



Reading Massachusetts

Advisory Committee on Cities for Climate Protection
Program (ACCCP)

*Reading Neighbors' Climate and Energy Campaign
(Reading NCEC)*

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Reading Massachusetts Climate Action Plan Update

February 24th, 2009

Note: Refer to the original Reading Massachusetts Climate Action Plan for a complete listing of Actions and references <http://home.comcast.net/~tsopchak/page0002.htm>.

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Municipal No-Idling Policy Update

Original RCAP Recommendations:

The Town of Reading should educate employees regarding its No-Idling Policy for municipal operations, as well as the town as a whole, which endorses minimal idling, and refers to the no-more-than-5-minute idling time mandated by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The primary method of communication should be through educational programs.

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Actions Taken:

ACCCP: > Proposed the first draft of the No Idling policy for the town.
> Designed the 'No Idling' curb-side signs.

> Recommended the Town Manager enforce the No Idling law with all contractors working in Reading.

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Town: > Adopted a No Idling policy that has been implemented throughout Reading's municipal sector.

DPW: > Installed 'No Idling' curb-side signs at Town Hall.

Next Steps & Further Recommendations:

DPW: > Install 'No Idling' curb-side sign at the Public Library once the garden redesign work is complete.

Town: > Further encourage all town employees, particularly those of the RMLD, the DPW and the RPD, to minimize their idling time.

ACCCP: > Feature the Municipal No Idling project in an RCTV program within the year.

School-wide No-Idling Policy Update

Original RCAP Recommendations:

In order to be consistent with the Municipal No-Idling Policy, the Town of Reading should implement the 'No-Idling' Policy within the school district. A program to address parents dropping off or picking up their children at school each day should also be developed. This program should include educational materials and signage at the schools. School principals and teachers should be enlisted to educate the children and parents about the pollution from idling vehicles and the associated health and environmental risks. Pilot the program at least at one school at the start of the school year in the fall and then implement the revised program throughout the school system.

Actions Taken:

ACCCP: > Designed 'No Idling' curb-side signs.

> Created 'No Idling' car window decals and distributed 100 to each middle and elementary school.

ACCCP & School Superintendent: > Developed and implemented a No Idling parent pledge program in Reading's elementary and middle schools in October 2008.

DPW: > Installed 'No Idling' curb-side signs at all schools.

Schools: > Paid for the 'No Idling' signs and distributed pledge materials.

Next Steps & Further Recommendations:

ACCCP: > Check in with the schools to assess the success of the program and offer whatever help they may need. Preliminary observation indicates that parents have reduced their idling behavior.

ACCCP: > Feature the School-wide No Idling project in an RCTV program within the year.

Looped Bus Service Update

Original RCAP Recommendations:

The Town of Reading should apply for the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Suburban Mobility Grant for a local shuttle bus to be used by residents of Reading (and possibly surrounding towns) for transportation in and around town. To maximize fuel efficiency and minimize emissions, the town should investigate using a hybrid, bio-diesel or other alternative fueled bus. In addition, the shuttle bus driver should be trained and instructed to drive in a fuel-efficient manner.

Actions Taken:

ACCCP/Town: > Applied for and were awarded a Boston MPO Suburban Mobility Grant for \$365,000 to partially fund the first three years of service of an around-town shuttle. The grant requires the Town to match a portion of the cost of service during these years to facilitate the town's ability to assume full financial responsibility by year four of service.

Town: > Asked the Boston MPO to postpone the grant, due to the housing and stock market collapse and ensuing global economic crisis that occurred in the fall of 2008, until the town could assess its financial situation in the wake of the crisis.

ACCCP: > Prepared a shuttle presentation for November Town Meeting but, due to uncertainty in the town budget for the coming year, postponed it in hopes that the town would be on more sure financial footing and be able to support the shuttle by April's Town Meeting.

Next Steps & Further Recommendations:

Town: > Ensure the grant is still viable when the town is able to support the grant

ACCCP: > Review the Parking Study Recommendations Report and determine if any alternate funding leads exist that could be followed through once development in town proceeds.

Municipal Employee Commute Program Update

Original RCAP Recommendations:

The Town of Reading should implement a “Green Commuter Program” in Reading in an effort to educate its employees about the financial and environmental benefits of commuting using means other than single-occupancy-vehicles, such as ride-sharing, walking or biking. A “Green Commuter” should be an employee who uses these modes of travel for commuting at least 25% of the time.

The town should develop and submit an application to the Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to develop a Transportation Management approach to help with employee commuting. This can be combined with a community program.

Some aspects of the plan could include but are not limited to:

- Each town building should have its own appointed commuter transportation contact who would oversee the implementation strategies among building employees.
- Each building should have a commuter bulletin board that would display commuter transportation needs. The board should contain tips for Green Commuters, such as insurance company rate reductions for motorists who drive fewer miles during rush hours.
- Where possible, establish a “work from home” program for those employees who have jobs that can be done remotely (e.g. once every 2 weeks implemented on a trial basis).
- A ride home should be guaranteed to Green Commuters who may need to work late.
- Each town department or building should provide a means of transportation that Green Commuters can use during the workday for errands. Such a vehicle could perhaps be a ZipCar type option.
- Encourage employees to make use of the Community Ride-Share Program when it becomes available.

The town should explore ways to reward for Green Commuters, for example:

- Privileged parking, where possible (e.g. Reading High School)
- A free town compost sticker for employees who live in town
- Other

Actions Taken:

- ACCCP:
- > Investigated and recommended the Mass Rides program to the town.
Mass Rides is a program from the Massachusetts Executive Offices of Transportation. It allows town employees to access MassRIDES' database to find ridesharing opportunities within the approximate 1000 town municipal employee pool. The program includes a guaranteed ride home for carpoolers.
 - > Arranged to have a Mass Rides representative come to Reading and give an informational presentation about the program and its benefits to the town manager and department heads.
 - > Act as the Mass Rides coordinator for the town.

- Town: > Joined the town MassRIDES rideshare program on the recommendation of the ACCCP.
> Encouraged employees to make use of the MassRIDES program.

Next Steps & Further Recommendations:

- Town: >Work to increase the participation of town employees in the Mass Rides program. Investigate why the programs aren't being more fully utilized.
- ACCCP: > Encourage the Reading School Department, who could be a major contributor, and town employees to participate in the MassRIDES program.
> Feature the Municipal Employee Commute Action, particularly Mass Rides, in an RCTV program within the year.
> Investigate the use of informal carpooling arrangements for school clubs and sports teams for transport to their out-of-town events.
> Explore the viability of ZipCar as part of the 40R development plans.
- Mass Rides: > Create a zipcode map of all potential Reading employees to facilitate greater participation.

Town By-Laws & Master Plan Review Update

Original RCAP Recommendations:

The ACCCP should review the existing by-laws and perhaps the by-laws of other towns to determine where modifications would be most effective to achieve emissions reductions.

Actions Taken:

- ACCCP: Reviewed the town's zoning bylaws and determined that the most relevant portions are: (http://www.ci.reading.ma.us/Pages/ReadingMA_Clerk/zoning%20by-laws.pdf)
- 4.3: Use Regulations / Supplementary Requirements:
 - 4.3.3: Site Plan Review:
 - § 4.3.3.5 Contents of Plan:

[The Plan contents requirements could include more energy efficiency focus].
 - § 4.3.3.6: Approval [contains requirements for trees, could be strengthened].
 - 4.3.3.6a: *Minimize the volume of cut and fill, the number of removed trees 6" caliper or larger, the length of removed stone walls, the area of wetland vegetation displaced, the extent of storm water flow from the site, soil erosion, and the threat of air and water pollution;*
 - 4.3.3.6b: *Maximize pedestrian and vehicular safety both on the site and approach/egression from it;*
 - 4.6: Mixed Use Overlay District:

Deleted: 4.3.3.5.1: Five (5) separate plans prepared at a scale of one (1) inch equals twenty (20) feet or forty (40) feet or such suitable scale as may be approved by the CPDC. The plans are as follows: ¶
<#>4.3.3.5.1b Topography and drainage plan, which shall contain the existing and proposed final topography at two-foot intervals and plans for handling storm water drainage, including resource area delineation.¶
<#>4.3.3.5.5: Topography and drainage plan, which shall contain the existing and proposed final topography at two-foot intervals and plans for handling storm water drainage, including resource area delineation.¶

- 4.6.6: Mixed Use Developments:
 - § 4.6.6.5: Granting of Relief From Parking Regulations: [There are many opportunities to strengthen these provisions, including by adopting some the recommendations of the parking consultant's report]
- 4.7: Municipal Building Reuse District
 - 4.7.5: Site Plan Review
 - § 4.7.5d: *Adequate waste disposal and surface and subsurface water drainage:* [This part has provisions to invite the Building Inspector, Conservation Commission, Historical Commission, Department of Public Works, Board of Health, Police Department, Fire Department and other appropriate authorities to review the proposal and make recommendations to the Community Planning and Development Commission. The rules could include further similar provisions to incorporate other departments as part of site reviews to incorporate more climate-protective requirements].
- 4.9: Planned Unit Development:
 - 4.9.2: Overlay Districts:
 - [more opportunities for less private and more public transportation development should be incorporated].

Deleted: In those instances where the Applicant has made a concerted effort to provide all the required number of parking spaces and is unable to do so, the CPDC may allow the applicant to pay an impact fee of \$20,000 for each parking space not provided. The money shall be deposited into a separate account and may only be used for short or long term parking solutions for the Town in the Mixed Use Overlay District.

Deleted: The Community Planning and Development Commission shall

Deleted: The Community Planning and Development Commission shall have the power to approve, disapprove, approve with conditions or suggest modifications or recommendations to the plan or to any subsequent reviews to the plan. Any disapproval shall indicate what modifications to the plan would make it acceptable to the Community Planning and Development Commission. This power shall in no way eliminate, decrease or abrogate the powers of any other board, committee, commission or other authority having legal jurisdiction. It shall be the duty and responsibility of the applicant to secure any and all permits, licenses and approvals necessary to the project. Copies of the detailed decision of the Community Planning and Development Commission shall be transmitted to both the applicant and the Zoning Board of Appeals within thirty days after said Commission closes the public hearing for Site Plan Review.

Deleted: <#>4.9.2.1: Definitions:¶ 4.9.2.1c: Commercial: A use or structure that is used other than for residential, public, quasi-public or heavy industrial purposes.

Next Steps & Further Recommendations:

- ACCCP: > Determine how the by-laws could be modified to support Reading's climate goals
 > Investigate Reading's potential to receive Regional GreenHouse Gas Initiative cap and trade funds
- Town: > Put together a team to determine the feasibility of Reading as a candidate for the Green Communities Act funding. Members should include but not limited to Mary Delai, an ACCCP representative and an RMLD representative

Municipal Purchasing Policy Modifications Update

Original RCAP Recommendations:

Town Procurement policies should include language to address the purchasing of fuel-efficient vehicles and to reflect the town's environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) policy. In addition to fuel efficient vehicles, the policy should include requirements for purchasing only ENERGY STAR products (when available), LED exit and holiday lights and products that are reusable or have high-recycled content.

Reading should keep its environmental procurement policy up to date for all town department procurement procedures, to address municipal purchasing decisions.

The policies should include guidelines that all town purchases of energy-consuming products such as computers will, at a minimum, meet U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR(r) criteria standards, where applicable. The town should use its policy to publicize the concept of EPP to residents,

keep and periodically publish a current list of categories of commonly used appliances and their energy consumption ranges and undertake periodic energy audits to evaluate existing levels of energy efficiency and identify new steps that could be taken to improve efficiency. By replacing older equipment and appliances with more efficient ones, Reading will continually reduce energy usage.

The town municipal fleet should incorporate vehicles that emit the lowest green house gases (GHGs) and air pollutants per mile while simultaneously obtaining the highest miles per gallon of fuel. The policy should require that vehicles be selected that emit the least amount of greenhouse gases per year based on expected miles driven. Vehicles considered will come from an investigation of the latest vehicles offered and the ease in refueling them.

Actions Taken:

- ACCCP: > Drafted language for the town to include in its purchasing policy to address the purchasing of fuel-efficient vehicles and to reflect the town's environmentally preferable purchasing (EPP) policy.
> Compiled a list of energy efficient appliances as part of the 2008 1-2-3 Pledge that called for residents to reduce their electricity consumption by 10% over the course of the year. This list was made available to the town.
- Town: > Continually makes every effort to purchase appropriately sized and fuel-efficient vehicles as well as environmentally preferable products. However, with the policy changes this practice will become standard throughout the town now and in the future.
> Put plans in place to pilot a municipal virtual desktop system in the Town Hall, whereby computers will be connected to a main server and each personal computer will require only a keyboard and monitor. This system will save energy and money.

Next Steps & Further Recommendations:

- Town: > Publicize the concept of EPP to residents.
> Make ACCCP information, such as the 2008 1-2-3 Pledge energy efficient appliance hand-out, available to residents and employees through such avenues as the town website and table displays.
> Follow ESCO conservation recommendations as they apply to purchasing decisions and policy.
- RMLD: > Educate and encourage residents to make energy efficient purchases and publicize their free home energy audits.
- ACCCP: > Evaluate the relevance of the Electronic Product Environment Assessment Tool (EPEAT) to town electronics. EPEAT is a system to help purchasers in the public and private sectors evaluate, compare and select desktop computers, notebooks and monitors based on their environmental attributes. (<http://www.epeat.net/>).

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Public Outreach & Education Programs Update

Original RCAP Recommendations:

The ACCCP should continue to implement and further expand the following activities:

ACCCP Communication Tools

- “Green Sense” Articles – Weekly newspaper articles with an educational focus on ideas that help residents learn how to reduce their energy use and climate changing emissions and education on the topic of climate change. Topics range from describing the latest news and information on climate change science, and ways to decrease home energy use to energy saving landscaping practices.
- 1-2-3 Pledge – In 2006, ACCCP launched the first annual emissions reduction pledge. With the 1-2-3 pledge, residents are asked to pledge to take Actions to reduce their emissions. The overall goal for 2006 of 400 tons of CO₂ was achieved. Because of the impact from transportation measured with Milestone 1, the 2007 1-2-3 Pledge focused on options to decrease emissions from vehicle use. A business pledge will be introduced in future years Business 1-2-3 Annual Pledge.
- Website – In 2006, ACCCP launched its website to educate residents about our committee and other environmental improvements happening in town. Green Sense columns are included for reference, Town Meeting actions, our CCP progress reports and our Action Plan are included on the ACCCP website.
- RCTV Programs – The ACCCP plans to take advantage of RCTV resources by developing climate change and energy efficiency educational programs. ACCCP should also investigate high school video classes that might assist with public service announcements.
- ACCCP works with RMLD to include articles in RMLD’s *In Brief* publication.
- ACCCP has developed and will identify future opportunities for information displays at frequented town locations such as: the Reading Public Library, Town Hall and the RMLD. The Reading Public Library is one of the main means by which citizens obtain information. The ACCCP should discuss with the RMLD director and the RMLB whether an energy information stipend could be allocated to the four public libraries in towns served by the RMLD. Some ideas for library displays and information include:
 - ✓ An energy resource bank
 - ✓ Expert speakers on the subject of climate change and its ramifications
 - ✓ An energy savings column in the library’s monthly newsletter
 - ✓ Displays on global warming, energy conservation, and remedies for climate change

Other Town of Reading Communication Avenues

- Inserts in Town of Reading mailings
- Town of Reading automobile excise tax bill (e.g. information about fuel efficient car choice), if permissible by law
- Town of Reading Water and Sewer bill (subject to postage limits)
- RMLD electricity bill

- o Community Connections Newsletter (a quarterly newsletter)
- o Edline, communication via schools' websites

ACCCP and Town of Reading Sponsored Community Events

- Earth Day – In 2007, ACCCP held its first annual Earth Day festival that included a movie night and a community fair. Community groups, including local businesses, school groups, watershed organizations and walking groups hosted tables at the fair. ACCCP intends to make this an annual event.
- Change-A-Light Campaign – In 2006 ACCCP promoted Congressman Tierney's Change-A-Light Campaign in Reading and encouraged residents to change over their incandescent bulbs to CFLs. RMLD has picked up this Campaign.
- Conversation on Climate – In 2007, ACCCP brought together community groups involved in local emissions reductions to participate in the National Conversation on Climate. Groups were able to compare notes and find ways to synergize their efforts by assisting each other and reducing redundancy. Continued town-wide forums of this kind are being considered on a bi-annual or annual basis.
- Town of Reading events, such as Friends and Family Day and the Holiday Tree Lighting day.

Other Opportunities to Support Action

- Instructional motions to ask for Town Meeting to sponsor actions. This will be an ongoing means of assessing support and promoting action
- Funding through various grant opportunities. The committee will continue to support grant applications and to look for outside funding opportunities.
- Warrant Articles and by-laws where appropriate.

Actions Taken:

- ACCCP: > Continued with its weekly Green Sense articles in the Reading Chronicle and Advocate.
- > Conducted the 2008 1-2-3 Pledge for residents to encourage their electric kWh usage reduction by 10% over a twelve-month period. The pledge was kicked-off at the annual Friends and Family day in June. The committee handed out tote bags to the first 175 pledgers. To date, 183 residents pledged to reduce their electricity by 10%, thus saving 88 tons of CO₂ this year.
- > Continued to keep the ACCCP website current as it has become a wealth of information on climate change and the ACCCP and Town's efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- > Held the second annual ACCCP Earth Day Fair which featured more displays and participants. The 2008 fair hosted an electronic drop off, sponsored by Reading Recycles, which was a great success

- > ACCCP has a member on both the Reading Public Schools Conserve and Reading Energy Committees.
- > Began the planning and education necessary to produce a pilot RCTV program.
- > Applied for grants for an around-town Shuttle Bus and LED lights. See related Actions for more details.
- > Attended various energy conservation and climate change seminars and meetings.

Next Steps & Further Recommendations:

- ACCCP: > Air the pilot ACCCP RCTV program by June.
- > Create an energy resource bank for residents.
 - > Explore how and if to participate in the 2009 Conversation on Climate
- Town: > Determine how best to incorporate ACCCP information, or links to the ACCCP website, into the town website.

Non-motorized Transport to School Program Update

Original RCAP Recommendations:

The schools and the Police Department should proceed with their plans to pilot the Safe-Routes-To-School program at Parker Middle School and Eaton Elementary School and then expand the program to more schools until all Reading schools are at a high participation level.

An attempt should be made to measure how many children begin walking or biking to school as well as to estimate the reduction in vehicle trips or number of miles traveled by automobiles.

The Massachusetts Safe Routes to School (SRTS) program educates students, parents and community members on the value of walking and bicycling for travel to and from school and aims to reduce congestion, air pollution, and traffic congestion near participating schools.

ACCCP should

- Link the benefits of this Action to the School-wide No Idling Policy Action
- Assist and publicize the progress and success of the program.
- Display the environmental benefits of this program at Safe Routes events.

Actions Taken:

- Schools: > Joshua Eaton Elementary and Parker Middle School joined MassRIDES Safe Routes-to-School program in 2007, with Barrows, Killam and Wood End Elementary following in 2008.
- Parker Middle: > Won an award for innovation in the SRTS program, for a dance party to celebrate their successes. They also have been awarded an infrastructure analysis and possible construction grant through the Executive Office of Transportation, SRTS.

- Reading: > Was selected as a host site for a MassBike bike rodeo (Oct 11, 2008), with safety training provided by MassBike staff.
- ACCCP: > Featured Green Sense columns on Bike week, walking to school and the Bike Rodeo
- RPD: > Piloting a park-nearby program for Killam School.

Next Steps & Further Recommendations:

- RPD: > Plans to monitor and enforce the traffic safety at schools during drop off and pick up to help curb some of the traffic infractions that have been reported.
- Schools: > Meetings with Birch Meadow Elementary and Coolidge Middle Schools are scheduled to include these schools in the program.
- Town: > Continue working to keep walking routes clear of snow for winter walking to school.
- ACCCP: > Continue to help with publicity through Green Sense articles.
 > Feature the Non-Motorized Transport to School Action in an RCTV program within the year and link the benefits of this Action to the School-wide No Idling Action.

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Deleted: Extend the program to the Barrows and

Community Energy Conservation Programs Update

Original RCAP Recommendations:

RMLD should increase efforts on their existing energy conservation programs, and consider expanding programs in both the residential and commercial sectors. RMLD should institute a campaign that encourages all customers to reduce their energy load 10% by 2012 (to meet Reading’s goal). RMLD should extend the promotion of its fuel blind energy audit, lighting and ENERGY STAR appliance rebate programs and renewable energy opportunities. RMLD’s programs will help identify energy reduction measures as well as mitigate some of the implementation costs. RMLD should take steps to accomplish the 10% energy reduction goal by:

Residential

Employing an Energy Efficiency Engineer (EEE) who is experienced and trained in energy conservation applications and programs, and whose main focus will be to:

- Promote and use energy audits as a tool to aid customers to identify and implement energy conservation measures.
- Perform home efficiency evaluations and audits.
- Work with residential customers via phone, email and in the field on conservation issues.
- Supply informational materials that outline available resources, contacts and energy conservation measures.
- Utilize RCTV as an outreach tool by airing How-To shows and advertising RMLD’s energy programs. Sponsor or hold workshops for homeowners, contractors and architects on implementing energy conservation measures.

- Involve the business community by partnering with a local home improvement center. The business could offer home energy efficiency courses and sell related products and they become a model in 'Green' design.
- Assess financing programs that might help fund residential energy improvements, for example, set up a revolving loan fund for energy efficiency and conservation efforts, paid back through billing of accounts at a rate reflective of energy savings (as Energy Service Companies (ESCO's) do).

Commercial/Industrial

RMLD's Key Account Managers should continue to promote and oversee Commercial/Industrial conservation initiatives by:

- Sponsoring or holding workshops for businesses on implementing energy conservation measures. These workshops could use vendors and/or partner with local home improvement centers.
- Continue marketing of energy audits, rebates, and demand side management programs.
- Continue supplying informational materials that outline available resources, contacts and how-to implement energy conservation measures.

General

The RMLD should:

- Maintain and upgrade their website with current conservation appropriate links (e.g. EPA sites) and interactive tools that aid customers in calculating energy savings and carbon footprint.
- Continue to promote the EPA's Change-A-Light Change-The-World Campaign.
- Promote the use of ENERGY STAR qualified products.

Actions Taken:

- RMLD: > Created an Energy Efficiency Engineer (EEE) job position. The EEE will provide the knowledge and expertise to offer commercial and residential customers the solutions to become energy efficient. The EEE is capable of performing commercial and residential audits and offer the resources to follow through on audit recommendations and financial needs.
- > Expanded its conservation and efficiency rebate programs and is incorporating new renewable energy incentives.
- ACCCP: > Called for residents to reduce their home electricity use by 10% in the 2008 1-2-3 pledge. 183 residents pledged to reduce their electricity by 10%, thus saving 88 tons of CO₂ this year.

Next Steps & Further Recommendations:

- RMLD: > Fill the Energy Efficiency Engineer Position and institute new conservation and renewable programs.
- ACCCP: > Create related RCTV programs.

Municipal Energy Efficient Buildings Update

Original RCAP Recommendations:

The town should strive to exceed the 75th percentile of the EPA's ENERGY STAR benchmark database for each building wherever possible. The Energy and Facilities Services Manager (EFSM) should monitor the town's energy usage to ensure efficiency measures are working, and note any escalation in usage. Building managers should be supplied with monthly energy usage and cost data and should track use to ensure that energy management systems are functioning properly.

The town should continue to take advantage of the RMLD's Commercial Energy Audits, as well as any rebate programs to help mitigate the cost of energy efficiency upgrades.

The town should investigate the feasibility of co-generation technology in all municipal buildings.

As soon as possible, the town should commit to installing the most energy efficient technology available, such as ENERGY STAR products, compact fluorescent light bulbs and room occupancy sensors. See the Municipal Purchasing Policy Modification Action for more details.

The education program devised by Reading's Energy Committee should be implemented to increase town employees' awareness of energy conservation issues and practices. The link between the implementation of energy-saving measures and CO₂ reduction will be highlighted. By providing an educational forum and highlighting specific measures, employees will be empowered to modify their individual energy use and identify financial and environmental savings to the town. For example, employees would be encouraged to turn off office, restroom, and other lights when not in use or when natural lighting is sufficient. Turning off desktop computers during lunch breaks and at the end of day, as well as setting them to hibernate mode, when appropriate, would also be encouraged. Education, along with corresponding action, will help maximize the town's energy savings and cut costs. These same strategies are to be applied to the schools by teaching children energy conservation practices.

The School Department Energy Manager and Facilities Director should implement the energy efficiency upgrades and improvements recommended by the Energy Committee to municipal buildings and schools.

The ACCCP should coordinate efforts with the School Climate Change Educational Program and investigate the possibility of raising public funds to be used for co-generation equipment on town buildings.

Actions Taken:

Town EFSM: > *Energy and Facilities Services Manager*: Benchmarked all municipal buildings through the EPA ENERGY STAR program (which is based on energy consumption, operating characteristics, and management practices of buildings in the US). By benchmarking municipal buildings, the town can quantify results from strategies implemented in its efforts to reduce energy usage and costs.

- RMLD: > Audited most of the municipal buildings, with the exception of those most recently built, and provided occupancy sensors to be used throughout the municipal buildings.
- Town: > Completed many low-to-no-cost actions and calculated energy reductions to average approximately 10% over the first 12 months. Contracted with an Energy Services Company (ESCO) to audit all municipal buildings and make proposals for efficiency and conservation measures.

Next Steps & Further Recommendations:

- Town: > Review and adopt appropriate ESCO recommendations.
- ACCCP: > Keep abreast of the town's decisions and look for ways to assist their efforts.
- > Feature the Municipal Energy Efficient Buildings Action in an RCTV program within the year.

School Climate Change Educational Program Update

Original RCAP Recommendations:

Reading's schools should:

- Continue to assess where climate science and energy fit into the curriculum and incorporate as appropriate.
- Encourage teachers to join the MassDEP Greenteam.
- Partner with existing environmental education programs to help develop and implement education on climate change, environmental protection, and energy conservation. These topics should be incorporated into the public school curriculum at different grade levels and continually reinforced. School programs would provide resources that discuss specific climate change issues with a focus on positive solutions.
- Incorporate hands-on learning projects such as monitoring light or electricity usage in school or monitoring automobile usage at home. Provide a diversity of learning opportunities for students.
- Take advantage of other town resources such as the RMLD (energy conservation), the DPW (water conservation and recycling) and the Police Department (Safe Routes to School program).

The ACCCP should:

Continue to assist the schools in promoting no idling, recycling in the schools, and walking to school.

Develop (educational) project descriptions to help students identify ways they can assist the town in assessing and meeting its greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

Actions Taken:

- RPSC: Reading Public Schools Conserve: This is a newly formed action committee with members representing each Reading school, the RMLD and the ACCCP. It was initiated to bring across-the-board conservation measures into the schools. The goal

of RPSC is to educate and engage students in conservation activities, which will be incorporated into the schools. The focus for 2009 is *awareness* (topic: plastic bottle waste), *recycling*, and *energy conservation*.

Next Steps & Further Recommendations:

RPSC: > Implement school/student programs.

Police Units on Bicycles Update

Original RCAP Recommendations:

The Reading Police Department (RPD) should continue and augment their use of bicycles for regular patrols any time that weather permits.

In addition, the police department should plan to have officers on bicycles during visible town events such as Friends and Family Day, the annual Tree Lighting, summer concerts and parades.

Actions Taken:

RPD: > Actively utilizes the Police Bike Patrol as funding and manpower allow. RPD is very supportive of this program.
> Attended ACCCP Earth Day Fair, Friends and Family Day and other town events to conduct a bike helmet give-away and fitting for kids.

Next Steps & Further Recommendations:

RPD: > Continue to use Police Bike Patrol as funding and manpower allow.

LED Light Replacement Program Update

Original RCAP Recommendations:

The Town of Reading should:

- When purchasing new fixtures, select LED exit signs.
- When specifying new fixtures, specify LED exit signs.
- When replacing incandescent lamps in existing fixtures, retrofit with LED lamps when cost effective.
- Replace all exit sign fixtures with LED fixtures.
- Recycle all fluorescent lamps appropriately.

The Town of Reading should re-evaluate the return on investment of replacing the following types of lights with LED lights:

- Traffic lights The red traffic light should be the highest priority since it is the most used light in a traffic signal.
- Exit Signs In all municipal buildings
- Holiday Lights Continue to work with the Chamber of Commerce to replace the town center holiday lights with LED.

Actions Taken:

- Town: > Reading's Route 28 Traffic Lights have been upgraded to LED as the redevelopment of the Downtown area is underway.
- > Was awarded a grant to replace four traffic light systems with LEDs, however the state did not fund the grant when it was determined that the amount applied for would not cover all the lights.
- RMLD: > Updated RMLD's Commercial Lighting Rebate Program to incorporate the upgrade to LED Exit signs.

Next Steps & Further Recommendations:

- Town: > Continue to look for grants for LED replacements.
- RMLD: > Continue to promote the Commercial Lighting Rebate Program.