

The Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee met remotely via Zoom at 7:00 pm on Monday, April 28, 2025.

The following members and staff were present:

Ellen Menounos (Co-Chair), Jeanne Trubek (Co-Chair), Laurel Schwab (Sustainability Manager), Wally Cole, Marcia Ciro, Brian Hebeisen, Lauri Murphy, Pat Rathbone.

Absent: Silas Fyler, Bruce Gellerman

Others present: Hannah Goldberg, Susan LaDue

The meeting started with a quorum at 7:00 pm with Jeanne Trubek presiding.

1) Announcements

- Wally Cole is now a voting member of WE3C. Welcome Wally!
- Watertown will be certified by MA DOER as a Climate Leader Community on Friday, May 2, 2025. Lt. Governor Kim Driscoll and Energy Resources Commissioner Elizabeth Mahoney will speak in front of the new WHS to recognize the communities receiving this certification. Watertown is one of the 19 communities to receive this new certification for efforts reducing emissions and maximizing the efficiency of buildings and transportation. This comes after fulfilling a series of 6 requirements aimed at reducing emissions and building efficiencies.
- The next meeting of WE3C will be 5/19/25 at 7 pm on Zoom.
- Resilient Watertown Eco-Fest is 5/10/25 at the Commander's Mansion. WE3C will have a table.
- The next climate plan update (to City Council Climate & Energy Subcommittee) is 5/20/25 at 5 pm; these updates are usually in a hybrid format
- The Sustainable Streets Tour will be Saturday 5/31/25

2) Vote: Minutes from March were approved unanimously (Motion–Lauri, Second–Marcia)

3) Sustainability Manager Report (Laurel Schwab)

- An EV feasibility study has kicked off (this will be realized at no cost to the City.)
- Tufts UEP Pocket Park Study is wrapping up; the Sustainability will hear findings and presentations on 4/29.
- WE3C members signed up for tabling shifts at Eco-Fest; Sustainability staff will provide tabling materials re WE3C ('who we are') and the climate plan. Steve Magoon has ok'd some funds for creating an interactive table feature for events, this will probably be something like large-scale magnetic poetry with Earth/climate vocabulary words. This is something the Outreach working group has discussed and helped to develop.
- There will be a Helpsy bin at Eco-Fest for clothing/textile recycling.

4) New business. We are coordinating a PFAS film screening to take place at the Library on a Sunday afternoon in September. Lauri Murphy is coordinating this with Watertown resident Laurel Schaidler, who presented to WE3C in February.

5) Working group updates. BERDO update (Net Zero working group) – there will be 2-3 BERDO stakeholder meetings starting this week. The City is considering running a pilot for a mix of buildings—one residential, one commercial, one municipal, etc.

6) Vote: Motion to adjourn at 8:30 approved unanimously. / Respectfully submitted by Ellen Menounos