

Petitioned Article for 2019 Truro Annual Town Meeting

Article ___: To Establish a Truro Climate Action Committee

To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution, or take any other action relative thereto:

Whereas, the voters of Truro, at the Annual Town Meeting of 2013, overwhelmingly passed Article 33, “Resolution on the Climate Crisis,” which included the statement, “be it resolved that the citizens of Truro commit ourselves to meeting our individual and collective responsibility in the face of the increasing climate crisis”; and

Whereas, in the six years since, the crisis has deepened, and the necessity for large-scale, urgent action to protect and sustain our town, and life on earth, has reached emergency proportions; and

Whereas, sea level rise has already begun to impact our coastal beaches, our wetlands, and our low-lying developed properties; and will, in the coming years, cause salt intrusion upon our aquifer and put increasing portions of our tax base underwater; and

Whereas, storms, which cause major erosion along our bay and ocean coasts, are expected to increase in frequency and intensity as climate change worsens; and

Whereas, climate change may wreak havoc upon our local, national, and global economy; and

Whereas, every aspect of life in Truro and every resident of Truro will be impacted in one way or another; and

Whereas, it can be difficult and overwhelming to think about the dangers that climate change poses to our environment, our community, our way of life, our well-being, our properties, and the lives of future generations, and to think about the sacrifices that addressing the climate crisis may require, but our best hope lies in facing those dangers together; and

Whereas, fear has stood in the way of acting to address the climate crisis, resulting in inaction that has only worsened the crisis;

Whereas, humanity still has a chance to mitigate climate change by reducing carbon emissions, increasing sequestration, and restoring ecosystems; and

Whereas, given the slowness of global and national authorities to respond to the crisis, localities everywhere must initiate their own powerful actions, and are already beginning to do so; and

Whereas, the resilience of our community will be measured by how all members join together in a spirit of participation and cooperation as we did when building Puma Park, and this process of creative collaboration will itself greatly benefit our quality of life;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Town of Truro, recognizing that action to address climate change is urgently needed, commits to begin working without delay on a local plan to address the climate crisis; and

Further, that the Board of Selectmen shall appoint a Climate Action Committee of at least 5 members, charged with (1) conducting or obtaining an assessment of Truro's carbon footprint; (2) conducting or obtaining an assessment of Truro's vulnerabilities to the consequences of climate change; (3) identifying local, regional, state, and national resources and potential partners that can assist Truro in planning and implementing mitigation and adaptation actions to reduce Truro's carbon footprint and address its climate vulnerabilities; (4) conducting public education and outreach to residents, homeowners, business, and other stakeholders about Truro's carbon footprint and its climate vulnerabilities; and (5) drafting a climate action plan for Truro that sets 5-, 10-, and 25-year goals for reducing Truro's carbon footprint and its climate vulnerabilities to the maximum extent practicable; and

Further, that from this point forward the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manager, and all multi-member boards shall make factoring in climate change a routine part of their work and shall collaborate with the Climate Action Committee in

identifying and proposing changes in policies, practices, procedures, or bylaws to facilitate climate action; and

Further, that the Climate Action Committee shall each year provide an annual report describing its efforts and accomplishments.

Sign Name	Print Name	Street Address
1.		
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4.		
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8.		

Please support this effort by signing and mailing back to

Truro Climate
PO Box 1087
Truro, MA 02666

Or scan and email to truroClimate@gmail.com