

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Committee on Sustainability and Transportation
Councilor Andrew Zarro (D4), Chair
Councilor Victoria Pelletier (D2)
Councilor Roberto Rodríguez (At-Large)

Minutes October 12, 2022

Members Present: Councilor Zarro, Councilor Rodríguez, Councilor Pelletier

Staff Present: Troy Moon, Katie Tims

Guests: Marshall Ripley (CMP), Jason Rauch (Avangrid), Peter Kinkley (Avangrid), Chris Morin (CMP), Michael Pertell (NYSEG), Scott Bochenek (Avangrid), Breanna Pierce (CMP), Megan Sullivan (Avangrid)

Meeting called to order.

September 14 Minutes

Councilor Zarro makes a motion to approve the September 14th meeting minutes. Councilor Rodríguez so moves and Councilor Pelletier seconds the motion. September 14th minutes passed unanimously, 3-0.

Sustainability Update

Presented by Troy Moon and Katie Tims

The Sustainability Office celebrated National Clean Energy Week (Sept. 26-30) by hosting an educational webinar with Joel Rosenberg of Rewiring America. The office also organized Portland's National Drive Electric event, which brought many attendees to learn about incentives and technology and test-drive electric vehicles. The Sustainability Office also celebrated international Park(ing) Day with help from the Parks Department and Cumberland County Soil and Water Conservation District, organized a regional meeting to collaborate with other sustainability professionals on how local governments advance climate action, and hosted their monthly Coffee & Climate.

As the pilot year of Portland's Electrify Everything! program ended, the Sustainability Office is working to gauge feedback from program participants, efficiency contractors, and other involved groups to best inform the next version of Electrify Everything! The Office also applied for a waste reduction grant from the Maine DEP to support our community food scrap recycling program. Troy Moon received the NRCM Conservation Leadership award for leading outstanding efforts in Maine's sustainability.

Committee Comment on Sustainability Update

Councilor Zarro asks how we are going to actively engage renters in the next version of the Electrify Everything! program.

The next iteration of EE! program will look differently, focusing on investments or appliances that renters can utilize. The program will also look to work with and encourage landlords and property owners to begin efficiency projects.

Councilor Zarro mentions that they have yet to see the request for \$400,000 in Recovery Act funds to support Electrify Everything! Programming yet at the Council but is curious how the Committee can be supportive.

Councilor Pelletier appreciates the information about how the Office plans to engage with renters and asks if we can include it in goal setting for the following year.

Presentation by Central Maine Power regarding the Electrical Grid in Portland “Planning for Beneficial Electrification”

Presented by participating guests

Central Maine Power, part of Avangrid, has a large corporate focus on Environment, Social, and Governance investment and includes UN Sustainable Development goals in its business strategy. Avangrid Networks works to enable regions where they operate to be leaders in transportation electrification through support for EV infrastructure, rate design, forecasting impacts on systems, and incentives, and increase customer awareness and acceptance. Conducting system impact assessments as the market matures. CMP corporate forecast uses economic forecasts to determine MWH allocation to service centers.

Eight substations feed into the city of Portland with ~40 distribution circuits and ~275mi distribution lines (overhead and underground). Portland’s Downtown network is a single substation that feeds the network. Network system is more expensive to build and maintain because of redundant equipment. Generation on network systems looks like a backfeed and can cause equipment to trip; the concern increases with larger projects. CMP models the distribution system ten years forward and identifies projects to improve and accommodate load on the system.

Local and regional assessment for “Lower Maine” identified “local system issues” in 2021 assessment. Local area study revealed the need for additional transmission source into area recommended a new 115 kV line, and both thermal and voltage needs into City. Requested input from the City of Portland and South Portland, specifically specific local electrification objectives and load growth projections.

Comment on CMP Presentation

Troy Moon notes that “state and local climate action plans are informing (Avangrid’s) planning”, but to what extent? *Michael Pertell explains that they match currently available information (18-24mo transmission queue) with glide path for longer-term state policy goals. Scott Bochenek adds that the state goal is the “high scenario” for EV growth. Jason Rauch adds that statewide forecasting includes state policy goals.* How does that (home efficiency upgrades) play out in the local distribution network? *That is what we try to account for when we look at load growth in a ten-year period (based on data).* Is there a time when we have too many homes in a circuit that you might tell people, “No you can’t have a heat pump or solar”? *We never say no, we say yes with upgrades. “Won’t get into rates” but if it is individual residential customers, that is considered native load growth, and would be solved with investments and bill increase. We try to leave 10% margin on the system and mitigating that action naturally. Investment is extremely*

location specific and that's why details are needed. In terms of equitable distribution of those costs (large-building upgrades necessitating increased transmission and thus investment)? There are state rules, PUC rules, about cost responsibility for load interconnection. The "line extension contract" relates neighbors and sharing cost of investment.

Councilor Zarro mentions that our climate action plan, One Climate Future, outlines such goals of beneficial electrification throughout the City and thus there should be no uncertainty in the direction the municipality is working in - clarifying that we are doing this meeting now so that we can best get in front of a situation in which we are successful in helping residents upgrade and "electrify everything" before the infrastructure is in place. Councilor Zarro asks if the local area study, that Megan discussed, was the 2025 capacity study for OCF. *Troy answers, no, not directly.* Where does shore power feasibility connect to this conversation? *We treat that in two ways: one is a specific interconnection project and one is considering it in the larger future load study of full Portland area.* What is the general timeline of those studies? *No, we don't have a good estimate of release date.*

Councilor Zarro notes that at this point the larger capacity study and the local studies underway are the next step that we can take to identify the increases in infrastructure. We want to collaborate with you (CMP) moving forward and asks how much of the OCF plan factored into the Lower Maine projection study. *I don't think OCF was incorporated into the south forecast, the work identified in ISO-NE, because the Maine Climate Action plan does not incorporate City-specific goals. Information sessions like this are so critical. ISO-NE is our regional guide with baseline assumptions.* Our goal is to codify OCF into ordinance, so we need to get to work yesterday to increase our transmission and it's going to take all of us moving together. *It helps with the uncertainty factor when things get put into ordinances or laws, it creates a lot more certainty and we hope that will help.*

Councilor Rodríguez raises the different transportation agencies that we have in the region and there may be pockets of more motivation than others. *If you are speaking about fleet operators, whether municipalities or businesses, once you start having those discussions this could be something that goes beyond CMP but collaboration with DMV or other states or other creative avenues of information.* Noting that the Maine state legislature is discussing how PFAS-contaminated agricultural land can be converted into solar farms, is that something you have considered? *There is a task force looking at this issue and there have been discussions for adders or subtractors for different qualifiers for programs. Coordination with CMP's host-capacity maps online and siting tool.*

Councilor Zarro asks the final question, what are next steps look like and how do we move forward? *From a planning perspective, details and specific information can help us develop more detailed plans and solutions that will help us when we go to regulators.* Troy Moon follows up by asking, in terms of engagement there are PUC dockets, but they are difficult for individuals and the City, how can we work talk less formally about decision making? *Not sure, but getting OPA and NWA and other state agencies involved in the approval process sooner would make it faster. Prove that this is real and not pie-in-the-sky because concrete evidence*

will only help us in the long term. The extent that we can help the public understand the need for the transmission along with the generation to serve the load is important. Recognition of new bill of LD1959 for two requirements for PUC: Climate Change Protection Plan and Integrated Grid Plan - encourage the City to be part of stakeholder engagement.

Other Business

Councilor Zarro asks for any other questions or comments and thanks the guests for joining us and helping us achieve our goals of decarbonizing the City.

Motion to Adjournment

No roll call, friendly adjournment.

Meeting Adjourned