

Town of Hingham



HINGHAM CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: March 25, 2026

PLACE: Online via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Brad Moyer, Elliott Place, Jo-An Heileman, Doug Troyer, Matt Curran, Gary Tondorf-Dick, Tom Morahan, Alyson Anderson, and Maria Zade

MEMBERS ABSENT: Lisa Hennessey

GUESTS: John Borger, Brianna Bennett, Paul Sprecher, Patricia Burke, Art Robert

7:05 pm Opening and Call to Order: Brad Moyer, Chair of the Climate Action Commission (CAC), called the meeting to order, opening with the required remote meeting and recording notices, confirming that the session was being recorded in compliance with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law.

Meeting Summary: The CAC meeting focused on coordinating efforts to implement the Climate Action Plan (CAP), with discussions centered around task assignments and the upcoming carbon inventory update. The commission reviewed various action items across buildings, transportation, and energy sectors, with HMLP presenting their 2026 goals including solar marketing campaigns and support for the town's HMLP Reliability Project. The group discussed updating the carbon inventory using 2025 data, exploring potential assistance from Metropolitan Area Planning Council or graduate students for this complex task. The commission also approved a letter of support for Marblehead's geothermal feasibility study, and members shared updates on various town projects including the Center for Active Living proposal, school building improvements and E-Bus procurement status. The conversation ended with discussion of upcoming appointments following the potential dissolution of the Energy Action Committee after the town meeting on April 27th and potential reconstitution of the CAC in newly expanded format.

Agenda Item 1: Review of Climate Action Plan Activities and Assignments

Summary: Brad revisited the Commission's ongoing work to prioritize short- and medium-term actions from the Climate Action Plan (CAP), noting that members had been asked to submit areas of interest to help coordinate assignments with Patricia Burke (Sustainability Coordinator), Alyson Anderson (School Committee), and Brianna Bennett and Tom Morahan (HMLP).

Key points discussed:

- **Member interests and coordination:** Brad noted that several members had already expressed interest in specific CAP areas. For example, Jo-An Heileman and Matt Curran were interested in school-related goals; Lisa Hennessey submitted interests in buildings, transportation, and community outreach (CAP Appendix Items 4.2.3; 4.2.4; 5.1; 5.2.5; 5.2.7; 5.3.1; 6.3.2; 7.1; and 7.2); Doug Troyer and Gary Tondorf-Dick offered to work on buildings; Doug and Maria Zade volunteered for transportation, including the Zero Emissions Vehicle First Policy (ZEVFP).
- **Municipal coordination challenges:** Brad and Patricia reported that some town departments view the Climate Leader Communities' required components—particularly the ZEVFP—as difficult to meet by year-end 2026, indicating additional engagement will be needed.
- **HMLP updates:** Brianna summarized HMLP's ongoing CAP-related initiatives, including:
 - o Solar marketing and DER incentives (e.g., Connected Homes)
 - o The HMLP Reliability Project, which is on the April 27 Town Meeting warrant
 - o Energy Saver Home Loan Program and Commercial PACE financing
 - o Public education efforts such as the Hingham Power Hour Series and a planned heat pump webinar
 - o Support for EV charging stations, school bus electrification, V2G opportunities, e-landscaping tools, and potential electric public transit
 - o Tree trimming and planting programs, including exploring donation options and a pollinator garden at HMLP headquarters
 - o Exploration of future income-based rebates and other loan programs

Action/Follow-up: Brad asked Patricia, Brianna, and Alyson to coordinate with members who expressed interest in areas under their purview. Jo-An, Elliott, Matt, and Lisa will also continue to work on community engagement matters.

Agenda Item 2: Planning for Carbon Update

Summary: Brad noted that the Commission previously agreed to a three-year interval for carbon inventory updates. The CAP's baseline data is from 2021, so the next update should target 2024 or 2025 data, following the same methodology used by Energyzt. He emphasized that some data—such as residential oil heating—requires estimation.

Key points discussed:

- Art Robert asked where CAP data originated; Brad confirmed it came from MEI (Mass Energy Insight).
- John Borger and Maria Zade volunteered to assist with the update.
- Members discussed potential support options, including:
 - o Re-engaging Energyzt
 - o Leveraging DOER technical assistance
 - o Seeking help from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)
 - o Engaging a sustainability graduate student intern (Alyson and Maria offered to explore requirements; Matt noted state internship rules)
- Art offered to help identify required data and coordinate efforts with the decarbonization

roadmap work.

Agenda Item 3: Marblehead Municipal Light Plant — Letter of Support for Geothermal Pilot

Summary: Brad explained that Marblehead’s Municipal Light Plant requested letters of support from other municipal light departments for its geothermal feasibility study grant application. HMLP has already voted to support the pilot, and HCAC was asked to submit a letter as well. Brianna noted that the application had been revised to include Marblehead, Concord, Wellesley, and Belmont, with MAPC reviewing the updated submission. Letters of support are still needed. A motion “to approve a letter of support for the program with whatever edits may be deemed necessary by the chair in order to support the application in a manner that Marblehead would want the support” passed.

Agenda Item 4: Review and Approve Minutes from Previous Meeting

Minutes from the prior meeting were tabled until the next meeting.

Agenda Item 5: Other Business

- John reported on the Center for Active Living building committee’s recent meeting, noting concerns about affordability and environmental impact.
- Status of EV school buses remains unchanged.
- School roof and HVAC projects have not changed.

Agenda Item 6: Next Meeting and Adjournment

The next meeting was scheduled for **May 13, 2026**.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9pm.