

Memorandum



To: Natick Select Board
CC: Robert Rooney, Interim Town Administrator
James Errickson, Deputy Town Administrator, Operations
Leo Ryan, Chair, Sustainability Committee
From: Jillian Wilson Martin, Sustainability Coordinator
Date: February 3, 2021

Subject: Joint Comments from Municipalities on the Draft Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2030

Massachusetts has a target to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 45% below its 1990 levels by 2030. In December, the Baker Administration recently released a draft [Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2030](#) (2030 CECP), which provides details on the actions the Commonwealth will undertake to ensure the state's 2030 emissions limit is met, and it is currently requesting feedback from stakeholders.

In summary, the 2030 CECP establishes a blueprint for achieving this limit by advancing the decarbonization of the Commonwealth's buildings, transportation, and electricity sectors. The plan establishes policy at the state level that will support Natick's 2050 net zero goal (the same goal Governor Baker is seeking for Massachusetts), and builds on a number of the strategies proposed in Natick's Draft Net Zero Action Plan. The plan also identifies municipalities as a key partner in achieving its 2030 limit; however, it does little to explain how the state will work directly with communities in advancing shared goals.

In collaboration with the Town of Westborough, Natick helped draft the enclosed comments to the plan, which we are asking the Board to sign onto. The comments ask the Baker Administration to update the plan to:

- Establish a Municipal Version of the GWSA Implementation Advisory Committee
- Increase Funding for Municipal Climate Action
- Update the Building Code with a High-Performance Stretch Energy Code
- Align Funding for Public Buildings with Net Zero Goals
- Prioritize Public Transit in Transportation Emission Reduction Strategies
- Provide Resources to Accelerate Electrification Locally
- Increase Access to Emissions Data

Natick has asked other municipalities with strong climate goals to sign on to this joint feedback. Since distributing the comments last week, we have heard back from a number of communities, and are excited about the momentum in getting municipalities to sign on. Thus far, Framingham, Newton, Arlington, Chelmsford, Concord, Holliston, Lexington, Medfield, Natick, Northborough, Sherborn, Wayland, and Wellesley have either confirmed they will be signing or shared that they are in the process of reviewing the letter with relevant boards/committees.

The Sustainability Committee reviewed the letter at their meeting on February 2, 2021 and voted to recommend it to the Select Board. We respectfully request the Board's approval to allow the Chair of the Select Board to sign the document on behalf of Natick, in a final version reflecting participating communities' seals and names.

(Note, no changes to the main text will be made between now and the final version. The only changes will be the addition of community seals and the signature lines.)