



HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Wednesday, March 23, 2022

10:00 AM

Sullivan Chamber
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

The Health and Environment Committee will meet to continue discussion on the Net Zero Action Plan.

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Patricia Nolan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Burhan Azeem	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Dennis J. Carlone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Marc C. McGovern	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Quinton Zondervan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Mar 23, 2022 10:00 AM (Committee Reports)



**CAMBRIDGE CITY COUNCIL HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE**

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN, CHAIR

COMMITTEE MEETING
TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

MARCH 23, 2022

10:00 AM, SULLIVAN CHAMBER

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Mar 23, 2022 10:00 AM (Committee Reports)

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: Councillor Nolan, the time of the meeting has arrived and you have a quorum.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, Clerk Wilson. I call this meeting of the Health and Environment Committee to order. The call of the meeting is to continue discussion on the Net Zero Action Plan Update five year review.

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, adopted by Massachusetts General Assembly and approved by the Governor, the city is authorized to use remote participation at meetings of the Cambridge City Council. To watch the meeting, please tune in to Channel 22 or visit the Open Meeting portal on the city's website. Today's meeting will be conducted in a remote format.

If you would like to provide public comment, please go to www.cambridgema.gov/publiccomment, all one word to sign up. We will not be allowing any additional public comment sign up after 10:30 AM. This is a continuation of a meeting, so there was public comment at the first one um, to remind all of us. With that, all of today's votes will be by roll call. Uh, Clerk Wilson, if you could take a roll call of members present.

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll:

Councillor Burhan Azeem - Present & Audible

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Present & Audible

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Present & Audible

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Present & Audible

Present-4, Absent-1. Quorum established.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: There are five--there are four members of the committee present.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, Clerk Wilson. I wanna acknowledge Vice Mayor Mallon is--has joined us. Thank you, Vice Mayor Mallon. And we have several of the, uh, staff members, uh, who will be, uh, participating in this discussion with us. And I also want to say that Councillor McGovern reached out to me this morning that he had a family emergency and was not able to attend today's meeting.

Um, so today, uh, this is, again, a continuation of a meeting that was started, uh, a month ago on the Net Zero Action Plan Five Year Review, which was referred to this committee by the full City Council. And we are holding this to continue discussion on that, uh, update--updated plan.

Last meeting, we did hear from a number of community members whose testimony is in the record and will be considered.

The plan has been a guiding document for the city's overall climate work. Much energy has gone into the plan, and the Five Year Review is a central part of us holding ourselves accountable for reaching our climate goals. The update was referred to Health and Environment for discussion, and the expectation is that an amended draft will be referred to the full Council for discussion in ultimate adoption.

Uh, so I will--today's, uh, we will start with a brief summary from the staff on what they heard at the last meeting and some thoughts on this update. It'll be a brief presentation. Then we will have a committee discussion on ways to amend the draft plan. To remind us all for the context of this, the first--there was a, uh, five year Net Zero Action Plan with specific goals and timelines and specific actions to take. And that plan was reviewed by an outside consultant to understand how it is that it had, uh, aligned with our goals and what progress was made.

That five-year review, which is available to the

public, showed that all--all of the actions in that plan, other than city-owned buildings and some actions that the city took, like remarkable progress on reducing our own emissions and energy use, installing city solar on buildings, replacing street lighting with LEDs.

But pretty much all the other actions in that plan are far behind schedule. There was a five year, uh, plan laid out in almost every single element that are several years behind schedule. So, the idea of this plan is to update it and see if we can find a way to ensure that doesn't happen again.

And the summary of the outside consultants to remind us all is that there was so little progress made in that first five years that their summary was that there needed to be a 20 fold increase in our outcomes and actual--effectiveness in our actions over the next five to 10 years for us to have any hope of meeting, uh, the goals that the city and the council and the world has set.

And that call to action from the consultant review of the five year, uh, review makes us work all the more urgent for us to have a plan that is implementable, that sets smart goals, that has timelines, and frankly, that we, the

council and also the city, find a way to hold ourselves accountable for ensuring progress is made along that timeline. And thought is being given, as we discuss this today, to how to ensure accountability for the plan, because the timeline simply must not slip again. Um, so the urgency needs to be clear and communicated in the plan.

Uh, so what I'll do now is turn it over to city staff. Uh, Assistant City Manager Farooq is here, and our sustainability leaders, uh, Susanne Rasmussen and Seth Federspiel are on the call and they will, uh, remind us all of where we're at the end of the last meeting, and then we'll be opening it up for discussion. Assistant City Manager Farooq.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: Thank you Chair, um, Chair Nolan. Um, and thank you for introducing staff. The only person I will also add is that the City Solicitor Nancy Glowa is also in the meeting. Um, and I will just without further ado, turn it over to Seth to just summarize what we heard from the last meeting. Uh, and then we--we look forward to today's discussion to figure out, um, the best way to--to make the--the changes that the council--the committee is looking for to forward to the committee, uh,

to the council, beg your pardon.

SETH FEDERSPIEL: All right, thanks everyone. Um, I do just have one slide. If the clerk could let me share my screen.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: You should be able to share it now. Also, please email the, uh, slide to the cityclerk@cambridge when you're done.

SETH FEDERSPIEL: Sure. All right. Can you see the full screen slide now? Great. Okay. Um, so this is just a summary, uh, of the feedback that was, and--and questions that were raised, um, at the first meeting, um, of the Health Environment Committee on the Net Zero Action Plan Update on March 1st. Um, so I'm just gonna run through each of--each of the point of feedback, and then I'm happy to answer questions that the council has--councillors have, um, about how these suggestions and--and questions relate to the, um, information in the Net Zero Action Plan Update.

Um, so I've broken these into kind of categories of feedback. Um, so the first is adjustments to the timing of the actions in the plan. Um, so there's suggestion that the embodied carbon reductions, um, that are proposed in Action 2.2, um, have more specific deadlines to them.

Um, there's also a suggestion that the solar installation requirements, um, discussed in Action 3.2.1, um, be implemented, uh, sooner rather than later, um, or-- or now. Um, and that the aggregation, um, which will provide additional renewable energy to the community through Action 3.3, um, get to 100% renewables as soon as possible. So again, those are--those are questions and--and suggestions for the timing of the actions without changing the substance of the action.

Um, the next category of feedback relates to the substance of the actions. Um, so the first relates to Action 2.1, which is Net Zero New Construction. And, um, suggests that, uh, the actions specify that 2025 be the target date for Net Zero New Construction for all building types, um, and also ensure that the action seeks to prohibit fossil fuel and any combustion, um, in--in new buildings. Um, and then there's also a suggestion, um, that there be an explicit link between the Aggregation Program, uh, and the Local Carbon Fund described in Action 4.

Uh, then there are a number of questions and--and, uh, accounting, uh, pieces that were raised. Um, so there was a request to clarify the greenhouse gas reductions achieved

by Community Solar, um, to clarify whether New Development is included in the business as usual baseline scenario, uh, to break down emissions by building phase. So, to understand where our emissions come from, um, from new buildings, uh, from existing buildings, and also buildings that have not yet been constructed but are in the permitting pipeline.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Seth, can I interrupt for one second. Uh, I just got a text from a member of the public saying they're trying to watch the meeting, but there's no sound. Is that something on our end or their end? Is there any way we can check?

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: You could check--I'll check with IT. I just turned the meeting on, there was sound. Um, but I'll double check.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Okay. Sorry to interrupt, Seth. I just thought--

SETH FEDERSPIEL: Sure. Would you like me to wait?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Let me--I think we can go forward. This is probably being recorded anyway, right?

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: That is correct.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Okay. So, let's--let's

just go forward and we'll keep it in mind. Thank you. And sorry to interrupt again.

SETH FEDERSPIEL: No problem. Um, all right, so then, um, the last two questions, uh, had to do with the cost impacts of the Net Zero Action Plan. So specifically looking to understand the cost, um, of Net Zero New Construction Requirements and the impacts that that would have on housing costs. Um, and also more generally the cost per ton of carbon, um, abatement achieved by the actions. And a question of whether the actions are meeting kind of a cost effectiveness test.

Um, and then the last, uh, sets of feedback and questions had to do with the accountability of--of the plan itself. So, asking how, um, progress would be monitored and what support, uh, what additional support is needed to ensure the success of the plan, uh, update this time around.

So--so again, that--that's summary of the feedback and, um, if it's helpful, I'm happy to kind of speak to how each of these, um, comments and questions relates to the content of the Net Zero Action Plan Update. Um, but I'll-- I'll leave it to you Chair to, um, direct the conversation

from here.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, Seth. Is that--anything else, uh, Assistant City Manager Farooq or Seth or Susanne about setting us up for this discussion?

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: Uh, thank you Chair. I think this is--this is it from--from s and we think this is fairly robust set of items to--to get through for today.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you. All right. Um, if are there--if there are clarifying questions from, uh, committee members or the Vice Mayor about this particular issue, um, have them now or we can just go directly to discussion about the next steps. I don't see any hands up. So, we can, uh, Seth, I think then we can stop sharing screen. You can send that, uh, helpful framing to the clerk.

Um, as we go forward, I'll, uh, just go in order of, uh, councillors who have any--any comments on this. To remind us all, we also got, uh, the council received, uh, a letter from CPAC, the Climate Protection Action Committee with seven pages of very extensive comments on recommendations for improving the Net Zero Action Plan

draft. Many of those, uh, suggestions were incorporated into this particular draft, and some of them were not.

Uh, so my sense is that I would--uh, my recommendation for this, uh, committee would be to incorporate all of the changes that CPAC recommended. They seem in line with what we're talking about in terms of timing, coordination, um, accountability, but we can talk about that a little more specifically in a bit.

Um, uh, I will go to Councillor Carlone and then Councillor Zondervan. And--and remember, the context of this is we are discussing how it is that we'll move forward given that this update on our agenda, it will end up being adopted in some form by the City Council. Therefore, it will be our document to own. And the idea is this is a draft and we can amend it and revise it as much as we want, so that when it is adopted by the full council, it is really our document as a council and as a city for moving forward. Um, it's already been amended some based on, uh, CPAC review and we can, uh, amend it as--as much as we want as we go forward.

Um, and some of the recommendations from CPAC, which we can discuss today, but are not probably going to be in

the plan itself, are basically, as Seth referenced in his opening statement, and I think, uh, Assistant City Manager Farooq did, is a call for staffing and funding.

Make sure that the staffing and funding is in line to actually be able to implement the--the various actions in the plan. Since that's always a question that if we're throwing out an accelerated timeline, do we actually have the--the infrastructure in place to deliver on? So that's, uh, to start. Councillor Carlone and then Councillor Zondervan.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Uh, thank you Madam Chair. I--I won't take too much time. Um, that was an accurate and a lengthy list. And, yes, we can discuss some of those today. But in fairness to the staff, I hope they have the opportunity after today to just write a summary response to each of the, uh, the items on the list.

There's no way they're gonna be able to, uh, respond, um, in detail on every item, I would imagine that's so much. But after today, to have the opportunity to think about it, think about this discussion and the three--the four of them getting together to respond, I think it would be, uh, an important step in the process you outlined Madam

Chair, to have that summary statement.

And I'm not--I know one could easily write pages on every item. That is not what I'm asking for. It's more of a summary response. So, it's an easy step for us to understand and analyze then, then go on to the next step. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Just to clarify. You're saying to take the existing plan and just annotate it with any updates that have been made, or?

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Uh, these are issues that were brought up--

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Right.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Um, and there's so many of them that even if it's two sentences or a paragraph to respond as a step in this evolution of revising the plan. So, it isn't a big leap from this meeting to the next meeting. Use this document as a transition, hopefully, uh, to what makes sense, uh, given our staff's input. Uh, all I'm getting at is that the list is so long, unless they've all been studying this for a while now with responses. It takes time to put all the pieces together.

And, um, and I think we, maybe not you and Councillor

Zondervan, but the rest of us need to go step by step and understand the complexity of it and what makes sense from their perspective. I'm just using it as--as something that we can build on and not forget about that list in the next meeting and sort of go over it again, and again, and again. Um, so it's more--I think the process is more productive for everyone, including an answer might be, we don't know how we're gonna get to this point, or we need more research on this. Whatever that response is. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Okay. Thank you Councillor Carlone. Councillor Zondervan and I wanna acknowledge that, uh, Mayor Siddiqui has joined us as well. Um, she is listening in and present. And certainly, Vice Mayor and mayor, if you want to make comments, you are welcome to.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Councillor Toner has joined us as well.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Oh, and Councillor Toner. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you. Um, I agree with my colleague that, uh, a fuller response is warranted. I guess my preference would

be that based on today's discussion, we would refer the matter back to the council and then get a complete response from the staff back to the City Council with either, you know, "This is--the plan has been adjusted based on this feedback, or here's why that is not the case." Right? Um, but those are--those are really the only two, um, responses that I'm looking for is either we've adjusted the plan or we can't adjust the plan for some reason, and then we would like to know the reason why. Um, so I do have some additional comments on the plan, um, that I'd like to break up if--if now is the appropriate time.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Um, I wanna announce that apparently the--this meeting is listed on the city website under, uh, Human Services. Uh, so if anyone is trying to listen in, uh, the clerk has informing that the video stream is misnamed as Human Services instead of Health and Environment. And that may have led to some of the confusion.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: Oh, Madam--Madam Chair, I just wanna clarify. The meeting is posted with the right name. The video is just streaming under Human Services.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Okay. Thank you for

that clarification, Clerk Wilson. Hopefully the legions who are seeking to listen in now are able to do that on the livestream. Um, so I wanna summarize what I think both Councillor Carlone and Councillor Zondervan are saying is that we want to move this forward and it would be good to have the city staff update this plan based on what has already been heard and what will be discussed today.

What I would certainly recommend is that in order to ensure that this continuity that we, uh, I'm happy to work as Chair of the committee, we could put a motion forth to work with--with, through me as Chair of the committee in order to refer it back to the City Council in line with, uh, the discussion today and the--the various, uh, ways that we are thinking it could be improved and amended.

But I would say Councillor Zondervan, if you have specifics, I know that an overarching theme was the timing issue of how we can accelerate this, but if you have, um, specifics under that overarching timing, I know again, in the timing, so much of the discussion was let's make the short term three to nine months, let's make the median term one to two years, let's make the long term three to five years, 'cause we really do have to accelerate as much as

possible with the caveat that of course, as Councillor Carlone said, there are some things that may take five years.

But anything we can do to accelerate is certainly in line with all the feedback that we've heard so far in committee and from the community. So, Councillor Zondervan, if you have specifics, this would be a fine time to enumerate those.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Great. Thank you Madam Chair. And through you, I do wanna acknowledge, and-- and this was mentioned earlier as well, but I think it is important to recognize that of course we're not expecting the staff to do everything all at once. So, we do need to prioritize and--and we also need to make sure that they have the resources to do what we're asking for.

But that being said, I think we--we do wanna see more of these things happening sooner. Um, so--so one question I had is that action number five seems to have disappeared, that was titled Engagement and Capacity Building. And in particular, I'm wondering what happened to 5.3 Net Zero Lab Standards that was previously part of action slide.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Assistant City Manager

Farooq.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: Through you Chair. I'm--I'm gonna see if, uh, Seth can--can respond to that. Um, I think this was just a subset of the--of the actions where we had heard comments, but, uh, I'll turn it over to--to Seth

SETH FEDERSPIEL: Sure. Through you, Chair. So, um, so action five was about setting up the capacity to implement the Net Zero Action Plan that include creating the, um, the Net Zero Cloud Planner Position, um, a communications budget for the plan and a protocol for, um, implementing and reporting on the plan each year. And so that--all that work is in place and--and will continue.

And so, in the Net Zero Action Plan Update, um, Section Six speaks to the implementation of the plan and explains how those resources are in place and those processes are intended to continue over time. And so, in order to streamline the actual plan, um, we--we took out action five, but with the intention that the processes continue.

As to the specific question about the Net Zero Lab working group, that--that was meant to, um, work through

questions about how laboratory buildings could achieve net zero emissions and--and when. And so that, um, work will continue through Action 2.1, which is the Net Zero New Construction, um, action.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you. Through you Madam Chair. I did understand the first part and--and you know, I think the Capacity Building action was always a little strange 'cause it's part of the plan, but it's--it's really about the plan and so forth. But the--the Net Zero Lab Standards, I do feel like that is a thing on its own that--that needs to be addressed and, you know, I'm okay with it living somewhere else, but--but I do think it needs to be, um, specifically mentioned somewhere. And if we put it under New Construction, then that seems to ignore the issue of existing labs becoming net zero. So that doesn't entirely feel like the right place for either,

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Susanne Rasmussen, you want to answer that?

SUSANNE RASMUSSEN: Yeah, I just wanted to comment that the idea at the time was that this group would be, um, pulled together consisting of actual lab owners and operators because they--they have the capacity to

understand at a very high technical level what--what would standards, um, that would advance reducing emissions in--in existing labs and new labs be. It's--it's not something that the--the city staff could really take on.

So that--that activity is continuing, but it--it's not a city, um, it's not a city led activity. There's--there's a sustainable labs group in Cambridge that is working on these kinds of activities. We--we try to, um, play a supporting role in that, um, in helping to bring resources together.

We obviously have a close collaboration with our source in a--in a special targeted concierge program that help large commercial entities in Cambridge with--with, um, implementing energy efficiency. So, it's not that the activity is not--that there isn't--activity in that--in that sector, it's just not something that we have the leverage to implement or, um, achieve as a--as a city entity.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you. Madam Chair, through for you. I do appreciate--appreciate those answers. And you know, this--this is just our--our comments and feedback, so I'll leave it up to the staff how they

wanna respond to that. Ultimately, um, I can live with it being a footnote that says, you know, "This is being worked on by--by the industry." Separately, I just--I was just surprised that it--that it seemed to have disappeared. Um, my second question is under, um, retrofits. There's--there's a policy action in the--in the timeline for 2022 - 23, and I'm--I'm just trying to understand what that policy action is.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: Through Chair, um, I'll have Seth respond to that.

SETH FEDERSPIEL: Um, through you Madam Chair. Can--can you specify which activity you're referring to Councillor Zondervan? Under?

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Is this for, um, retrofits? I think it's under action two or one. I didn't write it down correctly. Let me go back to this slide.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Madam Chair, point of information.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yes, Vice Mayor.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: I think it would be helpful to have that, um, slide up on the screen as we're talking, because I think we keep referring back to--back

and forth to it and, uh, we don't have it. So, if it would be possible, um, to put it up on the screen, I think that would be very helpful.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Uh, are you referring to the slide that was shown earlier about the--Yeah, that--I'm not sure if that--if what Councillor Zondervan is asking about is on that slide.

I think part of the issue maybe is that we are open to, this is a 79 page document that we are now saying let's review and let's make sure that we're all in sync with--with owning it and what kind of improvements and amendments should be made so that we can recommend to the full council to adopt it.

And that this discussion today that--what that slide was meant to do is capture last meeting. And yet this meeting today is open to any other. So, if I'm--I think I'm correct in--in saying what Councillor Zondervan's referring to today was not on that slide.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. That's correct. Um, we could perhaps put up the, um, Net Zero Action Plan 2021 draft final report itself, because that's what I'm referencing right now. Um, and

specifically page number 68, which has a timeline of the, um, specific actions that are being proposed.

So, the action I'm referring to is 1.1 Retrofits for Residential and Small Commercial. Activity number four integrate resilience and electrification W/EE, and that has a policy action for in the short term 2022-23 that I'm trying to understand.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Councillor Zondervan, what page was that that you were referring, if that would be helpful, I'm happy to see if I can float up on the screen or maybe Seth can.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Yeah, or I can do it as well since I'm looking at it right now.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Would that be helpful to--can I just have a little thumbs up if that would be helpful to committee members to see this, or, okay.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: All right. Let me put it up in a moment. Does that work? Are you able to see that or no?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: This is about the, uh, you have shared the City Manager search.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: What?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Which is a really important task. The Vice Mayor will be glad to see you actually are looking at it, but not exactly relevant to today.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: That's not what I was trying to share. Thanks a lot, computer. Um, let's try it again. There we go. Sorry about that. Okay, so now the right one. So--so this, um, shows the timeline for the different actions.

So, on the right you can see the fiscal year and the short term is 2022-23, and then this medium term out to '26 and long term out to 2030. So--so I'm looking at activity number four, Integrate Resilience and Electrification, which has the blue part here is labeled as a policy action and that's shown for '22-'23, which is the current council terms. So that's what I'm asking, what that expected policy action is?

SETH FEDERSPIEL: Through you Madam Chair, I'm happy to respond to that.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Uh, please do.

SETH FEDERSPIEL: So, the goal of this activity is to make sure that our Retrofit programs are not only focused

on greenhouse gas emissions, but are also meeting the goals of the Resilient Cambridge Plan, um, for--for climate resilience. Um, and then this is also explicitly calling out opportunities for electrification.

And so, the activity, um, described in Action 1.1, um, of the plan describes the intention to look at the Retrofit programs and consider how we can more effectively integrate resilience into those programs.

So, for example, the Multi-Family Retrofit Program is a resource where multi-family building residents can, uh, receive technical support for, um, energy retrofits to their buildings. And so, the goal of this activity would be to add to that Retrofit program, um, so that resilience considerations are specifically taken into account and included, um, in--in those considerations.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you Madam Chair. So, through you, so are we imagining, for example, things like installing a backup battery system for--for this, um, multi-family building or--or, uh, things like that?

SETH FEDERSPIEL: Yes.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Okay. So, I

appreciate that. Um, I--I guess I'm still unclear what the policy action is. Is this a City Council policy action or-- or is this a staff regulation policy action?

SETH FEDERSPIEL: Through you, Madam Chair. Yeah, I think the categorization is subjective here. And so, in this case it would be the--the policy approach of the--of the programs. Um, so perhaps this should--this should be listed as a program rather than a policy activity. The intent is not that it would require City Council action.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Got it. Okay. Thank you so much. That's, uh, that clears that up for me. Um, and then I think we already mentioned the transaction points. Uh, current, um, plan shows no action on that until 2025. And I'm just wondering if--if there's a particular reason for why we can't do anything before then. So, this is, uh, Action 1.3, Upgrade of transaction points, and number five, formally Adopt Upgrade Requirements.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: Through you Chair, um, I can perhaps take that--that, um, in our conversations with the--the city manager, he has been concerned that this could create, um, cost impacts for homeowners. Uh, and so he--he has asked us to defer this,

um, a little.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: I see, um, I mean I--I understand the manager's concerns, particularly around the piece financing and--and so on. But you know, there--there are other solutions out there and-- and other, um, jurisdictions, particularly in Ithaca for example, they've set up a fund that does not create any liens on the property so that that particular risk is--is eliminated.

So I-- I guess, you know, I'm, again, I understand the concerns, but I--I don't feel like it's warranted to--to just defer action on this item three years into the future, given our concerns about pulling in these timelines.

So--so I would like to consider pulling that in, at least in terms of the discussion, you know, maybe putting a work item in there for '22-'23, that--that we would at least begin to have some discussions around how we could, um, address that concern, because simply not doing anything about is--is not very satisfying.

SETH FEDERSPIEL: Uh, if I may, Madam Chair--

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yeah.

SETH FEDERSPIEL: --respond to that.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yeah. Can I just, um, I

wanna remind us all that part of the reason we've talked about acceleration, this is a prime example of how we are far behind our own plan. The original Net Zero Action Plan had this specific item upgrades at transaction points. And by today, we were supposed to be planning version two.

It was supposed to be implemented by 2020, the Upgrades at Transition Points. And so now to not even see any action until 2025 several years from now seems quite distressing. So, I understand,, we heard from Assistant City Manager Farooq, the city manager's concerned about the financial implications, but that's certainly some of my comments to remind us all of the context.

While this plan is before us, this timeline has already been in place and the previous one showed this exact item, uh, several years ago, and it is not yet implemented. So, to see it even further out, I think as part of why Councillor Zondervan is questioning why we can't move it up. Go ahead Mr. Federspiel.

SETH FEDERSPIEL: Thank you, Madam Chair. I just wanted to point out that Action 1.3 has six activities, and Councillor Zondervan has, uh, highlighted the fifth activity.

Um, but all the first four activities are slated to begin either in FY-23 or FY-24, and those activities are specifically to establish the program design needed for transaction-based requirements as well as the program support.

So, the Contractor Education Program and the Resource Hub to support buildings and making those transactions. So, it is correct that the--that the, um, formal requirement is proposed to be implemented in FY-25, but that the groundwork for those requirements is intended to begin in FY-23.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thanks. Now, I appreciate that, uh, distinction. Thanks for clarifying that. I guess what--what I'm reacting to is--is that there's no--there's no policy discussion here, and--and that concerns me because especially given that the--the concerns that the manager has about this, which are very valid, may need to be addressed through--through policy, um, at the council level.

So--so I would like to see some policy action here and--and, you know, certainly the Chair and--and myself could take this up independently. But I think it'll be

helpful to have it in the plan that we are going--planning to have conversations about this to see if we can address some of those concerns earlier than--than 2025.

So maybe, you know, as a--as a concrete proposal, maybe you could put an--an additional activity in here that--that says, you know, "Policy discussion with the City Council," or something like that to indicate that we're not, you know, the council isn't gonna sit back for three years and--and see how this developed.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Right. And the implementation isn't even scheduled till 2027 when the original Net Zero Action Plan was 2020 for implementation. Okay,

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: Sure. We--we're happy to, um, to have some additional discussion on what is going, you know, we'll--we'll think back among staff and--and also consult with the city manager to find, um, a version where at least a council discussion might--might be something that could be added on.

It will, obviously, there is a lot--as you say, a lot to think about and--and determine what is the--the appropriate path to make this work. So, there is gonna be

study that is, uh, that is needed before a policy can be implemented.

Um, so the--it--it will take a little bit of time, but I do think that certainly as the--as just policy discussion might be a way to--to address the concerns. But we'll--we would like the opportunity to also consult with the city manager and--and then come back to you with, um, a proposal. I also think that Susanne might wanna add something here. Thank you.

SUSANNE RASMUSSEN: Thank you.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Susanne.

SUSANNE RASMUSSEN: Through--through you Madam Chair. I just wanted to note that many of the activities in the Net Zero Action Plan will entail policy discussion and engagement with the council.

So, we're--we're not--by not having a line that says, "Policy discussion with the City Council," we're not--we're not indicating or flagging that that is not going to occur. I mean, there--there's many of these that all the regulatory ones will, uh, require, uh, policy discussion with--with the council.

So it's sort of--that's built in. Um, and so when it

says Program Design, we're not signaling that that is only staff that's involved in that. So, I just wanted to note that that applies here and to many other of the actions in the plan.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thanks. I appreciate that. I guess, you know, and I certainly agree that--that that's it--it doesn't preclude it, I guess in this particular case. I'm--I'm trying to figure out how we can properly signal that we wanna accelerate that discussion.

We wanna have it upfront and soon, not three years from now. But, uh, you know, I'm--I'm certainly fine with the staff going back and--and thinking about how they wanna respond to this particular comment. So, I'm happy to move on.

Um, so Action 2.3. We have Net Zero Requirements for buildings, and number one, Net Zero Requirements for new construction of municipal buildings. And that still, um, lemme scroll down to it, that's also has a policy action for right now.

But I'm still unclear on whether or what needs to be done on this, because my understanding is that, uh, the city is moving forward with Net Zero Construction. So is--

is there something the council needs to do? Is there's something the manager needs to do, or is this a done deal?

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Director Farooq-- Assistant City Manager Farooq, or anyone, staff? Feel free.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: Thank you, Chair. I think Susanne has--has a point, and then something you need to add.

SUSANNE RASMUSSEN: So, the--the indication here of-- of the blue--the policy is that this is policy. That's-- that's what we're intending to say. This is city policy, that is what the city is doing and we--we have committed to, um, new municipal buildings being net zero. So that is--that is what--that's the blue color in this case indicates. So, I would say there--there is no--no need for any additional action.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Got it. That's-- that's very helpful. I think it would be good in the--in the plan to indicate that somehow to say, "This is--this is done, like we have the policy and we're implementing it." And, you know, maybe we have to update it or tweak it a little bit as we go along. And--and so we still keep it in the plan, but--but it would be good to highlight. I mean,

this is a--this is a big win for the city, and I think we should--we should celebrate that.

Um, so the next one I have a question about is the Carbon Free Energy Supply at 3.1, and in particular, number six, Lead Engagement with the Utility and State Partners, um, which I'll highlight on my screen here.

So, I'm just trying to understand what exactly this entails. I did read--I found a paragraph on it in the plan, which says, "The transition to renewable thermal may require utilities to invest in the electric grid as well a drought--drawdown of the gas system. The city will proactively engage utility and state partners to understand these infrastructure needs and ensure that investments in Cambridge support decarbonization.

In addition, the city should study and advocate for an equitable transition, especially as the economics of the gas system are expected to change. This activity will continue into the medium term." That's a pretty dense paragraph with a lot of stuff in there. So I'm just trying to understand exactly what we're doing here in terms of working with utilities to get, um, a carbon free supply. I see the Vice Mayor as her hand raised and I don't know I

Chair if you wanted to recognize it.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Uh, yes. I was just waiting for you to finish and then I was gonna call on the Vice Mayor. Are you yielding, Councillor Zondervan? Okay. Uh, I don't see, uh, before I call in Vice mayor, I don't see, um, Councillor Azeem having any raised hands who's a member of the committee. So, I will go to the Vice Mayor.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Thank you Madam Chair, and thank you for, um, calling on me and for holding this discussion. I, um, I'm catching up a little bit on the Net Zero Action Plan and I'm glad to be here today to be able to do that. Uh, the first thing I wanted to say, just to follow up on some of Councillor Zondervan's, uh, comments.

It feels like the blue on this report is doing a lot of work. Um, and it could be, you know, if there's policy that needs to be taken on by the City Council, perhaps it could be in a different color. Um, if it's already been completed, it could be in a different color.

I just think it--it makes it seem like the blue, it's so much policy, it's not clear to us where we need to step in and start doing that work and when we need to start doing it. So that would be my suggestion is to visually try

to figure that out before we have a final draft.

Um, of course, I'm not on this committee, but as a--as a City Council member who will be voting on this, it would be very helpful to have that. Um, my one question I had on the actual plan itself is on 3.2.1, which deals with solar requirements.

The first one, um, number one says that the integrating solar requirement with a green roof requirement, uh, is an orange, which means it's in Program Design phase. We have a green roof requirement, um, on buildings over 25,000 square feet.

Just I'm curious with staff, what does--what still needs to be done there, and then what are the other steps that need to be taken and how those will interface with the current green roof requirement.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Uh, city staff, would you like to reply or Councillor Zondervan did you have a specifics for that or a different question?

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: Um, Chair, through you, I'll, um, I will say that this is obviously a question that came up when we were working, um, on the Green Roof Requirement and, um, the Net Zero Action Plan

Committee has given additional thought to it. So I'll--I'll ask that to respond to that.

And also, probably worth contextualizing in light of, uh, some of the elements of the state's proposal for, um, Net Zero Stretch Code and what--what that--where--where there is consistency and where--where there are--are challenges. So, I'll turn it over to Seth and Susanne for--for this.

SETH FEDERSPIEL: Thank you. And through you, Madam Chair. So during the Green Roof discussion last year, there were a number of technical questions raised about the compatibility of green roof with solar. And so, um, those, and a number of those questions are raised by Net Zero taskforce members.

So the intent of this first activity is to study the technical feasibility of mixing green roofs with solar and understanding what that would entail, um, for the amount of green roof and the amount of solar and the design of the system as a whole.

And again, um, there were specific Net Zero task force members who desired to take on that work. Um, and as Assistant City Manager, Farook mentioned, um, this action

may also be impacted by the ongoing development of the state's Net Zero Stretch Code, um, the straw proposal for which, um, suggests that solar, um, may be required for at least some new buildings. And I know that there have been comments including those made by the city, suggesting that those requirements be expanded to apply to all new buildings that would be subject to that stretch code.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Um, thank you. Madam Chair, so it looks like as part of this chart, we're not really discussing that until fiscal '23, so that's next year. Are we waiting for those stretch codes to be taken-- to be adopted before we have those conversations, or are we continuing to have them even now?

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: Um, so I can say more, but we need some technical, through you Chair. So we do need some technical work to be done on this. And so this will be in our, um, budget request for FY-23.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Okay. So there'll be a budget request to undertake some of the technical questions that have come up around the stretch code in our own policies and how those will interface together.

Okay. Um, thank you Madam Chair. I just have one more

question and um, Assistant City Manager Farooq kind of took me there, which is around staffing levels. Um, I think, you know, this is the third or fourth conversation that we've had around climate action goals that we need as a city, whether it's BUEDO requirements, whether it's our Net Zero Action Plan, whether it's a number of other climate mitigation, um, tools that we're undertaking right now.

It's a lot of work. Um, I was happy to hear that you have taken on some more staff to do this, but are there other staffing levels that have been requested in fiscal '23 to start taking on and chunking out some of this work, um, that's laid out here in this plan and some of the other items that we've taken on as a council and as a city?

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: Um, through-- through your Chair. Um, we--all of the recommendations or requests for the, uh, FY-23 budget, um, that work is still under development. And so we will bring those forward as part of our budget request when we bring those to the council.

Um, but absolutely we are constantly looking at our staffing levels and, uh, Capac--I mean, we have added as, um, as you observed, uh, Vice Mayor, um, we have added some

capacity, uh, particularly to take care of the--the BUEDO changes and, um, and managing that process 'cause it will be, uh, substantive. Um, but, um, I--I think in terms of FY--looking forward to FY-23, I would, um, wait until we have our budget requests finalized with the city manager and then bring those forward to--to the council.

VICE MAYOR ALANNA M. MALLON: Uh, thank you. Madam Chair, through you, I hope that the city manager is, uh, is watching this and understanding that I think that I'm--like I said, I'm not on this committee, but as, um, council member, I certainly hope that the budget requests that, um, for full-time staffing levels to help us reach the capacity that we need to meet all of these goals is being strongly considered, uh, for the FY-23 budget.

'Cause I don't think that you'll meet with any, Uh, hesitation from this group of folks, uh, on those additional staffing levels to--to really--I mean, this is one of the top things that we need to be doing right now, is climate change mitigation and really working through all of these things. So, um, that's just, uh--uh--from me, I won't say anymore, I'll give it back to my colleagues, but thank you, Madam Chair, for holding this hearing and for

having this important conversation.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, Vice Mayor Mallon, for your support. And you have been a stalwart follower of this, whether you're on the committee or not. You have certainly, um, been, uh, been involved in all of these discussions over the many years.

And I will say there's--the--the challenge for the staffing is, I believe, correct me if I'm wrong, ACM Farooq, um, there--because there's been a couple people leaving, right? John Bullock has gone, Brunswick Cook left.

So, not only do you--and it's challenging to find people, but to even just get back up to the staffing levels that we originally had, are--are involving some--some hiring. So--so, as I echo the Vice Mayor, I fully support you having the resources you need.

Um, before I go to Councillor Zondervan, I wanna, um, say a couple things that I hope we continue to improve in the plan. And one is, in the context of the overall setting the stage, I do think we should merge a little bit more of the review of the first Net Zero Action Plan five year review, and communicate it very clearly in this plan, the urgency.

And for one example, the plan is currently--the introduction talks about the overall building sector emissions relatively flat, and yet overall, they were actually up 11%, uh, from 2012 to 2019 in the city. That--that was, um, the--the data we have.

And if you just look at commercial and industrial building emissions pollution, it went up 29% from 2012 to 2019. So that's the challenge we have, and I think calling that out and be specific about it in this plan, we can just take the verbiage, uh, word-for-word from the review, and put it a little bit more upfront because it makes the case much more strongly.

The review was far more direct in that. So, I--I think upgrading that would make sense for all of us. And I recognize--and then secondly, I know that some changes have been made in line with the CPAC letter in review.

And having reviewed them, I--I--I would like a more specific idea about why all of them aren't included. So many of the recommendations were basically the acceleration that we talked about, and that may be staffing level. I don't think it's feasibility for some of them.

For instance, on the, uh--on the--on the transaction

points, again, that's something that we've talked about for four or five years. So, I would think that we would be able to accelerate that discussion, um, depending on staffing and funding.

That so, many more of these short-term plans could be less than a year, and then the median term ones could be one to two years. Um, then thirdly, I think calling out, and I'm not sure if this is in the plan or not, but calling out the, um--the need for greater coordination among groups, notably CPAC, and to involve them earlier in the process, would help all of us.

So, many of the plans and documents that are noted in the CPAC as drafted, for instance, the transaction point study, apparently there was one, but I haven't seen it--CPAC hasn't seen it. There's been an assessment of the Cambridge Energy Alliance, there's been a--a draft of the offsite renewable energy procurements.

I think it really is time for us to try to figure out a way where we can all work together and collaboratively earlier in the process, so that by the time these recommendations are made, we're--we're more in sync. Um, that would be something that I think would--would be

helpful to staff and to all of us.

And we are eager to do that. So, we're eager to--to provide you--I hope ACM Farooq's nodding is yes. Uh, you know, it's--it's always a challenge, that it--we don't wanna put too much on staff that you can't handle, but we also wanna stand ready to say, "We are ready to help you with that in the earlier wee, and those all stakeholders that are involved in the process.

I think the better would be, with making good on our promise, of really having urgent climate action. The--the--and then, another couple of specifics on BEUDO. We are in the middle of, obviously a--a somewhat separate, but related discussion, but BEUDO is going to be responsible for something like 60% of our, uh, targets for reducing our emissions pollution.

So, I'm not sure how to ensure that. I--I think this plan, I, I don't know if--if we should just call out and have a separate, like, "Here's the BEUDO study." Because right now the plan talks about BUTO, but then there's a whole other study of BEUDO. So, it might be easier, visually, not to have some of it in this plan, but then a separate document for BEUDO.

So I'm not sure if--if, the staff can think about that, if that makes sense to you, that when I look at some of the BEUDO plans, it seems like that incorporates some of what we're talking about. And yet there's a whole other BEUDO's that we're hoping to adopt on a somewhat separate path.

And I think it would be cleaner and--and more able for the--for all stakeholders to understand it. And then the, um, the specificity. Some of the, uh, you know, I've, uh, I always think it's--it's helpful for everybody to set up SMART goals, "Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-based."

And an example which we talked about a little bit earlier, is the Retrofit's. This, again, has been in process. The CA's worked on it for a long time. It hasn't yielded the results we want. There's been lots of interest, but there aren't specifics.

And the uptake has been, uh, very, very low. Um, and so, the question is, "How do we incorporate more SMART goals into those specific items?" I believe they're actually incorporated in the background. Let's make 'em specific. I know, I've even talked to, uh, your staff, uh,

ACM Farooq about this.

There are implicit assumptions about how many homes, for instance, Retrofit will happen. Let's make it clear in the plan so that we all know the goal that we're aiming for. I--I think that helps everybody, and helps us hold ourselves accountable.

Um, and let's see, any other--so, I think overall, my, um, recommendations are some of the--the timing to really take a hard look at how it is that we can accelerate, and it may be that we have to then push for more, uh, funding and more staffing in order to get that done.

But again, we're--we're to have greater urgency of moving forward on so many of these plans. And in order to do that, we--we do need to accelerate some of these timelines, um, while recognizing that we may need to increase, uh, the capacity of the city to help deliver on it. I don't know if there's anything you wanna respond to on that, um, ACM Farooq, before I go to Councillor Zondervan?

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: Yes. Um, Chair, thank you. Um, just two small things. I--I do--um, I do think we can certainly take a look and--at some of the

clarification elements that, um, that you and others, um, on the committee have--um, on--on the console have mentioned, and we can, um, we--we can certainly try to--to streamline a little bit better than it is.

Uh, although I have to say that this is a lot of information, and the group work very hard to try to get it to be readable, but we hear the comments and we will certainly, um, make further improvements, um, as we can. I just wanted to mention on the--the timing piece, uh, and how the relationship to, um, staff and capacity, and those are, um, absolutely important pieces always.

And I--I will say that, in--in general, um, you know, the city manager has heard, um, all of you on this, and he has, uh, been supportive in our requests, uh, uh, on Net Zero funding. Um, you know, with--with the exceptions of where--where, um, he's had an issue, like I just mentioned, uh, a concern, uh, with the--the basic premise.

The, um, the part about timing, uh, I do think that there is, you know, there--there is a policy choice in over and above the, um, the capacity and the funding piece, uh, that does have connections to feasibility, and also to consensus building.

Because the Net Zero Action Plan and the time thresholds that are laid out in here, uh, were done collaboratively working with a set of people from many different--um, representing many different groups.

Some of them are developers, some of them are activists, some of them--it--it was, um, a fairly broad set of representation in--in that group. Um, and the--the--the thresholds that were developed were based on both work--you know, factoring in all of the, uh, the considerations; the capacity, as well as the, um, the feasibility, um, as well as what is--uh, I guess that's the same thing of, uh, achievability by, um, by the folks who need to--to actually make things happen.

So there is a piece that has to be, uh, "Are we able to develop the policy or the legislation working with council?" And then there's a second piece of, "Is a building owner going to be able to build the capacity to do the work?"

And those are, um, separate and different things, and one we collectively us an, you know, administration council together, can have impact on. And the other one is--is a lot harder, and it's a lot more, um, uh, dissipated.

So it's not about just working--you know, while there's big impact from certain folks, so we can work with certain large property owners, but there are--um, uh, there's development that happens at all scales, and, uh, sometimes it's just one individual piece.

So I think that there're--uh, in terms of changing those thresholds, there is a consensus building piece. Um, and do--if we were to go back to the--the group, to try to have that conversation, it could be fairly--uh, I mean, I don't know how long it would take, and I don't know what response we would get.

We are--I'm sure the council is hearing from some of those folks. So, the question is, does that consensus building happen at the--the Health and Environment Committee, or is that something that we are trying to do separately?

Or is the council--uh, is the council wanting to say that this is important enough that we deal with that separately, and we are making this statement and saying that these are the thresholds? And any of that range of options is, uh, is possible. And, uh, I think that's, uh, kind of--we look to you to provide guidance on, um, on the

direction that you would like to take around those thresholds.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, um, ACM Farooq. Uh, Councillor Zondervan, I'll call you in a minute, but if you could stop, I don't think we need your screen sharing up still.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Um, thanks. I--I wasn't done.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Oh! Okay.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: I would--

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Great. Let me just respond quickly to, uh, ACM Farooq. I understand this question of consensus building. We have heard, probably half of the members of the Net Zero Action Plan task force have said they want it accelerated, and they think the plan isn't quite accelerated enough.

That doesn't mean there's consensus on that. But there have been a number of members of that task force who have said the timelines in acceleration should happen.

Um, and since the task force completed its work, which is almost a year ago now, there have been two reports from the IPCC, suggesting that the climate actions are far more

drastic, including, specifically, for the Boston area, than before.

So I think-- think it may be, we could get consensus based on--on that. And so many of the elements we're talking about, are not for the large institutional players who we have heard from and are working with on--on BEUDO, but you know, the Retrofit Program for transaction points for one-to-four family homes, you know, that's--that's something that probably is more involved in, "How do we help homeowners do that?"

So I recognize we wanna work together, but also, I wanna remind us that, we--we have heard from some members of that task force, that they wanted accelerated. Um, and again, there's been some evidence in the last year, that--that--that what we're doing needs to be more. So I will, um, go to--Councillor Zondervan has not finished, and then Councillor Azeem.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Um, Councillor Azeem hasn't spoken yet, so I am happy for you to go to him first, if you'd like.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Okay. Thank you. Councillor Azeem, you have the floor.

COUNCILLOR BURHAN AZEEM: Thank you, uh, Madam Chair. Um, so, I wanted to just, uh, respond briefly to, uh, the Assistant City Managers, uh, question. Um, from my perspective, uh, there's a lot going on in the Net Zero Action Plan, um, and I'm broadly supportive of the goals, and, uh, probably very supportive of the details as well.

Um, it's hard for me to judge whether accelerated timelines are viable or possible, um, in specific examples. Especially, like, you know, in this committee, I think Councillor Zondervan, Nolan, in particular, bring a lot of technical expertise that, um, I don't have. Um, so I would say that, like, my preference is to do this in a bit more of a way that involves those experts.

And so, like, either, you know, uh, having a separate, uh, like some of those more private conversations, um, that you've mentioned with some of the committee member--uh, with some of the members that you've advised before, about the details and whether accelerated timeliness are possible or not, or just bringing this to the full City Council, and doing it a more public way which, and Guedero, has like shown me that like, you know, "These things are more flexible, whereas these ones seem harder to do."

And so I would just say that from my perspective, like the committee, it's great to get caught up on what's been done, but to make detailed decisions about whether the timeline should be A or B, is very difficult for me at this point. I just wanted to share that. Thank you. I yield.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, Councillor Azeem. Uh, Councillor Zondervan, you have the floor.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. And, uh, I wanna, uh, echo my colleagues' comments. Uh, you know, we may have, um, a little bit more history with--with this topic. You know, I--I was a co-signer of the original Net Zero Action--the Net Zero, uh, Zoning Commission, back in 2013. So--so, it's not so much that I have technical expertise as it is, that I have a long history with this topic. Um, but I--I fully appreciate my colleagues' comments, and--and I agree with them.

And I think it--it is really important to bring more of these consensus building conversations out in the open and into the public, because, you know, I--I do bristle a bit when I get that pushback that says, you know, "We--we can't or shouldn't push so hard because it might break the consensus."

Because from my point of view, there is no consensus. You know, I--I haven't agreed to allowing this pollution to continue, or to allow climate change to get worse. So, you know, I--I fully concur with my colleague, that, if--if there are concerns about specific timelines, then those need to be brought out in the public so we can talk about it, and--and we can put our heads together and figure out a way forward.

But--but I--I don't think we want to say, you know, "We can't move faster because, you know, somebody's not gonna be happy about it." Um, I also, wanna appreciate the Vice Mayor's comments, and--and I wanted to add on the solar piece, that, you know, there's--there's smaller buildings that need to be considered in terms of solar requirements. There's roofs that--you know, there--there's--besides the roof, there's the mechanicals on the roof that could be covered, potentially, with the solar canopy.

There's parking, um, lots, or--or areas that could be covered with solar canopy, so, there's, I think other--there's awnings potentially that could be done on the building like we did at the, um, at the King School, on putting them up. So, I think there's other considerations

at play as well, in terms of the solar requirement, besides, um, the integration with--with green roofs, although that is certainly the important part as well.

Um, so, I--I do hope that we can have that conversation in a more civil fashion as well. Um, so, I just--I--I only have three or four more items, but I--I wanted to go back to the carbon-free energy supply, and I don't necessarily need a--a detailed answer right now, but I just wanted to flag, again, that paragraph describing, uh, item number six, "We need engagement with utility and state partners." Is very dense.

And, you know, to echo the Chair's comments about SMART goals, it--it doesn't set crisp goals that we can really, um, you know, connect with. So, if--if there's further details that could be elucidated there, in terms of what--you know, I know that, again, because of the history, that the city tried to establish an MOU with Eversource, and that doesn't seem to have really gone anywhere.

You know, we--we had the recent, uh, challenge with--with the Ferguson Street substation proposal. You know, so--so, there's a lot that--that needs to be unpacked here, in terms of what exactly are we doing in--in our work with the

utilities, to make sure that we can achieve our goals.

So, to the extent of that could be elucidated here, I think that would be helpful. Um, under Carbon Free Energy Supply Workforce Development, which is I think item number nine, um, that also, indicates, um, no work being done until 2024. And--and again, that doesn't feel right to me.

So, you know, we're obviously, at the moment, considering a--a green jobs ordinance, which would somewhat address this item. So, again, it seems warranted to add, at least an indication that we're having some policy conversations around this already, um, unless this work item is--is different from--from that.

Um, and then we already talked about the--the rooftop solar requirement, which, you know, again, currently is listed under, um, 2024, at least, in terms of adoption, but there's some program design work, I guess, going on right now, or--or starting in 2023.

But it--it would be, again, helpful to indicate here that this is an active conversation, and--and we're hoping to have a result earlier than--than two years from now. Um, and then the last one is Community Solar Access, item number three, "Provide access to solar for all

populations." And that, again, is not, um, slated at the start, until 2025, I think, so--

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Program design implementation, not until 2027.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Right. So, you know, I--I have real concerns about that and--and I'm--I know that we are doing a lot of work on community solar, already, so, I am--I guess I'm most surprised that we don't expect to see more results sooner.

So, I don't know if the staff wants to comment on that, or--or come back to it later. But I think that is another item that, potentially, we could see some--some earlier results there.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Are you yielding and asking for any reply from city, Councillor Zondervan?

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Yes. Thank you, Madam.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: Through your, Chair. Um, Seth might have some further detail on, um, on some of these items. Seth.

SETH FEDERSPIEL: Thank you. Through you, Madam Chair. Yeah, I think--I think we can provide some additional

clarity, um, and--and I think that this summary, um, table here, may be a little misleading, um, with--with the title.

The--the intent is that, the Community Solar Program that is designed in FY-23--sorry, in FY-22, and implemented in FY-23, so, aligns one and two here, um, would serve all populations. And then that activity three, is actually broadening the set of buildings that, um, could participate in--in those programs.

Um, so--so, looking at, um, a wider range of roofs, as--as the councillor, um, has suggested a--a couple of minutes ago. So, I--I think we can provide some additional clarity on this, but that the intent is aligned with, um, what's being requested.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: And I will add that the--in the Climate Crisis Working Group, we've--community solar in the report, there's been some discussion about how to ensure that, that is included.

And I know some of that has been accelerated through conversations with, um, uh, one of the members of the CCWG, with, uh, the city staff, Malcolm Bliss, who has done a lot of community solar, has been in conversation with, um, accelerating some of that work and including some of it.

So, hopefully it's in conjunction with, uh, this work as well. Councillor Zondervan, is that--

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yeah, those are my, um, detailed questions and--and comments, um, on the plan so far. I--I, again, I--I do wanna acknowledge that it is a--it is a very comprehensive plan. There's a lot of details in there, and--and I realize it can be a lot to process.

It's--it's a lot to process even for me, having been involved with it for over a decade. Um, so, you know, I--I hope the staff are hearing our--our feedback, not--not as criticism, but as, um, you know, mostly aspirational. We're--we're hoping to do more, or--or to do more of it faster.

And--and we, of course, always recognize the real world constraints on that, but we just wanna make sure that we've, um, explored every option, uncovered every rock, and, you know, done everything we can to get this done, um, as quickly as possible and in the best way. So--so, thank you for your work, and--and I look forward to, um, the--the final proposal and--and responses.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Right. Thank you,

Councillor Zondervan. And to echo that, this--we're--it is wonderful that this update is before us. It is very needed. And again, the framework I use to evaluate it is based on the city's consultant's review of the first five year action plan, which ended with, "Over the next 10 years, emissions need to be reduced 240,000 metric tons of CO2, just to align with the Paris Agreement, and almost 20 time increase over the initial five year period."

So, the framework, for me, has given what we saw in the first five year, "Does this plan represent a 20 fold increase over the other five year plan?" And when I look at that timeline, it's in that context that it seems like, "Let's accelerate more." Because if we're gonna have--if we need a 20 fold increase over our previous five year action, that needs to be reflected in this updated plan.

And also, that report was finished in 2020, I believe, or 2019, even, which means it might require even more than 20 fold, because the IPCC reports in our own data suggest that there's an even greater need, because overall, the, um, the results of the changes, worldwide and statewide, are even more dire than we thought.

So that's the framework that I would use,

acknowledging we have a lot to do, and yet we--I'm certainly prepared, echoing the Vice Mayor, to--to provide the city staff and the community, whatever resources they need to get it done. Um, the specifics that I, um, have already mentioned in terms of the acceleration of timing, include many of those that are not related to the larger institutional players.

But the quest on Retrofits, the upgrades at transaction points, um, and some of the others have already been mentioned, the rooftop solar, and the offsite renewable energy, to accelerate many of those actions. Again, if we're gonna meet our 20 time, 20 fold increase in effectiveness in the next five years to 10 years, we need to, um, to factor that into this timeline.

And I--I know the city has tried, um, but I believe that accelerating some of it is possible. Um, for us moving forward, here's a question for this committee. We--we've talked a lot about how complex this plan is. It's 79 pages long. We will eventually adopt it. We will very soon have the Climate Crisis Working Group recommendations, which echo many of these, but, uh, include another flavor of, basically, an approach that includes a--a culture change.

Encouraging all of us to have a culture change in our approach to this work. Um, I'm--I'm not sure we wanna keep it in committee, because this, again, is a very complex document, and yet we do need to move it forward, and want the--the full council to be able to review it and discuss it.

Hearing from the various council members here, I think one option would be for us to refer this back to the staff, ask for the--the feedback that has been received today, which I'm happy to work with the staff on that, and have this committee also, be able to weigh in and--and send in very specific recommendations.

We can send out a document for, um, any comments or, uh, ways, or suggestions for improving and amending the draft document before us, and then have that work, perhaps, done through the Chair of--of this committee, before it's then brought back to the full council. Or there's other paths forward, I'm not sure, uh, the will of the committee, um, to move forward. But I certainly want this to be acknowledged, that this work is moving forward.

We do need an updated plan, and--and yet, we also, recognize that there had been a number of comments today.

It's probably gonna take a little bit of time to synthesize and integrate. Uh, Councillor Zondervan, do you have a thought on that?

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Through you, uh, I think the--the formal motion is to refer the matter back to the council. Um, but as--as was discussed earlier, I think we would expect, um, an updated plan to ultimately appear on--on our agenda, as well as responses to--to questions and--and comments that ultimately didn't require a change to the plan, but--but still, um, could have a response.

So--so, that would be my, uh, suggestion, is that we move to refer the--the matter back to the council, and--and then, um, to get, uh, an updated version of the plan from the staff.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Could I recommend, uh, the--what I would suggest is that we refer the Net Zero Action Plan update to the staff to incorporate changes discussed by this committee and work with the Chair of Health and Environment, to amend the draft into a recommended plan to present to the full council.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Um, I--I don't think

we wanna refer it to the staff. We--we can certainly have a--a policy order, then asks them to--to update it and to, um, bring a response back to the council. But I think we wanna refer the--the plan itself back to the council.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Right. I just wanna make sure we have also, the collaboration way to make sure that--that we can have a review of it. And either, just any of the committee members can work with the staff, and I'm happy to work with the staff to understand how it is that the feedback's being incorporated. Um, Councillor Azeem.

COUNCILLOR BURHAN AZEEM: I would support Councillor Zondervan's version. I--I think that referring it to the council, makes the most sense, um, while still hoping that, um, city staff can like, give us detailed feedback on all the questions and points that we've raised. Um, I was also going to just mention that, um, for city staff, I know there's been some conversations about like, "If we move this timeline to this date, it wouldn't be possible." Because of like, "If these people don't think that it's viable, if possible."

I would love to get that in, uh, explicit form, like, "These are the specific people who would have these sorts

of concerns with it." Um, it just seems very, uh, difficult for me to make a judgment on like that statement, without knowing the detail without having someone I can talk to on the other end. Um, but, uh, to go back to the motion, I would happily support a motion to refer this to the state council at this time.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: ACM Farooq.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: Thank you, Chair. Um, just one thought in terms of, um, expediting the processes, if you will. But I think if we are going in, in a granular way and making changes to each of the--the sections of the report, it could be--it could get more time consuming, and I was wondering, um, how the committee might feel about us putting together, um, you know, all the things that we have heard, the things that, uh, we, you know, that there's no argument about, or--or I shouldn't say argument.

Where--where there isn't a, um, a variety of opinions on, where it seems really straightforward. We would just put that--we could draft something for you and say, "Here's what all of the changes that the house--um, the Health and Environment Committee's discussion has yielded."Um, and

that could get attached on top so that anybody who's opening the report, sees that first as, "Here are the council adopted changes to this, um, to this document."

And then we can kind of annotate some of those where we have--um, as Councillor Carlone was suggesting, where we see that there might be some concerns, we could annotate like, "We've heard this from you. This one, we--we have--um, we think this is totally fine. There's great--uh, agreement all around on this. This is, uh, modified in--in this way." And here, uh, we just want you to think about this other thing, or perhaps talk to this other set of folks, um, as Councillor Azeem mentioned.

And then that could be, uh, a--an action that the council might want--you know, they may--may want to have further discussion, they may choose to send that back to the committee. But they could also just, uh, then make decisions on the floor on--based on the feedback, uh, and obviously we would be there to support that discussion as well.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Are you saying that, an annotated version to say, "Here's the plan and here's some suggested changes that the council--that the Health and

Environment Committee discussed?" Because I think the separate document, if we're gonna own this plan, we have to own it. If it becomes the council plan, it shouldn't be, "Here's the plan, and then here's some comments on it."

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: I will--thank you, Chair. I wasn't actually suggesting, uh, that it be a separate document. But that it could be integrated into the document, but instead of trying to go in and modify every section, to have it be a consolidated front end. It's almost like, uh, uh, "Here's the--the council's, uh, changes to the plan."

So they're also, um, kind of very clearly articulated. 'Cause I think one of the challenges that--as--as--as I'm thinking about it, having, um, having gone through the--the community process, uh, the--

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Has ACM Farooq--

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: I'm against this.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: You froze for a minute, sorry.

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: Oh! I apologize. I was just suggesting kind of keeping the--um, and this is just a suggestion, so obviously if it's the other--if you

want us to go in and make the changes throughout the document, we can make those.

They will just be a little longer--they will both take longer to do, and I worry that they may cause confusion, than for folks who actually worked on, um, you know, on the committee--on the task force. So I was just suggesting that we do kind of a front end piece that is part of the document, gets completely integrated and travels with the document, but there's kind of like a council addendum, if you will, on top of the document.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: That--I think that could work for initial, to highlight it. But I think, eventually, the plan needs to be considered as a whole, because otherwise--and it could--the title could be based on the Net Zero Action Plan, to like--it--it--it's similar to, when a document's presented by a group.

Again, that--it says, draft, on it. It is not--you know, it's the draft presented to them for our consideration, which means it's open to--if we're gonna own it as a council and as a city, I think it's really important. I think it's more confusing to have, "Well, here's the plan, but here's some addendums." And then you

have to--but I think as a initial step to say, "This is what we'll present first." And then decide whether then those get incorporated in the document, makes--makes a lot of sense. I--I hear, um, Councillor Zondervan, and then Councillor Azeem.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. Yeah, I--I completely agree with you. I--I think, as an initial response from the staff to our comments and feedback of--of this discussion, it makes perfect sense to me to have a separate response that says, you know, "Here's all the issues that were raised, and here's the staff response to each one.

And these ones, we are going to modify the plan based on these suggestions." And then at a--at a future date, you know, take--take the time you need, you know, don't take too long. But take the time you need to--to incorporate those changes into the plan, and then present a final draft for--for the council to consider. Um, but I--I do think, in the end, we want one consolidated plan that we all agree on, because that--that is important that we have that shared set of goals that we're working on towards for the next five years, which is actually already three and a half

years, so--

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Right.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I yield.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yes. And--and as Councillor Azeem said, it--it--this meeting is public, the notes are public, the feedback is public. We could also ask the staff to, just as an FYI, send it out to the full Net Zero Action Plan task force and say, "Just so you know, these are the kinds of discussions that the council has had, and they will be involved in this.

And--and if you have thoughts, you know, feel free to communicate that with either the Health and Environment Committee or the full council." It's--it's clearly, we're all interested in ensuring that this is something everybody is aware of, understanding that not everybody's going to, perhaps, um, buy into every single possible change.

And yet, we are aiming towards having a plan. We want a plan to be feasible and implementable, and we also want it to be, uh, stronger, accelerated, clear, as specific as possible, and then, a way to hold ourselves accountable. Um, 'cause--'cause we're--we're in this work, we--we feel the

urgency. I think the city does, the council does, and I know the staff does as well, so we're working towards that. Does that make sense to--to people?

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: Um, yes, Chair. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: So the--the intent is-- I'm not sure we--if we need a formal motion to say, "We're asking the staff to update--to incorporate the feedback from this committee into a document that will then be referred to the full council."

I'm happy to continue to work with, um, the staff on-- on what it is that--that we've been reviewing here. And-- and certainly, the Vice Mayor and the Mayor was here for a while. Obviously, anyone on the council, and Councillor Toner, who was here, in addition to this committee, can send any feedback to staff as well, to ensure that that's incorporated as best as possible before it comes back to the full council. Um, and I think that we'll have to wrestle a little bit with a question of how do--what do we do with the BUEDO section?

Since that's going to be a separate element. That may be one that--um, since that's on a--on a separate path to

understand, to not have competing documents on that. But--
but that's, uh, a question that we can wrestle with.
Councillor Zondervan.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam
Chair. I'll defer to the clerk, but I--I think a--a motion
would be in order, both to refer the matter back to the
council, as well as the separate order asking the staff to,
um, to make these edits, because, you know, we're--if we're
directing the staff, we should do that through, uh, the
proper order--policy order to the city manager.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Please can you send me
a copy, so that I print it?

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: So through you, Madam
Chair. Um, I didn't fully get what the motion would be, but
yes, if--if the--the committee can create a policy or
asking the staff to review the notes of this meeting and to
report back to the City Council with appropriate
recommendations.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: So it's the--the Health
and Environment Committee, ask the staff to incorporate
changes based on discussion in the Health and Environment
Committee, into the Net Zero Action Plan draft, and refer

that back to the full council. And the staff will be--uh, how do--how do we say that there will, you know, be consultation or feedback from anyone on the council? Or--or does it just work through the Chair to incorporate--to review any feedback or changes?

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: I mean, we--we can say, you know, that the city manager be requested to work with the Chair of the Health and Environment Committee to incorporate changes and--and suggestions from the committee into the Net Zero Action Plan and present that back to the full City Council.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: That sounds like the--the way to go. Is that true, Assistant City Manager, ACM Farooq, and--

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. And that is perfect.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Okay. So Clerk Wilson, we have a--a motion that Councillor Zondervan just presented.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: Councillor Zondervan, can you say that one more time?

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Yes. That the city

manager is requested to work with the Chair of the Health Environment Committee to incorporate the comments and suggestions from the committee into the Net Zero Action Plan, and present an updated version of the plan to the full City Council.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: Okay. On that motion, Councillor Azeem.

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll on referring the petition back to the full City Council as moved by Councillor Azeem:

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes.

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes.

Yes-4, No-0, Absent-1. Motion Passed.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: Yes. Motion passes. Four in favor. One absent.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Okay. Um, that may have concluded, or--or we're very close to the end. We're--we're certainly open to discussion. What will happen after this is, I will work with, uh, city staff to--um, on any updates

to this--to this draft that's before us, and that we will send it back to the full council. Councillor Carlone.

COUNCILLOR DENNIS J. CARLONE: Uh, thank you, Madam Chair. Uh, it was a very good discussion, um, more in depth than I was prepared to do. But I greatly appreciate your, and Councillor Zondervan, and the staff's input. Um, I--I wanna join with what you were saying about, "In the end, the council will be voting and will be making the decisions."

And all--what I mean by that is, the staff is in a difficult position in some ways, having worked with this committee and feeling somewhat obligated to represent that committee. But you, Madam Chair, are absolutely right, in that, we are here to vote on and direct what we want, and--and we're--at least this committee, and hopefully the full council, we're very concerned with the future. Not that the staff isn't. I'm not saying that.

We have not dealt with members of this committee as indepthly as they have. But we will make that decision and I think it will follow what you've been saying, and I hope it will follow what you've been saying, Madam Chair. But, uh, that doesn't mean that we don't appreciate what the

staff has had to do and what they've come up with. It's, uh, pretty amazing, uh, the detail that we're getting into.

So, uh, I'm not negating what we've said, I'm actually reinforcing it. I just want the staff to know that we recognize they're the go-betweens, and, um, that's a very difficult position to be in. And we thank them, but we are going to proceed with what we feel is right. Thank you.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Thank you, Councillor Carlone. Councillor Zondervan.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Thank you, Madam Chair. I--I completely agree with my colleague, and I thought it might be helpful to provide a little bit more context or history here, because--uh, and--and Councillor Carlone was--was a co-signer as well, to the original, um, net zero petition. And at the time, back in 2013, there were serious concerns about feasibility of, um, building net zero buildings in Cambridge, which is why the first Net Zero Action, uh, Task Force, was--was even created. It was actually called The Getting to Net Zero Task Force.

So the idea was that, this is aspirational and we're trying to get there. And--and the Net Zero Action Plan, the first version, was and--and still is a--a policy roadmap.

So it--it's not dictating when things will happen. It's--it's--it's a plan, it says, "This is when we think this will happen, or should happen, or could happen."

At the end of the day, for any of these policies to be fully implemented, if--if there're--if there are changes to the law, like the Building and Use Disclosure Ordinance, the council has to vote on--on changing the law. And so, you know, uh, again, the--the consensus that's been built, is--is tremendously helpful and--and important, but--but it can't and--and won't limit what we decide to do as the legislative body for the city, in terms of making the law.

And--and this plan does not dictate those laws. It--it simply says, "When we expect to make certain, uh, policy changes, or--or law changes." So, you know, I--I think it--it is a delicate balance, but--but it should be clear that the plan does not dictate what we do. It informs what we do and it represents our overall agreement. But--but just as, you know, sometimes we don't hit the deadlines too often, we don't. Sometimes we may pull them in, and--and, you know, that remains in our group. Thank you, Madam Chair.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Yes, yes. And as, um, two of the members of the Net Zero Action Plan Task Force,

Dr. Guru Basu, who deals a lot with, uh, environmental justice issues in the context of public health and, uh, Marjorie Davies, were on the Climate Crisis Working Group where the Net Zero Action Plan was discussed.

So clearly, many of the--and totally in line with what we're saying, a deep appreciation for all the work that went into it, creating the Net Zero Action Plan five year review. Um, extensive work by outside consultants to review it and then help with that process, and then, volunteer hours of many of the people on the task force.

And again, as I stated, many of them have come to us and encouraged us, actually, to accelerate the timeline and to make it stronger. And I'm sure there's a member of the task force that feel completely, um, at--at home with the current timeline.

So we'll be wrestling with that and understanding that, that's part of our job as well, to--to--to understand how it is that we can move forward, and accelerate, and push, and yet not, uh, set ourselves up for something that--that is not gonna be feasible.

And again, it all comes back to making sure that we have the staffing, the funding, all the resources, and the

will to--to make good on whatever, uh, plan it is that we are putting in place. I think, unless there's other discussion, we can, uh, adjourn soon. Anything from you and your staff, uh, your team, ACM Farooq?

ASSISTANT CITY MANAGER IRAM FAROOQ: No, we're all set. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: You're dying to accelerate it all to one year, right? All right. Vice Mayor, any comments? And thanks so much for attending and staying with us for the meeting. It's really--I know it's important for all of us.

Eventually the council will be voting on this and it'll be a key part of our efforts moving forward. Uh, do I hear a motion to adjourn, Clerk Wilson?

City Clerk Anthony Wilson called the roll.

Councillor Burhan Azeem - Yes

Councillor Dennis J. Carlone - Yes

Councillor Marc C. McGovern - Absent

Councillor Quinton Y. Zondervan - Yes

Councillor Patricia M. Nolan - Yes

Yes-4, No-0, Absent-1. Motion Passed.

CITY CLERK ANTHONY WILSON: Motion passes. Four in

favor, one absent.

COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Right. And remember, the staff is open to all your feedback, so anyone here, send it in. Thank you so much, everyone.

COUNCILLOR QUINTON Y. ZONDERVAN: Take care. Good meeting.

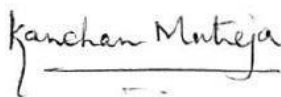
COUNCILLOR PATRICIA M. NOLAN: Happy spring..

The Cambridge City Council Ordinance Committee
adjourned at approximately xxxx a.m.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, **Kanchan Mutreja**, a transcriber for Datagain, do hereby certify: That said proceedings were listened to and transcribed by me and were prepared using standard electronic transcription equipment under my direction and supervision; and I hereby certify that the foregoing transcript of the proceedings is a full, true, and accurate transcript to the best of my ability.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name this **10th day of January 2023**.



Signature of Transcriber

Minutes Acceptance: Minutes of Mar 23, 2022 10:00 AM (Committee Reports)

A communication transmitted from Louis A. DePasquale, City Manager, relative to the Cambridge Net Zero Action Plan 2021 Update and Executive Summary.

A communication was received from Seth Federspiel, Climate Program Manager, transmitting a presentation for the Health and Environment Committee meeting on March 23, 2022