



Green Decade / Cambridge

P.O. Box 400353
Cambridge, MA 02140

info@greencambridge.org

June 12, 2007

School Committee
Cambridge Public Schools
454 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02138

Dear Members of the School Committee:

We are here tonight on behalf of Green Decade/Cambridge, a group of Cambridge residents concerned about climate disruption and taking action locally to support the city's Climate Protection Plan, with a stated goal of reducing the city's greenhouse gas emissions by 20% below 1990 levels by 2010.

We recommend that the upcoming renovations at the Cambridge Rindge and Latin High School meet or exceed the high performance achieved by the recent City Hall Annex renovations, namely Gold LEED certified standards. Major renovations of the high school mechanical systems and roof offer a prime opportunity for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving the indoor environment for teachers and students.

At the city hall annex, a ground source heat pump, heat recovery, natural daylighting, and solar photovoltaics were a few of the many energy efficient and sustainable features of the project. Because the high school is located next to a swimming pool, a cogeneration facility that generates electricity and uses the waste heat usefully to heat the pool might also make sense.

We will provide each of you with an informational packet that includes the numerous city council resolutions that support high performance buildings. Particularly because we are concerned with a school, where Cambridge youth are busy preparing for their future, every effort must be made in this renovation so that the resulting building reflect a vision of a sustainable future for Cambridge.

Over the coming decades, Cambridge youth will address the challenge of even greater greenhouse gas reductions of 80% by 2050, as recommended by international policy leaders

and endorsed by the Cambridge City Council this year. We ask that Cambridge give our youth a school building that empowers and inspires them to achieve this task.

We would like to mention a few of the projects that Cambridge students are conducting now that prepare them for a sustainable future. We are thankful to the many teachers who make this possible, and want you to remember that a high performance high school will support their efforts: a circuits and efficient lighting project in fourth grade, the solar car project in 5th or 6th grade, the water wheel or windmill project in ninth grade, water resources and Charles River studies in middle school, field trips to the Farm School, the City Sprouts gardens and associated lessons, and school fundraisers that have distributed nearly 10,000 compact fluorescent light bulbs in Cambridge.

Green Decade / Cambridge has been doing tabling at community events for several years to promote fluorescent lighting, distributing several hundred each year, so we are grateful for this help and impressed by the number of bulbs that the students were able to get out into the community. Parents who have done full home replacements have seen their electric bill go down. Students have a better understanding of sources of electricity and their associated problems.

We are excited about the new educational opportunities offered by a high performance school renovation. Green Decade / Cambridge participated in the recent New England Wind Fund matching grant community challenge that resulted in the City of Cambridge winning two 2 kilowatt solar photovoltaic arrays. We hope that these installations will go on buildings (one being the high school?) where they are highly visible and inspiring to our youth. But let's not stop at 4 kilowatts. Newton South High School has a 60 kilowatt array. The energy of the future will move beyond fossil fuels, and will include better energy efficiency and renewable energy sources. Teaching the youth about these emerging technologies and providing them with an exemplary high performance school building will open up their futures.

Thank you for your consideration and support,

Sue Butler Alison Field-Juma Gordon MacFarland
Kathy Reine Keren Schlomy Sam Seidel John Tagiuri

Green Decade / Cambridge Board

cc: City Manager Bob Healey and Assistant City Manager Rich Rossi

RELEVANT INFORMATION AND CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

In the United States, buildings account for:

- 36% of total energy use
 - 65% of electricity consumption
 - 30% of greenhouse gas emissions
 - 30% of raw materials use
 - 30% of waste output —136 million tons annually
 - 12% of potable water consumption
- (Source: [U.S. Green Building Council](#))

“Recognizing that a building’s initial construction costs represent only 20-30 percent of the building’s entire costs over its 30-40 year life, emphasis should be placed on the “life cycle costs” of a public building rather than on solely its initial capital costs.” (U.S. Conference of Mayors Challenge 2030) Construction cost savings that require more energy use in the future are not true savings, but rather deferred and externalized costs.

Our CRLS architects are doing LEED Building:

HMFH Architects-Capuano School in Somerville first LEED registered school in Massachusetts
HMFH Architects-Cost Benefit Analysis of Green School Buildings for MTC

Our neighbors are doing it:

Town of Arlington has resolved that new building and major renovation will be LEED Silver certified.
City of Boston has resolved the same, LEED Silver certification.
Somerville has first LEED registered school in Massachusetts

Let’s support the City of Cambridge Climate Protection Plan and related Council Resolutions that have come before:

- City Climate Protection Plan
- 2004 Green Building resolution
- 2005 20% by 2010 renewable electricity resolution
- 2006 support for Conference of Mayors and AIA “Challenge 2030”
- 2007 unanimous support for 80% Greenhouse Gas Reductions by 2050 resolution

Attachments:

- 1-2 LEED-relevant pages of City Climate Plan
- 3-7 excerpts from City Climate Plan Annual Report 2005
- 8-9 2004 City Council Green Building Resolution
- 10-11 2005 City Council 20% by 2010 renewable electricity resolution
- 12-14 2006 City Council support for U.S. Conference of Mayors and AIA Challenge 2030
- 15-17 2006 U.S. Conference of Mayors Challenge 2030 Resolution
- 18 Town of Arlington MA LEED Silver commitment in By-Laws
- 19-20 City of Boston press release LEED Silver commitment is Mayoral Executive Order. For more information: Bryan Glascock, 617-635-3850, Boston Director of the Environment Department.
- 21 2007 City Council support for 80% Greenhouse Gas Reductions by 2050
- 22-24 2007 U.S. Conference of Mayors Resolution II

Green Decade / Cambridge

P.O. Box 400353
Cambridge, MA 02140

info@greencambridge.org