularly fields queries from other communities on initiatives taking place in Cambridge.

(2) Based on the fact that Cambridge routinely shows up in sustainability ranks in the top 20 cities and the numbers of queries staff fields, whether or not this attribution is in fact valid, Cambridge is viewed as a leader by many.

Proposal 2: Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys, and Community Meetings

There was general support and no dissent that Cambridge should study and learn from best practices in other communities with several specific models were cited. Several commenters argued for the importance of leadership by example rather than rhetoric, such as a City Council order. "If the city makes significant progress in reducing emissions or with a particular program, people will notice." It is noted that learning from best practices and leadership by example are distinct principles and have different implications.

Proposal 3: Develop an Adaptation Plan

a) That the city perform an assessment to determine what vulnerabilities exist in the city that threaten the population and the infrastructure, given the most recent climate change predictions for Cambridge in the short and long term, as well as the related issues of Peak Oil production and local food security** **(1)**.

b) That the city develop an adaptation plan to address the determined vulnerabilities. Such a plan could include, for example:

(i) making adequate preparations in its emergency preparedness planning to address these potential vulnerabilities; **(2)**

(ii) making structural changes to address these vulnerabilities where possible and necessary;

(iii) and looking for 'win-win' and 'no or low-cost' adaptation measures that can be implemented immediately to address vulnerabilities and build community resilience. In

particular, adaptation measures should be sought out that also contribute to emissions reductions and/or address social and environmental injustice. (3)

3. Notes:

** Item clarified since the 1/23 Climate Congress. Previous revision read "That the city perform an assessment to determine what vulnerabilities exist in the city that threaten the population and the infrastructure, given the most recent climate change predictions for Cambridge in the short and long term".

(1) Some effort should be made to consider the secondary impacts from the primary threats (e.g. flooding will cause immediate damage to property, but will also weaken some structures, may cause some buried hazardous materials to migrate, and will result in indoor air quality hazard in many residential and commercial structures).

(2) A vulnerability study is currently under consideration by the City.

(3) A vulnerability assessment should also include thoughtful consideration of sub-populations living in the city that may be disproportionately affected by certain impacts (e.g. isolated elderly during major heat emergencies; homeowners after a major flood). Human Services, DPW and Public Health should, at a minimum, be involved in this part of the assessment.

Proposal 3: Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys, and Community Meetings

There was no clear consensus among delegates or the public responding to the survey. Comments ranged from no opinion, to recommending for study for possible future implementation, to recommending to the City Council for implementation in 2010. Generally this proposal did not seem to be a high-priority issue at this time.

Proposal 4: Promote Environmental Justice

By evaluating all municipal policies related to climate change with disadvantaged people and / or communities in mind in order to ensure that:

a) policies can be adjusted, where possible, to help people in disadvantaged situations improve their lives;

b) policies do not place an additional burden on people who are already struggling to make ends meet.

c) new policies are created to explicitly include incentives for disadvantaged people to participate in their community's efforts to become more sustainable such as providing childcare or stipends during public meetings.**

Notes:

** Item clarified since the 1/23 Climate Congress. Previous revision read "New policies are created to explicitly include and give incentives to disadvantaged communities to participate in the community's efforts to become more sustainable such as providing childcare or stipends during public meetings."

Proposal 4: Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

Comments noted that this proposal is vague, with measures proposed more relevant to economic justice than environmental justice. Pro-rating on the basis of income would be difficult for fees such as parking tickets and those that landlords might pass on to their tenants. People living in disadvantaged situations should be part of the process, the goals of which should be integrated with programs such as vocational education in high school, workforce and economic development. Virtually every recommendation put forward by the Congress is a potential driver for the green economy, which offers new opportunities to move toward economic equity.

b. Policy

Proposal 5: Implement Life Cycle Accounting

- a) That the city adopt, wherever possible, life cycle accounting practices when considering major purchases, to more accurately compare the long-term impact of different options.
- b) That the city adopt, wherever possible, life cycle accounting practices when making major planning and investment decisions, to more fully understand the long-term impacts of proposals.
- c) That the city leverage the state's purchasing program as effectively as possible and advocate with the state to improve upon it.

Proposal 5: Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys, and Community Meetings

Concern was expressed that life cycle accounting is next-to-impossible to implement in practice given the complexity of modern-day globalized commerce. Suggestions included phasing in implementation, with a lot of people indicating that this area requires further study. Concern was also raised that focusing on Life Cycling Accounting could be a huge waste of time compared to other mitigation strategies that can be implemented more quickly and inexpensively. Some comments were supportive and gave detailed ideas regarding implementation.

Proposal 6: Leverage Procurements & Investments

- a) That the city establish reasonable "sustainable practices" criteria and give preference to suppliers who meet these requirements. Examples of sustainable practices might include participation in credible recycling programs, use of renewable energy sources in place of fossil fuels, and the purchase of legitimate and verified carbon offsets. In order to be most effective, it is important that these criteria take into account the full life cycle of the product or service being procured. **
- b) That where the city lacks the necessary legal authority to exert such preferences, it attempts to obtain this authority as justified by the city's emergency powers in accordance with the law.

Notes:

** Item clarified since the 1/23 Climate Congress. Previous revision read "That the city, when possible, give preference to suppliers meeting reasonable 'sustainable practices' criteria, such as credible recycling programs, alternate energy procurement and the purchasing of legitimate and verified carbon offsets. As a priority, these criteria should take into account the full life cycle of the product or service being procured."

Proposal 6: Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys, and Community Meetings

Concern was expressed about the exact meaning of "sustainable" and how the city would be able to distinguish truly sustainable practices. Many people thought this area required further study. Some people felt it was doable and should be given a high priority. Others felt that improving city government efficiency was of little benefit given that municipal operations represent a very small percentage of the City's GHG emissions. It was suggested that Proposals 5 and 6 should be combined in order to remove redundancy.

Proposal 7: Explore the vision of Cambridge as a sustainable city.

This vision might include:

- 7a) Developing the infrastructure for recharging electric cars.
- 7b) Allowing only zero or negative net-energy consuming buildings to be constructed in the city.
- 7c) Providing 100% renewable energy to citizens and business in twenty years.

Proposal 7. Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

The suggested measures raised questions as to which infrastructure changes would be most effective in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Comments were made that in Cambridge specifically, relatively little renewable energy is returned to the electricity grid and there are limitations on producing additional renewable energy within the City. Since Cambridge is a densely populated employment hub, an alternative solution was proposed to encourage more density in development, which might otherwise go to the suburbs, while preserving open space and natural environments for the future. They recommended an on-going community visioning process that would include the following three facets of sustainability: economic, environmental, and social equity. It was felt that by soliciting feedback, experience and insight by a broad section of residents, this process would help to refine the vision of a sustainable Cambridge while also serving to build awareness and investment throughout the entire community.

Proposal 8: Advocate for a Carbon Tax

- 8a) That the City Council institute a voluntary carbon tax in the city of Cambridge as a way to demonstrate Cambridge residents' commitment to the concept. Any funds raised by the tax would be used to fund climate action through the city's budget.
- 8b) That the city advocate for a carbon tax at the state and federal levels.
- 8c) That the city explore taxing carbon-intensive transport or usage inside the city.
- 8d) That the City explore taxing or charging a fee for fossil-fuel burning equipment installed or based in the city as a source of funds for climate protection and energy efficiency programs. *

Notes:

* Item added since the 1/23 Climate Congress.

Proposal 8. Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

It should be noted that many of those who reviewed this Proposal did not do so with the understanding that the proposed carbon tax is to be voluntary, rather than obligatory. Comments on Proposal 8 mainly expressed concern in working out the details of a city level carbon tax. Many comments indicated that Part 8A needs to be researched significantly before the City Council considers any type of City carbon tax. Concerns with 8A include fears that a carbon tax would drive businesses and residents out of Cambridge due to higher costs. The

potential for wasted work should a carbon tax be levied on a state or federal level was also expressed. Many people commented that this issue is something that needs to be done on a state or federal level, and that Cambridge should spend its efforts advocating for a carbon tax as mentioned in 8B. Similarly, it was suggested that Cambridge advocate to raise gas taxes on a state and federal level on a multiple-year sliding schedule that would ultimately match European prices.

Proposal 9: Establish Tax- and Fee-based Incentives

That the City alter its fee and taxing schedule to provide more incentives for sustainability and greater penalties for inefficient legacy systems. For example, the City could:

a) Change rental laws so that renters and landlords have an incentive to make efficiency upgrades to buildings. For example:

(i) make the property tax component of the rent explicit, as is done in some commercial leases already, and provide a property tax discount for certain improvements to the building, that can be shared with the renters.

(ii) allow landlords to share in the energy bill savings from putting in more efficient heating/cooling systems by, for example, charging the renters a temporary surcharge for the improved system that transfers some but not all of the gains from the improvement to the landlord. This would be set up such that any savings the renter gains outweighs the surcharge such that both the landlord and the renter realize savings. **** (1)**

(iii) set up a system such that historical utility costs of an apartment are shared with perspective renters. This transparency will create a market that includes both the rent AND the utility costs, which will in-turn reward landlords who make efficiency improvements as they will have greater demand in this dynamic market. *

b) Provide "energy performance" mortgages to help property owners finance efficiency improvements and renewable installations. **(2)**

c) Impose a tax on certain packaging materials that are being used excessively.

d) Tax plastic and paper bags provided by grocery stores and retailers at checkout.

e) Advocate for a refund on all bottles and cans at the State level.

9. Notes

* Item added since the 1/23 Climate Congress.

** Item clarified since the 1/23 Climate Congress. Previous revision read *"allow landlords to share in the energy bill savings from putting in more efficient heating/cooling systems by, for example, charging the renters a temporary surcharge for the improved system that transfers some but not all of the gains from the improvement to the landlord. This would be set up such that any savings the renter gains out weighs the surcharge such that both the landlord and the renter realize savings.*

Note: CEA is doing work in this area also."

(1) CEA has developed draft Green leases for landlords, but the difficulty has been in getting landlords to implement them.

(2) Local banks such as Citizens, East Cambridge Savings, Wainwright offer green or energy efficiency loans at preferred rates, and the CEA works with these banks.

Proposal 9. Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

Many comments opposed 9a (ii) as it was not clear that it would be structured such that both landlords and renters realize a net savings. Comments generally supported the remainder of the ideas presented in Proposal 9, however, some felt that the details needed to be fleshed out further before implementation-- specifically the economic drivers behind the proposed taxes and the "energy performance" mortgages. It was suggested to eliminate plastic and paper bags in the city in lieu of a tax, and provide cloth bags for purchase only, or bags that could be loaned out to customers who forgot their own. An affective incentive is to offer \$0.10 rebate for those shoppers who bring their own bag. It was also suggested that 9E be expanded to increase the refund on all plastic quart containers by 5 cents, and engage youth in recycling to build enthusiasm. It was noted that the details in 9B would require the city to research energy performance mortgages, and then educate local banks on how they could be implemented.

II. Community Involvement & Support

10. Support a Community Awareness & Action Campaign

At the December 12, 2009 session, delegates called for a city-wide campaign for awareness and action, led by citizens, but spearheaded by the city government, which is uniquely able to engage the cooperation of all sectors--civic, faith-based, commercial and institutional. Involvement of residents is most effectively accomplished by way of the civic, faith-based and educational groups with which they are connected. Many climate action projects have the potential to strengthen community, building the resilience needed to meet changing circumstances. The campaign should be sensitive as to which issues people care about, benefit from the experience of those who have lived with less consumption, including elders, and also be fun, using competitions and the arts.

a) That the city support a community climate awareness/action campaign, led by citizens in consultation with relevant city staff and other competent persons, by providing: access to use of city communication media, access to city buildings, including community schools and youth centers, for programming such as lectures, workshops, potluck suppers and other meetings, and support of city staff related to the above. (1)

b) That the city establish a program to offer funding/grants and other support to community initiatives related to energy efficiency and sustainable living,

c) That the city create competitions that reward climate action. For example, provide a reward for an annual neighborhood competition to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by offering as prize to the winning neighborhood a significant improvement of public facilities, with neighborhood participation in its planning, and smaller prizes for energy efficiency competitions. Likewise, create competitions for individuals--best song, best poster--or small group projects.

d) That the city translate and print materials relating to energy efficiency and sustainable practices into Portuguese, Spanish, French/Haitian Creole, Chinese and other appropriate languages.

e) That the city provide sites--web-based and other--where residents can obtain information on energy efficiency, action items and practices for sustainable living.*

10. Notes.

* Item added since the 1/23 Climate Congress.

(1) Cambridge Energy Alliance (CEA) is charged to lead a citizen awareness campaign on reducing the city's climate impact through building efficiency. CEA engages the public through a number of activities: website, blog, community events, collaborating with the city and community partners, creating a one-stop-shop model for residents and businesses to access efficiency programs and services, etc. CEA has unveiled a climate change/efficiency poster series showcased at the Clear Conscience Cafe (581 Mass Ave) that will hopefully rotate throughout the city.

Proposal 10. Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings
Comments, discussion, and the survey convey general and strong support for a climate protection awareness campaign, though not without dissent. Many commenters felt such a campaign is a high priority and made proposals for implementation, including collaboration with community groups and the need to coordinate with existing efforts. In fact a main objection was that "this is already being done." A key point was that the campaign needs to provide good information on steps people can take. "People need to know where to go to find information, and it needs to be easy." "Promote sustainable, observable and rewarding personal accomplishments and initiatives citizens can feel good about." The number of specific suggestions and activity of the Awareness Task Force indicate that many people may be interested in supporting or participating in such a campaign.

Proposal 11. Promote a Climate Emergency Awareness Campaign

a) That the City initiate a municipal campaign to raise awareness of the Climate Emergency among Cambridge residents, people who work or study in Cambridge, and local businesses, informing them of the warnings of climate scientists, the City's recognition of the dangers of climate change, the need for prompt action at all levels and by everyone, the existence of the City's Climate Protection Plan, other measures by the City, sources of information about climate science, and local resources for individual and community action.

b) That the city have a goal to reach 100% of the population by the end of 2010 using appropriate media and channels of communication, including direct mail, as necessary to reach all segments of the population, including non-English speaking communities. It is suggested (1) that this campaign could greatly benefit from the expertise and resources of public health staff as used in campaigns against smoking and to prevent child abuse and (2) that it be centered around a simple statement about the Climate Emergency, similar in length and directness to the Surgeon General's warning about tobacco.

Proposal 11. Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings
This proposal for a city campaign to raise general awareness of the Climate Emergency in 2010 received broad support from commenters and others. One comment suggested that "Any message about the emergency must

be coupled with action items, from small to large." Another that "While making use of public health outreach models is a good recommendation, the models have advanced significantly beyond simple statement such as that made by the Surgeon General posted on cigarette packaging." Coordination with a proposed community-based climate awareness effort (Proposal #10) was also recommended. This raises the following issues: Would there be one campaign or two? How would they be coordinated? And how to integrate the themes of urgency, climate awareness, action, and community-building? Skeptics doubted the effectiveness of public information campaigns and the wisdom of describing the current situation as an emergency.

Proposal 12. Educate for Sustainability & Resilience

- a) That the city provide programs at community schools or youth centers to train young people in sustainability practices such as simple energy auditing, programmable thermostat installation, and the basics of recycling and composting. Such programs could also provide youth with suggestions for how they could earn remuneration by using these skills. ***(1)**
- b) That the city acknowledge the value of the City Sprouts program which, using hundreds of volunteers, offers valuable experiential learning at all Cambridge elementary schools and serves as a model to other cities, by finding the funding to continue it.
- c) That the city fund coordination of the Green Streets program which serves as a model to other cities.
- d) That the city orient workforce development programs for youth in preparation for the jobs of the future--sustainable practices, initiating the projected Green Jobs Corps as rapidly as possible and assign as many as possible of the 2010 Mayor's Youth Summer Employment Program workers to jobs related to energy efficiency and sustainability practices. **(2)**
- e) That the city direct unemployed residents into training programs related to energy efficiency and sustainability practices.
- f) That the city investigate the feasibility of establishing youth-focused Sister City projects with less-developed countries and islands which are now experiencing and which will continue to experience the most significant impacts of climate change.

12. Notes:

* Item clarified since the 1/23 Climate Congress. Previous revision read "The City provide programs for young people at community schools or youth centers in which they can learn simple energy auditing techniques, how to install programmable thermostats, the basics of recycling and composting, and other practices for sustainability along with ideas for earning remuneration by using these skills"

(1) CEA has submitted a proposal to NSTAR to support a community-wide sustainability youth education program for the school district and youth centers in partnership with Greenfox schools.

(2) MYSEP employs hundreds of kids every summer. Only a handful go into jobs related to sustainability.

Proposal 12. Comments from Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

It was suggested that after-school and workforce development programs are the best place to engage youth as community leaders, educators, and trainers for the wider community. These programs are seen as useful in their ability to identify and further the develop the needs, values, and techniques associated with the City's

goals for sustainability and climate action. It was suggested that program participants could be a paid corps of local people who learn skills to serve their neighborhoods and, who along the way, would also gain practical experience that would serve them in the future. Proposed training examples included practical understanding of renewable energy sources that could be communicated by explaining how a few square inches of solar electric panel can provide the flashlight, radio, cell phone, and extra battery power needed in the event of an emergency loss of power. However, it was also advised that curriculum be developed to teach children about global issues involving climate change such as population growth and consumption in North America.

III. Green Infrastructure

a. **Buildings, Energy, & Efficiency**

Proposal 13. Reduce Commercial & Residential Building Energy Consumption

a) That the city create an ongoing city funded and run workshop to train and enable people to weatherize their homes. The workshop could provide residents with the equipment and supplies needed for weatherization. **(1) (2)**

b) That the city train residents to help others by assessing energy bills, explaining possible energy efficiency measures, and calculating potential energy costs and savings after incentives and rebates have been applied (Efficiency Vermont is a good model). The City should re-institute free weatherization services to assist those low-income residents who, due to age or physical challenges, cannot install their own materials.

c) That the city start a 'Temperate Zone' program in which buildings are neither heated nor cooled during the fall and spring when the climate does not demand it thereby saving resources. In order to ease the transition to this program, start small with a month like May or June. As a supporting component of this program, provide heated or cooled public spaces, available 24 hours a day to serve multiple purposes-- refuges both for the homeless and those who can't afford large utility payments--with possible back-up spaces in the event of grid failure, as a way to encourage people to heat and cool their homes minimally year round. ******

d) That the city offer incentives to citizens for reducing their energy consumption, as well as incentives for using alternative sources of energy such as solar, wind, and geothermal. **(3)**

e) That the city work with landlords to offer incentives to increase their property's energy efficiency. One example is to start an Energy Star Refrigerator replacement program where tenants pay the estimated monthly energy savings to their landlords so the landlord gets paid back for the cost of the refrigerator. Create a 0% interest loans for participating landlords. **(4)**

f) That the city start a Rental Unit Energy Efficiency Certification program that will give special ratings to energy-efficient homes and apartments so that rents on these properties may be raised to compensate for the fact that tenants monthly energy bills have been reduced. ***** (5)**

g) That the city require energy-intensive commercial buildings (such as laboratories) to increase their energy efficiency. Additionally, Biotech/Green Councils could be formed where CEOs can talk about actions to save money and improve communications with facilities managers. **(6)**

- h) That the city institute an energy audit service in which a thermal imaging scanner is used to show business and homeowners how much energy their buildings are leaking. (1) (7)
- i) That the city add additional energy efficiency requirements to the city's LEED requirement, and provide incentives for new buildings to meet LEED standards. (8)
- j) That the city provide Kill-a-Watt meters for loan to citizens through the library. (9)
- k) That the city create Cambridge city signs that homeowners could put up declaring their energy bills per year. The signs would go up in front of the house (like historical building markers) saying, for example, "This house's annual energy bill is \$1,033 for 4 occupants and 2,000 sq feet of space. Ask me how I've done it." Most people who would do this would have very low energy bills and thus would inspire others to figure out how to do the same. It could make the efficient homeowners proud and reward them for their low bills.

13. Notes.

*** Item clarified since the 1/23 Climate Congress. Previous revision read "Start a 'Temperate Zone' program in which buildings are neither heated nor cooled during the fall and spring when the climate does not demand it, saving resources. The program could possibly start small and pick a month that would be easy to get agreement like May or June"*

**** Item clarified since the 1/23 Climate Congress. Previous revision read "Start a Rental Unit Efficiency Certification program that will give a rating to an efficient home so that it can be rented for higher rent (since the monthly energy bills will be lower)."*

(1) These initiatives could be done by allocating funding for Cambridge's Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET), or the Cambridge Energy Alliance (CEA).

(2) Cambridge Energy Alliance has organized 7 community workshops over the last year for both the residential and commercial sectors and has participated in over 50 community events.

CEA has worked with its partner to develop SmarterCambridge (<http://smartercambridge.org/>) a program that helps residents reduce their energy use and view their neighbors actions. This type of online "green Facebook" could serve as a way to generate positive peer pressure for taking actions.

(3) There are already incentives through NSTAR, state and federal tax incentives, and Renewable Energy Trust grants.

(4) Green leases are available through CEA and 0% loans for efficiency improvements are already a resource for the community through the MassSave Heat loan program (<http://www.masssave.com/about-mass-save/>).

(5) Interesting idea to develop a certificate program for efficient buildings. A building benchmarking program is under consideration by the city, CEA, and CPAC and at the state level as well.

(6) This could be done through energy audits conducted by organizations such as the CEA. CEA is exploring the development of a green laboratory program to engage the highest energy users in our community, as well as creating Biotech/Green Councils.

(7) CEA's enhanced audit service includes thermal imaging, air sealing and pre and post blower door tests. This service is not free but is discounted through NSTAR. A number of questions arise about loaning thermal cameras such as their high costs \$3-\$5k/ each, how to protect against breakage, who does it get loaned to (contractors), will their be a demand for these devices?

(8) This item is repeated in Proposal 14(a), but has been retained here in order to preserve continuity.

(9) Kill-a-watt devices should be available to the Cambridge Public library in 1-2 months. CEA will be developing educational materials that will go out with the inter-library loan program for the kill-a-watt devices. Plus host complimentary workshop(s) to explain appliance energy use and energy bills.

Proposal 13. Comments from Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

Comments indicate that this proposal is considered to be a high-priority proposal. An investigation of constraints on energy efficiency investment where benefits are clear was suggested. A worker with Cambridge's 1980's weatherization program points out that while the proposed program can use adequately trained volunteers, it also needs to have a good base of paid staff. It was suggested that weatherization should be overseen by a licensed contractor/carpenter who can address potential issues and the physical safety of the crew and residents. Weatherization should not exacerbate environmental health problems (such as increasing exposure to lead dust, asbestos, or poor air quality by tightening homes without increasing ventilation). Additionally, a recommendation was made that heat exchangers should be available to all residents to promote healthy air exchanges without heat loss.

Proposal 14. Improve Building Codes

a) That the city encourage building energy efficiency: For example, add additional energy efficiency requirements to the city's LEED requirement, and provide incentives for new buildings to use LEED standards. (1) (2)

b) That the city develop a set of performance-based standards for buildings in order to promote ongoing efficient operations. Such standards can be set on electricity, water, oil, and natural gas consumption per square foot for both commercial and residential buildings. (3) (4)

c) That the city encourage investment in renewable energy. For example, adopt Berkeley, California's innovative PACE (Property-Assessed Clean Energy) financing model that allows the municipality to sponsor loans for renewable energy installations with repayment added to real-estate taxes. (5) Another method for encouraging investment in renewable energy is to require energy audits when homes are sold.

d) That the city evaluate the impact of slowing development within the City.** For example, try temporary restrictions such as deferring city building projects, placing a moratorium on development, and/or putting more restrictions on the issuing of building permits.

14. Notes.

** Item clarified since the 1/23 Climate Congress. Previous revision read "evaluate the impact of growth" and did not include "deferring city building projects".

(1) This item is repeated in Proposal 13(i), but has been retained here in order to preserve continuity.

(2) While building codes are set at the state level in Massachusetts, thereby limiting what Cambridge can do alone, the City can and does advocate at the state level.

(3) The City Council recently passed the "Stretch Energy Code", the most stringent building code currently possible under State law.

(4) The City is participating on a state-level project to develop a commercial building energy benchmarking tool that might be used for initiatives such as building energy labels (see New York City and Washington DC).

(5) PACE legislation has been introduced in the State legislature by Representative Matthew Patrick. This would require changes to State law in order to implement in Cambridge and other Massachusetts communities.

Proposal 14. Comments from Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

Comments suggest that development regulations should extend to public housing and other City-owned, commercial, and university buildings, not solely residential ones. It was suggested that incentives for contractors and property owners be included in order to reduce, remediate or otherwise not add to the accumulation of heavy metals and toxins in on soils at any given site. One commenter suggested that the issue of development choices (d) is worthy of a section of its own. Some commenters felt that this section could contain a more precise analysis of the role that large commercial buildings and labs play in GHG emissions and transportation needs. However, others cautioned that assuming that growth will occur anyway, restricting growth in Cambridge specifically could cause it to be relocated elsewhere where the resulting climate impacts could be even worse. It was also noted that testing a moratorium on growth is contraindicated by the provision of the Green Communities Act which requires cities to expedite permits in order to gain Green Community status.

Proposal 15. Expand Relationships with Utility Companies

a) That the city contact NSTAR to see if they will duplicate the Marshfield experiment in Cambridge. In Marshfield Mass., NSTAR worked hard to lower energy use through the free or low-cost installation of efficiency measures and renewables so that a new power plant would not have to be built in the area. (1)

b) That the city request that NSTAR provide CFLs and programmable thermostats to Cambridge with the rebate already accounted for in the price, so that the home owner pays \$5 - \$10 for a thermostat upfront, instead of paying \$30 - \$40 and then getting back a rebate for \$25 several weeks later.

c) That the city expand the education and outreach that utility companies do with bills. Although utility companies have innovative programs, consumers don't seem to know about the energy conservation services that utility companies are required to give their customers as a result of the energy surcharge the companies collect. (2) (3)

d) That the city evaluate what infrastructure the city could purchase from NSTAR in order to save the City money in the long term, reduce energy consumption, and provide opportunities for other secondary uses. For example, in the past the city purchased street light posts from NSTAR which

not only saved money in the long term, but provided secondary uses since some of these light posts hold sensors for Harvard University/BBN Technology's Citysense network experiment which uses them to log realtime temperature and air quality measurements across the city. (4)

15. Notes

(1) Cambridge Energy Alliance is in close contact with NSTAR and the youth proposal was developed to mimic some of the activities in Marshfield and is waiting on the passage of the Utility 2010-2012 plan which should free up funds for community projects such as the youth initiative.

(2) The Sustainable Business Leadership Program has been working with Cambridge businesses to promote the energy efficiency, waste diversion and water reduction programs offered by the utilities.

(3) NSTAR runs repeated campaigns with information on energy efficiency and conservation programs available to customers.

(4) The city, CEA, and NSTAR have been in close communication about efficiency programs and services available for municipal buildings.

(5) The city does not purchase power directly through NSTAR, but through a competitive supplier.

Proposal 15. Comments from Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

Most comments agreed that the relationships between the City and all utility companies (not just NSTAR) should be expanded to promote collaboration on renewable energy implementation. It was suggested that Cambridge should look into what it can do as a city without relying on utilities companies. Examples proposed included having the City develop its own renewable energy sources such a roof-top solar and wind turbines in advantageous areas and look into creating its own Municipal Utility. It was noted that the economic drivers such as regulatory structures for all of these suggestions must be further understood to ensure that customer rates do not drastically increase. It was also noted that utility decoupling should be promoted in order to provide incentives for utilities to implement energy efficiency measures.

Proposal 16. Expand Use of Alternative Energy

That the City promote increased development and deployment of renewable energy. For example:

- a) Conduct a solar census in the City to determine south-facing solar opportunities. Notify property owners of this opportunity and educate them about ways to take advantage of this. (2)
- b) Promote geothermal, district heating, seasonal storage, solar thermal, and wind energy deployment in the private sector and on municipal property. (2) (3)
- c) Purchase renewable energy using Feed-in Tariff policies. (1)
- d) Offer green power incentives. For example, distribute power generation in tandem with zoning regulations and offer relaxations on the rules for those who use green power.
- e) Work with NSTAR to make more renewable energy available to customers and to promote its NStar Green program more effectively. (4)
- f) Promote the use of flat roofs for solar (where practical) and green roofs that can be used to retain water, insulate buildings, and lower urban air temperatures.

16. Notes

(1) Feed-in Tariffs are currently regulated at the State level.

(2) Solar could be constrained in some locations due to building density, building heights, and shading from trees. Due to property rights, it is also difficult to assure property owners who install solar systems that future adjacent development or expansion will not shade their systems in the future, which might affect the long-term payback. The Green Building/Zoning Task Force has tried to address this in a limited way.

(3) Cambridge is a poor site for wind, however City Council recently amended the Zoning Ordinance to allow wind turbines with special permits. The City is considering PV installation at the water treatment plant. The Museum of Science is evaluating different wind turbines designed for small-scale electricity generation on its roof which is partially located in Cambridge

(4) Cambridge Energy Alliance promotes renewable energy through workshops, blogs, newsletters, and offerings through energy service companies and contractors.

A recent Council order authorized funds for studying the feasibility thereof and also to install solar powered big belly compacting trash receptacles.

Proposal 16. Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

Comments on Proposal 16 are in support of implementing 16A and 16F in 2010, with further development of 16B-16E recommended for possible implementation in the future. It was agreed that the City should set a precedent of utilizing rooftop assets by installing rooftop solar units and green roofs on municipal properties. Technical assistance should be provided to residents to ensure the efficient location and safe installation of rooftop solar units. Commenters felt that solar opportunities should not be limited to photovoltaic, but should also include other solar power such as solar thermal water heaters that can better suit urban application. Also, it was recommended that the City inform residents of the state and federal incentives that are available for installing/using renewable power for both residential and commercial applications, and communicate both the potential savings and the positive environmental impact. It was advised that item 16D be further developed to define what technologies qualify as "green power".

Proposal 17. Promote Energy Efficiency to Businesses

a) That the city reach out to businesses and actively promote the Cambridge Energy Alliance (CEA) and other options for business to improve their energy efficiency. For example, work with CEA to publish an energy efficiency newsletter that would be sent out to commercial sites providing case studies about efficiency measures conducted by local companies and communicating their resulting savings. The newsletter could disseminate how-to knowledge and inspire companies to do more. **(1) (2) (3)**

b) That the city use a similar model to distribute a newsletter to citizens. Both newsletters should be translated into multiple languages.

17. Notes

- (1) Cambridge Energy Alliance is already focusing on biotech companies. CEA has a small commercial program as well, coordinating with the city's Facade Improvement and Better Retail Practices program and the Sustainable Business Leadership Program. They provide workshops, consult with businesses, and offer one-stop-shop services to customers.
- (2) CEA would like to also develop small commercial canvasses if funding becomes available.
- (3) The Sustainable Business Network is becoming a good organizer of those businesses that want to be good stewards.

Proposal 17. Comments from Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

There was general agreement that this issue falls under the mission of the Cambridge Energy Alliance. However, it was suggested that the Community Development Department could run seminars for businesses about efficient operations, just as they do for marketing and bookkeeping. There was caution expressed that it is necessary to first understand why businesses use energy inefficiently in order to promote more efficient use. It was felt that businesses make investment decisions based on the impact on profits, ability to expand, etc. However, it was also suggested that current economic conditions should not be an obstacle to good business practice, and in fact, could be a kick-start to more green operations. A solution was proposed that the City partner with an energy services management company to provide energy efficiency services to local businesses. It was suggested that this program could be funded through a percentage of the resulting energy savings.

b. Transportation

Proposal 18. Create a more Pedestrian- and Bike-Friendly City

- a) That the city encourage walking and biking, as well as giving priority to pedestrians and bikers over vehicles. The city should work to foster a culture of walking and biking. (1) (2)
 - i) Reduce or eliminate curbside parking, especially on main roads, and create more bike paths.
 - ii) Increase the number of bike racks and bike storage facilities. Consider converting a portion of existing car parking to bike parking in public buildings (eg. the new library) and workplaces.
 - iii) Establish and promote bike-sharing programs. The City could model this by instituting bike-sharing for city staff.
 - iv) Make central shopping areas (Kendall Square, Harvard Square, etc.) pedestrian only, and create pedestrian arcades.
 - v) Create non-motorized commuter corridors that are dedicated to pedestrians and bikers.
 - vi) Give priority to low-income residents at the annual police auction of unclaimed bikes.
 - vii) Make all new development car-free.

- viii) Publicize, promote and encourage retailer support of the Bicycle Benefits program that allows local retailers to provide discounts to cyclists. Consider adding additional incentives (sponsored by the City) to further encourage participation. *
- ix) Integrate education about bike use and repair, as well as pedestrian education into City and community schools.*

b) That the city ensure the accessibility of sidewalks and bike paths, as well as the safety of pedestrians and bikers.

- i) Improve the quality of sidewalks and bike paths, which currently are inadequate in many parts of the city. Fix cracks, and remove snow and ice.
- ii) Improve enforcement of existing traffic laws and snow-clearing rules to enhance pedestrian and biker safety.
- iii) Reduce or eliminate parking next to bike lanes, as this puts bikers at risk.

18. Notes.

* Item added since the 1/23 Climate Congress.

(1) It is already City policy to reduce single-occupancy auto travel and to encourage alternative modes including bicycles, pedestrians, and traffic. City has staffed these programs, has a capital budget, and has advisory committees.

(2) The City has adopted a Vehicle Trip Reduction Ordinance and Parking & Transportation Demand Management Ordinance.

Proposal 18: Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys, and Community Meetings

There is strong support for developing an improved bike/walk infrastructure within the City. However many commenters expressed concerns that key ideas in this proposal are not feasible in the near-term. There was particular skepticism expressed about removing cars and vehicle parking (a1, a 4, a7 and b3). Readers felt that local businesses would suffer without street parking, the public wouldn't support this change, removing parking would cause other problems and might not even be necessary given the potential of zero-emission vehicles. However, others felt that since reduced parking would constitute a very visible and palpable change, it could be beneficial as a way of quickly raising public awareness of the problem at hand. Several readers suggested that a new mindset is needed in order to shift behavior towards more sustainable transportation methods. Many felt that in order to achieve this, public education about bike safety (a10) and improved upkeep of sidewalks (b1 and b2) to allow for the safety of pedestrians will be necessary steps. The connection between reduced emissions and improved air quality/public health was also raised.

Proposal 19. Reduce Vehicles & Parking

a) That the city continue to assess its vehicular transportation system including its costs, inefficiencies, and especially its contribution to greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution. Furthermore, Cambridge should determine how to best reallocate funds in order to reduce the use of personal vehicles, while increasing more sustainable methods of transportation including walking, biking, and the use of public transportation. **(1)**

- i) Analyze how much city government spends to subsidize driving through its funding of street maintenance, traffic lights, etc., and reallocate a portion of these subsidies towards

- improving sidewalks, creating bike lanes, and supporting public transportation, shared vehicles (cars and bikes), and increased ownership of hybrid cars.
- ii) Monitor and publish gas mileage of city vehicles including those used to deliver city services such as trash and recycling pickup as well as school buses. **
 - iii) Analyze and improve traffic patterns in order to minimize vehicle idling. For example, reduce "no right turn on red" at intersections.
 - iv) Assess pedestrian traffic signals and their locations.
 - v) Publicize data about transportation options in Cambridge.
 - vi) The city government should consider how to best reorganize its transportation infrastructure over the next several decades to de-emphasize individual car use and invest more into pedestrian, bicycle and public transportation infrastructure.
- b) That the city finance measures to increase walking, biking, and use of public transportation by levying taxes and fees on car owners. For example: **(2)**
- i) Implement some form of congestion pricing to reduce car travel through main arteries and during peak times.
 - ii) Increase parking meter & municipal garage rates.
 - iii) Increase the price of residential parking permits, with an annual increase every year for the next 20 years. Charge extra for SUVs and other low mile/gallon vehicles. **(3)**
 - iv) Increase the cost of parking tickets.
- c) That the city shift the transportation infrastructure towards sustainable transportation modes and away from individual car travel. For example:
- i) Eliminate streetside parking in the city. One possibility is to reduce it 5% per year over 20 years.
 - ii) Better utilize existing centralized parking facilities, as well as creation of new ones, to facilitate the reduction of streetside parking.
 - iii) Eliminate streetside parking, especially on Massachusetts Avenue, to allow the creation of dedicated bus routes and additional bike lanes.
 - iv) Create Zone Permit parking to only allow on-street parking near residence (or work location). *
 - v) Provide incentives for residents who forego car ownership; give households that do not own a car an annual rebate, discounted public transportation pass, or gift certificate to a local retailer.*
 - vi) Ensure that the City leads by example: cease the current policy of providing a car and parking space to the mayor and other city staff. Encourage all city staff to walk, bike or take public transit whenever possible.*
- d) That the city incentivize car-sharing and fuel efficiency. For example:
- i) Create more designated parking for Zipcars and other shared vehicles.
 - ii) Provide incentives for people to purchase or lease hybrid or very fuel-efficient vehicles.
 - iii) Create a network of free air dispensers for auto tires, and publicize the benefit to fuel economy.
 - iv) Reduce the parking fees in municipal garages for hybrid or compact vehicles.

- v) Create an infrastructure for recharging electric cars.
- vi) Charge lower residential parking permit fees for hybrid or very fuel-efficient vehicles.
- vii) Develop and publicize a web-based platform (such as GoLoco) for people to find opportunities for ride-sharing.
- viii) Continue subsidizing hybrid cars for city taxi fleet. Encourage and consider subsidizing local rental car offices to carry more hybrid vehicles.*

19. Notes

* Item added since the 1/23 Climate Congress.

** Item clarified since the 1/23 Climate Congress. Previous revision read "Monitor gas usage of city vehicles".

(1) City already monitors its fuel use and has a green fleet vehicle acquisition procedure.

(2) Cambridge is part of a regional transportation network. Congestion pricing cannot be done practically in Cambridge alone. On parking permit fees, this may be a way to raise additional revenue, but the increased price will not necessarily deter car ownership.

(3) It should be noted that the city council recently (December, 2009) considered the question of raising resident parking permit fees and decided not to pursue the issue due to a lack of support on the council for raising said fees.

Proposal 19: Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys, and Community Meetings

Commenters agreed that transportation remains a critical issue in connection with climate change and recommended further study and analysis before major decisions or are made. While there was general agreement that incentives for sustainable transportation options could be implemented with relative ease, many commenters expressed concern and some opposition about proposals to implement congestion pricing (b1) and eliminate streetside parking (c3). In order to reduce reliance on automobiles (c), many agreed that the City should focus on providing more readily available, attractive, and less expensive alternative options. Incentives for the use and ownership of hybrid vehicles (d2, d4, and d6) were controversial: comments were made about the GHG emissions produced in the manufacturing of these vehicles as well as the fact that their relative high-cost means that any subsidies and incentives for owners would unfairly favor the wealthy. It was made evident that some measures proposed here have already been adopted by the City, in particular much of the analysis proposed in (a). The city is encouraged to disseminate the results of their research more fully. In connection with providing parking for low-emissions vehicles (d1), it was made clear that a zoning amendment to allow car-sharing parking (such as Zipcar) on residential property was opposed by residents in 2009.

Proposal 20. Increase Use of Public Transportation

a) That the city improve and promote public transportation, making it more efficient and dependable.

i) Create more MBTA bus routes and improved bus shelters with cooperation of MBTA.

(1)

ii) Create designated bus lanes on major routes within the City .

iii) Consolidate private shuttles or create a city-sponsored, no fare shuttle system for navigating from centralized parking garages and within Cambridge.

iv) Fund a system for real-time bus and train location notification. NextBus system currently used by San Francisco's MUNI is a good working example of this. *

- b) That the city make public transportation more accessible and affordable.
 - i) Increase free or subsidized public transportation, especially for city employees and small local businesses. **(2)**
 - ii) Publicize local employer efforts to subsidize non-auto commuting *
 - iii) Provide better support on buses and trains for commuters traveling with bicycles.

Notes.

* Item added since the 1/23 Climate Congress.

(1) Cambridge budgeted \$8.3M to MBTA in FY 2010 as its share of MBTA costs.

(2) Parking & Transportation Demand Ordinance requires most major employers to subsidize non-auto commuting for employees.

Proposal 20. Summary of Comments from Proceedings, Survey and Community Meetings

Comments suggested the that because MBTA is state-run, the City has limited power and control with respect to public transportation. However, with the new understanding (in the Notes section above) that Cambridge shares a portion of the financial responsibility to run the MBTA, these comments may need to be reconsidered. Comments covered a range of responses to different portions of this proposal: it was agreed that adding additional bus routes on a more frequent schedule (a1) would be useful in encouraging higher use of public transit. In order to support multi-modal travel, it was agreed that better support for commuters traveling with bicycles (b3) is necessary. The recommendation for designated bus lanes (a2) was met with some concern; commenters suggested that this might not be feasible given the limited number of lanes on existing streets. Finally, it was recommended that the City advocate to change state policies for MBTA funding reform; it was proposed that the City suggest that funds from raised gasoline taxes be used in order to relieve the MBTA of having to pay 25% of its revenue on debt service.

c. Resource Management

Proposal 21. Develop a Holistic Land Use Strategy

- a) That the city create a strategy to promote the optimal integrated use of open green space. Increase the area of open green spaces within the city including Alewife Reservation, cemeteries, parks, and DCR land along the river thereby providing nature preservation for people and animals. Another example: the municipal golf course is a monoculture use of open space and high consumer of water; it could be transformed into public green space. In general, density of the city is encouraged, but we also realize we need to maintain green space to keep the city livable.*
- b) That as part of a holistic land use strategy, areas of City-owned watershed lands in Lincoln, Weston, Lexington and Waltham be allowed to revert to forest, since forests are highly effective for carbon sequestration.
- c) That the City develop and implement a strategy for managing public and private land to promote carbon sequestration and limit toxic runoff, paying special attention to corridor land along roads, streams, bike paths and parking lots, and try to influence State agencies such as DCR and DOT to do the same. **

Notes:

* Item clarified. ** Item changed since 1/23.

*** Item clarified since the 1/23 Climate Congress. Previous revision read "Create a strategy for improving the health and usability of corridor pieces of land along roadways, bike paths and parking lots. Encourage owners whether they be private, municipal, DCR, Mass Highways or the DOT to act as stewards of their land"

Item 21d was combined with 21c.

Proposal 21. Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

Most of the comments were very supportive of the need for more sustainable land use policy. Only two said do not recommend at all. Four comments with strong support for planting trees on the golf course. One comment pointed out that zoning ordinances would have to be changed, and also that land use policy must be looked at beyond green space. One comment stressed that incentives must be given to developers to develop on developed land, and not in shrinking open space that will provide safety and health protection from flooding. There was mention of outlawing leaf blowers and the use of toxic chemicals in landscaping, but it is noted that a leaf blower ban was attempted in the past and failed.. Two comments liked the idea of using open space for agricultural purposes, but not at the watershed areas.

Proposal 22. Protect and Promote Urban Forestry

- a) That the City strengthen the current tree ordinance for the preservation and protection of all trees within Cambridge, including provisions for enforcement and penalties for violations.*
- b) That the City raise additional funds to protect existing native trees and to plant and maintain more, and ensure that every tree cut down is replaced by one of a native species at least three years old, within a one year period.
- c) That the City educate residents and businesses about urban forestry and the need for them to be involved in planting and caring for trees**
- d) That the City use its legal and permitting powers and other resources to preserve Silver Maple Forest in Cambridge as part of an ecosystem that crosses the Belmont border and that Community Preservation Act and matching state funding should be sought for acquisition. The forest sequesters carbon and provides stormwater retention in the 100-year floodplain. **
- e) That the City institute a Tree Youth Stewards group to plant and maintain trees within the city.***

Notes:

*In response to comments received since 1/23/2010 this proposal now focuses on the Tree Ordinance rather than zoning ordinances.

**In response to comments received since 1/23/2010 this proposal now focuses on the Tree Ordinance rather than zoning ordinances.

*** This proposal has been added since the report of 1/23/2010 after receiving comments from delegates, community members and community groups.

All proposals referencing gardens were removed, as they are not under Urban Forestry.

Proposal 22. Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

There were quite a few comments, almost all positive. It was noted that the urban forest in Cambridge is not large enough to sequester a notable amount of carbon, however it was also noted that the trees are valuable for shading and reducing urban heat island. Although we don't have much forest left, commenters urged that we preserve it and cultivate more trees. The important role of native trees and shrubs was emphasized as essential for biodiversity and a healthy and sustainable environment, since native birds and insects cannot be sustained on non native trees and shrubs. It was also specifically urged that we preserve the "small river floodplain forest" at Alewife, and the Cambridge Conservation Commission was faulted for permitting development within it.

Proposal 23. Improve Water Management

- a) That the city review and publicize the efficiency of our potable water, waste water and storm-water management systems. **(1)**
- b) That the city promote the use of green infrastructure, including green roofs and permeable parking lots, driveways and sidewalks, for use in flood control and to increase the efficiency of the system, improve water quality and decrease the stormwater load on Deer Island Sewage Treatment plant.
- c) That the city encourage residents to have permeable pavement and driveways, and/or stormwater (e.g. rain barrels) and gray water reuse systems. The city should educate property owners and enforce the law that requires them to take responsibility for stormwater that falls on their land. **(2)**
- d) That the city increase the use of innovative stormwater catchment along streets and parking lots and give developers financial incentives to do so.
- e) That more rain gardens be installed on public and private land instead of directing stormwater to the street drains.
- f) That the city create additional water conservation incentives (faucet aerators, low-flow showerheads & toilets) within the city because the Cambridge Water treatment plant is energy intensive to operate. **(3)**

23. Notes

(1) DPW is doing many of these things now as part of the improvement of the stormwater/CSO (Combined Sewerage Overflow) system.

(2) DPW has sponsored annual sales of rainbarrels.

(3) This could lead to increased cost per gallon because of fixed operating and capital costs of the Water Treatment Plant. The 2010 budget alludes to the fact that water consumption has already dropped because of conservation measures!

Proposal 23. Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

It was agreed that attention to permeable surfaces and stormwater containment is and should be part of the ongoing Combined Sewerage Overflow (CSO) repair project, which receives a substantial portion of the city's capital investment. Mention was made that residents in general are not aware of the importance of retaining

stormwater; this will become increasingly important as climate change brings heavier rains which cause pollution via sewerage overflow. Pollution caused by overflow from rain as well as chemical treatment run-off threatens increasingly fragile aquatic life as well as critical resources for drinking water. In addition, the treatment of sewage and creation of clean water are energy-intensive processes. It was suggested that the City should promote stormwater management in residential and commercial sectors, including green roofs. A comment was made that gray water reuse within the City is rare and opportunities to incorporate this should be explored.

Proposal 24. Reduce Waste and Improve Waste Management

a) Reduce consumption and waste. For example:

i) Consider an action plan to reduce consumption and waste in the City. Norway can be used as a model for these initiatives.

ii) Work with businesses and residents' groups on measures to implement or, in certain cases, mandate "bring it yourself" containers for take-out food & drinks and reusable bags for groceries and other purchases; require minimum packaging and ask stores to take back packaging.*

iii) Facilitate reuse of discarded items and, to the extent reasonable, provide storage locations for reusable items until new users are found.*

b) Promote and provide for easier composting. For example: **(1)**

i. Provide for the collection of food waste via bicycle transport for composting at multiple sites around the city.

ii) Encourage home composting of yard waste.

iii) Conduct composting at multiple sites around the city.

c) Promote and provide for easier recycling. For example:

i) Arrange for single stream pick-up to simplify recycling for residents.

ii) Place a well-labeled recycling container next to every trash container on the streets and in other public spaces and increase the size of the blue curbside bins as visual cue to encourage more recycling.

iii) Encourage recycling achievements by residents and businesses and post achievements on the City website.

iv) Sponsor regular trips for residents and school groups to our facilities for recycling and composting and our landfills.

d) Promote and provide for easier and safer disposal of e-waste. Provide more opportunities and locations for the separate collection of e-waste, including CFLs and batteries, via curbside pick-up or multiple drop-off sites.

e) Advocate for a state-wide charge on containers for bottled water, energy drinks and juice.*

24. Notes

* Item added since the 1/23 Climate Congress.

** Item clarified since the 1/23 Climate Congress. Previous revision read "ban the production and distribution of plastic bags and bottled water in the city".

(2) "Save that Stuff", a private contractor, collects food waste from restaurants and from residents who bring it to the DPW and Whole Foods on Prospect St.

Proposal 24. Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

It was agreed that despite excellent public information from the DPW, getting residents to take responsibility for proper containment of garbage has not been successful in the past. The fact that Cambridge's recycling rate is much less than that of San Francisco was brought up as a harsh reminder that there is much progress to be made. It was pointed out that the goals of residential waste management should be zero waste, rather than 70% recycling. It was recommended that the City play a much greater role in helping to reduce waste by incorporating several measures: continuing to provide locations for local composting (even if pick-up is not offered), requiring the use of compostable packaging for food service and take-out, and requiring universities, restaurants and large businesses to compost food waste as well as rewarding them for compliance. Pay-to-throw programs (such as in Worcester) for residents were recommended as an effective means of drastically reducing waste. There was strong agreement that bottled water is a significant problem and suggestions were made to address this including adding fees for plastic bottles and developing games for middle-schoolers using sealed plastic bottles to raise interest in recycling. Finally, a call to ban plastic bags was raised.

Proposal 25. Support and Promote Sustainable Food

a) That the city encourage and potentially provide opportunities for citizens, community groups, and schools to grow more of their own food locally and organically. This encouragement and support could be provided via various mechanisms including:

i) Support the development of more local gardens for individuals, communities, schools and businesses. Both public and private spaces for growing food should be considered such as backyards, green sidewalk areas, parks, and rooftops (e.g. Green Street garage). Existing programs such as "City Sprouts" should be continued and fully funded by the City. The city should also investigate opportunities for a range of food production beyond gardens, including fruit trees, eggs, and honey (via urban bee keeping).

ii) Support community efforts to develop organic gardens by hosting or sponsoring organic gardening education.

iii) Create a fulltime position within the city to manage and support the existing community gardens and search for additional useable land. Model the efforts of the successful Boston Natural Area Network gardening and food production training programs. (<http://www.bostonnatural.org/>).

iv) Develop a sustainability garden map, surveying the potential for conversion to gardening of every public field and area with soil in Cambridge. This plan would help the

city in the event that food production or food transportation becomes an emergency issue.

b) That citizens, community groups, businesses and schools be encouraged to buy food that is locally grown when possible, and grown in regional proximity (FL or GA rather than CA, South America or Europe) when the season makes local food less available. Encourage purchases of organic or low-pesticide foods when possible. Mechanisms may include:

- i) Encouraging, and perhaps mandating that Cambridge food providers and retailers offer local/regional food options (not just produce) when possible.
- ii) Enabling year-round farmers markets (for example, at the Lechmere T stop) and/or the development of partnerships with local CSAs that offer local and organic off-season produce from root cellars and regional farms (for example, Enterprise Farm).
- iii) Providing incentives for the purchase of local/regionally sourced food.
- iv) Instituting disincentives for the purchase of non-regional food.
- v) Communicating the benefits of buying food that has been produced locally/regionally and/or organic food and/or food produced using sustainable agricultural practices.**
- vi) Ensuring that food stamps continue to be accepted at current farmers' markets

c) That awareness and action about the connection between food choices and climate change be promoted and that vegetarianism and veganism be promoted as a part of a climate action campaign. Mechanisms may include:

- i) Instituting disincentives for meat, especially beef, pork and lamb.
- ii) Advocating that higher levels of government move towards more organic and sustainable agriculture practices.
- iii) Increased emphasis on vegetarian and organic foods in government-run programs like the school lunch program and food stamps, and consider setting meat limits for these programs.
- iv) Asking/mandating that local restaurants and schools institute "Meatless or Vegan Mondays" to increase community awareness and reduce reliance on meat, dairy and eggs as food sources. Encouraging (and possibly subsidizing) discounts on vegetarian meals provided at local restaurants.***
- v) Sponsoring and promoting vegetarian cooking classes.
- vi) Leading by example: make City Council meals meatless only with limits on dairy.

25. Notes

** Item clarified since the 1/23 Climate Congress. Previous revision read "Communicate the benefits of buying food that has been produced organically and locally/regionally".

*** Item clarified since the 1/23 Climate Congress. Previous revision read "Asking/mandating that local restaurants and schools institute "Meatless or Vegan Mondays" to increase community awareness and reduce reliance on meat, dairy and eggs as food sources".

Proposal 25. Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

Although incentives for greenhouses, garden plots, and container gardens were proposed, many comments suggested that due to its climate, density of population, and lack of open land, it is not reasonable to expect that Cambridge can significantly increase its local food production (25a). It was also noted that in order for this to happen at a large scale, existing forests would have to be converted back to farmland, thereby eliminating their important role in carbon sequestration. Readers sought clear definitions for "sustainable food" and "local food" and the point was made that local food is not necessarily less carbon-intensive since much depends on the agricultural and transportation methods that are used in production. The creation of a fulltime position within the City to manage community gardens (a3) was seen as unnecessary by many. Several commenters expressed concerns about advocating a vegetarian and vegan lifestyle (25c); some suggested that focusing instead on healthy eating, and reducing obesity would be more palatable and acceptable to our multicultural community. Because many of the aspects of this proposal relate to education, several commenters suggested that these portions be integrated with the Public Awareness Campaign (Proposals 10 and 11).

d. Green Economy

Proposal 26. Promote Sustainability & Localization

- a) That sustainable economic development be valued over economic growth in any relevant political deliberation. In other words, promote policies that will sustain the economy over the long-term, rather than policies that will only provide temporary economic benefit.
- b) That an economic framework promoting sustainability and the appropriate localization of the Cambridge economy be established through policy and incentives. Examples include:
 - i) financial incentives for hiring people from local communities, especially residents of Cambridge.
 - ii) Enforcing compliance with Federal, State, and local hiring requirements that an equitable portion of local, low-income and minority individuals be hired. *
 - iii) special opportunities for local businesses (e.g. subsidies) and requirements for non-local businesses that will benefit the Cambridge community.
 - iv) a local currency to promote local trade and support local businesses. The Berkshire Bucks is an excellent example of such a currency that is flourishing today. Cambridge Local First Dollars was a less elaborate system that might be reinstated.
- c) That the city support neighborhood food centers that offer meal plans for local residents, with co-op opportunities to work in exchange for discounted meal plans. By city mandate, the centers should purchase locally-grown food to the greatest extent possible; and provide vegetarian and grass-fed meat menus. These food centers would increase the market for locally-grown food, build community, provide green jobs, and reduce energy use in meal preparation through economies of scale. The centers could potentially also serve as food pantries and kitchens to those in need and would be an invaluable resource for elders and those with low-to-moderate incomes.*
- d) Establish urban agricultural systems that are viable enough to produce food for school lunches, and produce compost like the Will Allen model in Minnesota. Such projects would produce jobs.*

26. Notes.

* Item added since the 1/23 Climate Congress.

Proposal 26. Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

Many comments cited measures proposed in (b) as insufficient. It was argued that local ownership of enterprises is a better method for retaining money in the local community since local owners are more likely to take community needs into account. Mention was made that local currency can serve to build the local economy, but maintaining a robust economy requires more than a few government regulations or incentives. It was recommended that localization be viewed in a regional context since not every need can be met within city limits. Furthermore, it was argued that excessive restriction on hiring of non-residents could constitute the local equivalent of protectionism. Concerns were raised that local production of goods does not always correspond to low GHG emissions. The point was made that production and transport of goods from other areas can sometimes be less carbon-intensive than local production depending on the manner in which these goods are produced and transported (truck versus rail transport). Finally it was recommended that production of goods using local materials and re-using recycled materials be explored.

Proposal 27. Establish a Rating & Certification System for Businesses

- a) That a rating and/or certification system be established that recognizes businesses for sustainable practices and makes consumers aware of these practices. The rating system should include, but not be limited to, categories such as: **(1) (2) (3)**
- i) Building efficiency (performance-based, rather than design-based),
 - ii) Waste management (materials use, reuse, recycling, composting),
 - iii) Supply chains (e.g. local and organic foods for restaurants and grocers), and
 - iv) Worker treatment (e.g. fair wages/benefits).
- b) That the system be made mandatory by phasing it into Best Business Practices and require certain reporting by local businesses. This would not only facilitate the implementation of the rating/certification system, but it would also make it easier to accurately calculate Cambridge's emissions and assess its environmental impact.
- c) That information about business practices, ratings, and certification be made visible and accessible to the public. This includes labels/stickers, which can be used/posted by businesses, as well as web-based resources.

27. Notes

(1) Building benchmarking is under discussion through the Climate Protection Action Committee (CPAC), the City, and the Cambridge Energy Alliance (CEA), as well as at the state level. CEA hopes to develop a building recognition program for businesses if funds become available.

(2) Various rating systems exist already, including Green Restaurant Association, Energy Star Buildings, LEED, Sustainable Business Leadership Program (SBLP), EPA Climate Leaders, The Climate Registry, etc. The Sustainable Business Leadership Program (SBLP) is currently working with nineteen Cambridge businesses and has already certified twenty-three Boston area businesses.

(3) The Brooklyn NY "Do Right" program, which involves collaboration among youth, mentors and businesses, was presented at the first session of the Congress by the Director of MAGJC, as a program for business rating that MAGJC would like to implement, if funding became available.

Proposal 27. Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys and Community Meetings

Some commenters regarded this proposal as anti-business and noted the difficulties inherent in making a rating system mandatory. The business community would necessarily be a major participant in any such effort--mandatory or voluntary; criteria need to be transparent and must acknowledge that some Cambridge businesses compete in a global market. Another observation was that this would add another burden to businesses at a difficult time. Others suggested that this would be a good opportunity to assure that existing labor laws are observed. Positive comments included the suggestion that work on such a rating system would be a good opportunity for partnership among sectors--businesses, youth, and non-profit agencies.

Proposal 28. Provide Financial Incentives for Businesses

a) That the city provide and promote financial incentives, such as subsidies and loans, to businesses for improving their practices and reducing both direct and life cycle emissions. Potential incentive mechanisms include: (1)

- i) Developing Block grants, subsidies, ARRA funding, and/or loans for efficiency upgrades.
- ii) Offering property-assessed financing to allow the cost of efficiency upgrades to be distributed over time via tax bills.
- iii) Creating commercial Green Leases, which offer incentives to landlords for energy efficiency retrofits.
- iv) Creating a revolving loan fund from the City's 'free cash' funds for efficiency upgrades.

b) That local businesses be favored over non-local ones and provided with additional financial incentives and support. For example, offer greater subsidies for local businesses, or offer micro-loans only to local businesses.

28. Notes

(1) Funding should be made available soon with the community block grant through the city. If Cambridge Energy Alliance is awarded the State Energy Performance grant there should be additional incentives as well. Property-assessed financing (municipal bond fund) is being explored by the state through PACE legislation. Green commercial leases are available, but as of now adoption has been difficult.

Proposal 28: Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys, and Community Meetings

This proposal for financial incentives for businesses for improving practices and reducing greenhouse emissions was generally supported in the discussion and comments, though not enthusiastically. Few new ideas were put forth, and many commenters advocated further study of this proposal before it is implemented.

Proposal 29. Create and Promote Green Jobs

"Green Jobs", defined: "Jobs in any sector of the economy which reduce carbon emissions and preserve natural ecosystems and biodiversity. These jobs support the transition away from fossil fuel-based economies towards sustainable, carbon-neutral or carbon negative economic systems which thrive upon increased efficiency, cradle-to-cradle manufacturing, sustainable agriculture, water conservation, green chemistry, clean renewable energy and other socially just and equitable means of minimizing the impacts of climate change and healing the Earth. From entry-level to the highest paid and skilled positions, these jobs must provide sustainable living wages with good benefits and career ladders. An equitable proportion of these jobs must be designated to low income communities." (1)

a) That the Green Jobs Task Force be supported and empowered to convene, evaluate, and address the issues of Green Jobs creation in all sectors of the city. This would include, but not be limited to, all aspects of Energy Efficiency, Green Chemistry, Safer Alternatives, Cradle-to-Grave manufacturing and the jobs that would result. **

b) That the capacities of Cambridge citizens to perform green jobs be increased. Possible methods of doing so include:

- i) Promoting awareness of the availability of green jobs (by, for example, a posting online) and the skills necessary for green jobs (for example stressing to local students the importance of math and science for green technology),
- ii) Offering training opportunities, especially for youth and unemployed individuals, and
- iii) Offering internship opportunities whereby individuals may gain skills and experience

c) That local organizations that foster the creation of Green Jobs be supported and funded.* (2)

d) That HUD regulation Section 3, which stipulates that residents of public housing and YouthBuild graduates should be given preference for any work performed within public housing, be strictly enforced. Contractors that wish to be in compliance with Section 3 should be made aware of local green jobs training programs that train housing residents and YouthBuild participants.*

e) That efforts to weatherize homes be supported through Community Outreach Programs that encourage whole neighborhoods to request energy audits and then hire local contractors who are in compliance with equitable hiring practices that include hiring local employees from diverse populations to do energy efficiency retrofits. The many jobs created by this outreach must be given to local contractors through an equitable bidding process and should adhere to requirements for the fair hiring of local workers including women and minorities. Such programs are currently being supported by the cities of New Bedford, MA; Baltimore MD; Portland, OR and

other cities. The "D.C. Project" pioneered this work and provides yet another example of successful community outreach.*

29. Notes

* Item added since the 1/23 Climate Congress.

** Item clarified since the 1/23 Climate Congress. Previous revision read "Work to increase the prevalence of green jobs available within Cambridge. The City Council should work with local businesses to promote clean energy and increase the availability of green jobs."

(1) Green Jobs definition provided by Massachusetts Green Jobs Coalition (MAGJC).

(2) Cambridge-based MAGJC is a statewide alliance that advocates for and actively creates a just and inclusive Green Economy and could be used as a resource.

Proposal 29: Summary of Comments in Proceedings, Surveys, and Community Meetings

Many comments were made that a clear definition of "green jobs" is necessary and a definition has subsequently been proposed. Other comments pointed out that the entire economy must be made sustainable and climate-neutral over the coming years, effectively making "green jobs" a universal necessity. There is support for policies and practices which give preference for new Green Jobs to the unemployed and low-income communities in Cambridge. Some comments noted the need for career ladders and support systems as well as for systems of monitoring and accountability in order to ensure equity in the formation of this new Green Economy. It is understood that any and all efforts undertaken within Cambridge to reduce the City's ecological footprint will provide potential drivers for the creation of Green Jobs. The City must take action to incubate and support the creation of green economies, green entrepreneurs, and the jobs they will create. The City and other involved parties should support local contractors and businesses, and ensure that low-income communities are given the full support and training needed to participate in the new Green Economy.