

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – NOVEMBER 14TH, 2022
6:00pm
Virtual Meeting

Members Attending: Mary Smith (chair), Eric Hudson, Dennis Loria, Cameren Cousins

Selectperson Liaison: Jim Snyder-Grant

Guest: Jane Robbertz

Mary Smith called the meeting to order at 6:01PM, with a quorum present, via a virtual meeting with no Board Members in physical attendance, using the Zoom virtual meeting platform. Mary read the disclaimer for a Zoom meeting.

1. No resident concerns.
2. No regular updates from GAB committee members.
3. Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
 - a. Jim Snyder-Grant lead a discussion of his summary of the IRA. Jim focused his discussion on the provisions of the IRA that would affect Acton's clean energy programs, specifically transportation and building efficiency. See Jim's attached summary with useful links and the attached spreadsheet which was reviewed in detail. Note that most incentives are not effective until sometime in 2023. The policy is also still being reviewed by various federal entities, so specific details and guidelines have not yet been ironed out.
 - b. Next steps were discussed. Jim stated that he had forwarded the information to the Town Manager, as many of the building and vehicle provisions could be useful to the town. The information will also be forwarded to Andrea Becerra, Sustainability Director, upon her return from leave.
4. Stretch Code and Specialized Opt-in Stretch Code Discussion
 - a. We had a brief discussion on the pros and cons of the specialized building code. Of note: the specialized stretch code does still allow for fossil fuels, and the fossil fuel ban pilot (via DOER) allows for fossil fuel use exemptions. There is significant overlap between the two programs/policies, yet there could still be some loopholes. Don't forget that a BERDO-type energy use disclosure is likely coming statewide for commercial buildings; building envelope and air exchange efficiencies will need to be highlighted as a solution, which the specialized code will help with.
 - b. Acton is already a stretch code community, and the updates will automatically apply to us. The specialized building code is the "optional" next step that requires a Town Meeting vote.
 - c. We agreed to postpone a vote to endorse the specialized code to the Select Board until next meeting.
5. General GAB Business
 - a. Carbon Offsets: Eric confirmed that a speaker from Climate Partners will be present to help us discuss this topic at the December GAB meeting. We agree

that we would like to learn about carbon offsets for the Town, businesses, and individuals.

- b. Mary confirmed that a representative of Abode Energy will speak at the January GAB meeting.
- 6. Mary moved to approve the October meeting minutes as recorded by Cameren; Eric seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously by Mary, Eric, Dennis, and Cameren.

Cameren made a motion to close the meeting at 6:40pm. Eric seconded. All members unanimously in favor.

New incentives to make Acton's climate goals easier

2022-11-14 Jim Snyder-Grant for Green Advisory Board

- The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) is a large piece of legislation.
- It's a \$737B bill, with \$369B in climate and energy spending.
- Signed into law Aug 16, 2022.
- It's currently making its way through the regulatory process, at DOE, DOT, IRS and elsewhere, so details are still becoming clear.

I focused on the items that will most directly impact our ability to reach our climate goals in Acton: buildings and transportation.

There are a LOT of summaries out there. I found these useful:

<https://www.usgbc.org/sites/default/files/2022-09/Inflation-Reduction-Act-Buildings-Aug2022-v3.pdf>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inflation_Reduction_Act_of_2022

<https://rmi.org/four-ways-the-inflation-reduction-act-speeds-the-shift-to-a-cleaner-more-affordable-energy-future/>

<https://www.rewiringamerica.org/ira-fact-sheets>

Summary sheets from Senator Markey's office:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1i4Ulb-JXGuON8ppTNICF53KVdE1HM6y6>

Here's a spreadsheet summary, thanks almost entirely to Paul Reisberg, Acton resident and member of [Elders Climate Action](#) (ECA) ECA is a member of the Acton Climate Coalition.

[Some IRA Incentives relevant to Acton](#)

IRA Incentives						MA Incentives		
Transportation	When	\$ clean vehicle credit	Income Conditions	Vehicle Cost \$	Other Conditions	\$ Rebate	Vehicle Cost	Other Conditions
New Cars	2023-2032	7,500, but in two parts as below. Also available at point of sale.	<150K individual	80K SUVs, Vans, Pickups	North America final assembly Fuel Cell OK	5,000	<55K	No PHEVs
			<300K couple	55K sedan Hatch	>7KWh battery	point of sale (maybe not til 2024)		
	2023	3,750			Batteries 40% (by value) critical minerals extracted, processed or recycled North America or free trade partner, not China Russia After 2024			
	2024-2027				incr by 10%/yr			
	2023	additional 3750			Battery Components 50% (by value) manufactured or assembled in North America or free trade partner, not China Russia After 2023			
	2024-2029				incr 10%/yr			

Used Cars	2023-2032	lower of 4,000 or 30%	<75K	<25K	> 2yrs old, dealerships only, 1st resale, no battery rules	5,000	<55K	No PHEVs
			<150K couple			point of sale		
	2024->	point of sale						
Commercial Vehicles	2023-	lower of 30% or \$4,000 (or \$40,000 if over 14,000 lbs)						
Buildings	What	When	Tax credit	Other Requirements		Mass Save	What	Other Conditions
Residential Clean Energy Tax Credit	Solar (PV or water Heating), Ground based Heat Pumps, House Batteries	2023-2032	30%			10,000	Air-Source Heat Pump	Zero Emmission
		2033	26%			15,000	Ground Source	
		2034	24%			1,500	Integrated Controls	
Residential Energy Efficiency Tax Credit	Central A/C, Windows, Electric Panels, High efficiency fossil furnaces - water heaters - boilers	2023-2032	30% up to \$600/yr			750	Heat Pump water heaters	
	electric or gas heat pumps, biomass	2023-2033	30% up to \$2000/yr					

	stoves & boilers							
HOMES program	Retrofits	2023->	up to 50% \$4000 cap (low income 80% 8000 cap) based on energy savings	35% energy savings for full credit, \$400,000 cap multifamily, can combine with above tax credits. details TBD				
High Efficiency Electric Home Rebate HEEH	income based rebates	2023->	\$8,000 heatpump \$4000 panel \$2500 wiring \$1750 Heatpump water heater \$1600 insulation \$840 electric stove or dryer	<80% Area Medium Income, <150% AMI (~\$200K) get 1/2 rebate, cap \$14000/unit, can't combine with other federal, can combine with Mass Save				
New Energy Efficient Home Credit	for developers	2023->		\$5,000	Energy Star Residential New Construction requirements or Zero Energy Ready Homes			
Commercial Buildings Energy Efficiency Tax Deduction	tax deduction	improved	\$1/sq foot, \$5/sq ft if meet wage and apprenticeship requirements	must provide 50% reduction in energy cost, 1/2 tax deduction if 25% cost reduction				
Municipalities	Payment	To Do						
tax credits solar wind storage	Direct Pay	look for sites consultants, partner groups rules						
Adoption of stretch Building codes	Money to help							

If benefits low income	20% bonus	for eligibility, bring projects to shovel ready							
green bank									
workforce development									