

ICLEI

International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives Cities for Climate Protection

Currently, there are 14 Massachusetts towns and cities participating in the Cities for Climate Protection (CCP) project. There are 116 U.S. municipalities and counties and over 400 local governments around the world participating. The Massachusetts communities range in size from Williamstown (pop. 8,117) to Boston (pop. 555,249).

To join CCP, the Board of Selectmen would need to pass a resolution that generally commits the Town to the goals of the campaign (a model resolution is available from ICLEI). Participation involves 5 milestones: 1) inventory of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions; 2) setting an emissions reduction target; 3) preparing a local action plan; 4) implementation of the plan; and 5) monitoring the results. While ICLEI urges participating communities to achieve all the milestones, it is in the end a voluntary process. ICLEI provides technical support and encouragement. The idea is for the town to use the process as a self audit and undertake appropriate actions as best it can. Many towns and cities have found the emissions inventory to be a useful way to get a handle on their energy consumption and bills. Also, the CCP process is not complicated. ICLEI really emphasizes the practical side of the issue (e.g., improving energy efficiency of buildings). Most of the actions the town would undertake have other justifications (e.g., energy security, cost savings, reduced traffic congestion, clean air)

The Town would benefit because:

- CCP is a pre-packaged program with milestones, software, examples of local action plans, manuals, flyers, etc.; the ICLEI staff is also very helpful and supportive; ICLEI provides training on their software.
- ICLEI provides access to a network of other municipal environmental and energy professionals and elected officials that is a great source of information based on experience.
- Puts the Town in a better position to take advantage of various programs. ICLEI is well known to state environmental agencies working on air emissions, energy, and greenhouse gas emissions.

For Concord, relevant programs would include U.S. Department of Energy Million Solar Roof campaign, DEM Urban Forest Planning and MassRELEAF grants, Division of Energy Resources Clean Cities (alternative fuel vehicle) funds. The proposed state Environmental Bond bill includes \$1.23 million for communities to undertake GHG emission reduction actions if they have completed an inventory and plan. Being a CCP community doesn't give an automatic in, but it shows that the community is serious and proactive.

- The emissions inventory provides a good measure of the town's overall environmental footprint.