

Committee for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (CEES)

Board Meeting Agenda
November 10, 2021
7:00pm – 8:30pm
GoToMeeting

Please join my meeting: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/810806229>
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Item	Agenda	Start Time
1	Call to Order: Welcome!	7:00 PM
2	Approval of the September 8, 2021, Meeting Minutes	7:00 PM
3	<p><u>Green Voices Society – Climate Emergency Declaration</u></p> <p>Background: The Town Council recently assigned CEES with reviewing a proposed climate emergency declaration that has been presented by the Green Voices Society. The Town Council has asked that CEES collaborate with GVS and provide guidance on next steps.</p> <p>Action Required: If possible, agree on a recommendation(s) to present to the Town Council.</p>	7:05 PM
4	<p><u>ARPA Project List</u></p> <p>Background: The Committee will continue reviewing opportunities to leverage American Rescue Plan Act funds to support sustainability projects/programming.</p> <p>Action Required: No action anticipated</p>	7:45 PM
5	<p><u>Ongoing Project/Policy Update(s)</u></p> <p>Background: Committee members and staff will provide updates on current projects. Those projects include: Electric Vehicles, LED Streetlight Conversion, Solar PPA, Community Solar Development, and municipal broadband.</p> <p>Action Required: No action required.</p>	8:15 PM
6	<p><u>Other Business</u></p> <p>Background: The Committee will reserve time for new topics for future discussion.</p> <p>Action Required: No action required.</p>	8:25 PM
7	<u>Adjourn</u>	8:30 PM

Packet Materials

- September 8, 2021, Meeting Minutes
- Green Voices Society Proposed Climate Emergency Resolution
- ARPA Funding Opportunities (One Climate Future Suggestions)

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Committee Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2021
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Board Members Present

- Toby Ahrens Peter Fromuth David Ertz Scott Sherriff Michael Sears
 Kurt Adams Chuck Parker Bill Dunn Anna Siegel (TC) Heather Abbott (TC)

Public in Attendance: Danielle Hood

Agenda Items

Approval of the July 14, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Toby Ahrens brought the September 8, 2021, CEES meeting to order at 7:00pm. Bill Dunn moved to accept the July 14, 2021, meeting minutes, as presented. David Ertz seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Before moving to the next item, the group welcomed Danielle Hood. Danielle is resident of Yarmouth and has interest in filling the committee's vacant seat. Danielle introduced herself and provided the group with her personal and professional background.

Remote Meeting Policy/Emergency Resolution

In response to the pandemic and its impact on in-person meetings, the Committee reviewed a remote meeting policy to allow, in certain circumstances, virtual participation in public meetings. The same policy had recently been adopted by the Town Council. After a short discussion, T. Ahrens moved to adopt the policy, as presented. Peter Fromuth seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Committee also considered declaring a limited emergency, due to increasing public health concerns. The emergency declaration would allow the committee to exclusively meet remotely. Given the increase in COVID cases and overall hesitancy to meet in person, B. Dunn moved to implement an emergency declaration. Chuck Parker seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Sligo Road Community Solar Project Update

Scott LaFlamme provided the Committee with a brief update on the Town's community solar development partnership at the CMP pole yard. Although the process was moving slow, progress was being made.

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ARPA Project List

With relief funds funneling to the State, County and Town through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to support public health and infrastructure improvements, the Committee explored sustainability-focused expenses that may be eligible for funding. Anna Siegel shared an analysis done by the City of Portland as part of their One Climate Future plan. The scope of projects ranged.

T. Ahrens suggested that the Committee review Portland's analysis and revisit the topic at the group's next meeting.

Ongoing Project/Policy Update(s)

D. Ertz and B. Dunn provided an overview of their visit to ReVision Energy's newest solar system in Acton. This site, along with another in Naples, will supply the Town with energy through its power purchase agreement. D. Ertz continues to coordinate with ReVision to schedule a tour of their Naples facility.

S. LaFlamme asked for volunteers to participate in a joint committee, tasked with exploring the future of Wyman Station.

Adjourn

The Committee adjourned upon mutual consent at 8:10pm.

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY
AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE
(as submitted by GVS)**

WHEREAS, in October 2018, the United Nations released a special report which projected that limiting warming to even the dangerous 1.5°C target this century will require an unprecedented transformation of every sector of the global economy by 2030; and

WHEREAS, climate change and the global industrialized economy's overshoot of ecological limits are driving the Sixth Mass Extinction of species, which could devastate the wildlife of Maine and the economy which relies on them, according to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services; and

WHEREAS, the death and destruction already wrought by current average global warming of 1°C demonstrate that the Earth is already too hot for safety and justice, as attested by devastating hurricane seasons, the California and Oregon fires, and mass climate migration; and

WHEREAS,

- 1) since 1950, the US has seen an increase in record high temperatures and a decrease in record low temperatures with each passing year, and
- 2) Our state has warmed about three degrees (F) since the year 1900, according to national climate assessments by the U.S. Global Change Research Program; and

WHEREAS, climate change has led to marked shifts in local seasonal temperature changes and thus threatens the natural ecosystems and weather patterns of Yarmouth economic activity such as tourism and seasonal recreation including snowshoeing and other outdoor activities, and public health due to increased local incidence of tick-borne illnesses such as Lyme Disease;

WHEREAS, the Gulf of Maine is warming 99% faster than other oceans around the world, and ocean acidification and warming ocean temperatures pose a serious economic and cultural risk to lobstering and other fishing industries in Yarmouth and across Maine; and

WHEREAS, as temperatures increase in Maine, the climate conditions suitable for the prosperity of spruce/fir forests are expected to decline, resulting in a loss for the \$1.4 billion pulp and paper industry, as spruce and fir species provide 20 percent of all pulpwood and 50 percent of all sawlogs harvested in Maine; and

[https://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/docs/NortheastClimateImpactsAssessment\(Main eSummary\).pdf](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/docs/NortheastClimateImpactsAssessment(Main%20eSummary).pdf)

WHEREAS, renewables produce about four-fifths of Maine's electricity net generation, and therefore a change in the electricity net generation of the Yarmouth community would be a change representing the future of net electricity consumption that is already being implemented statewide; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, solar generation from both utility-scale and small-scale facilities produced less than 1% of the state's electricity, leaving wide room for improvement on both a municipal and statewide basis, given that investment of renewable energy has been seen as future-proofing

as the United States shifts its economy to rely on clean energy; and

WHEREAS, Wyman Station, the largest power plant in the state of Maine;

1) sits idle except for a few days each year when there is peak demand and is likely to be a derelict hulk in coming years; and

ORIGINAL has been described as a “Casco Bay Blight” by the publication *DownEast*, and has been described by the same publication as a “source of soot and ash, electricity, and tax dollars”, and is looked down upon by the general public in terms of not only aesthetic appeal but remaining an archaic figure of an era of power production via oil,

2) and is a high valued property with deep water access, a bountiful property for energy production Yarmouth can be proud of; and

WHEREAS, rising sea levels due to climate change is an increasing flood and erosion danger, particularly to the island and coastal communities such as Cousins Island in Yarmouth and across the coast of Maine; and

WHEREAS, according to analysis via median local sea level projections based on the intermediate scenario from NOAA Technical Report NOS CO-OPS 083 (2017), intended for the 2018 U.S. National Climate Assessment; and

1) If sea levels were to rise just two feet, this selected sea level scenario points to a 100% risk of at least one flood over 2 feet taking place between today and 2050 in the Yarmouth area,

2) If seas were to rise 4 feet, the selected sea level scenario points to a 100% risk of at least one flood over 4 feet taking place between today and 2050 in the Yarmouth area;

WHEREAS, according to *Sea Level Rise and Casco Bay’s Wetlands: Yarmouth Edition*,

1) a 1-foot increase in sea level in the Royal River Area impacts with existing developed areas *can* be expected, specifically at boatyards and marinas, and wetland loss is predicted immediately along the river; and

2) a 3-foot increase in sea level would likely expand impacts to existing developed areas, including as well as parts of Grist Mill Park, the Royal River Boat Yard, and the public boat launch adjacent to I-295. In addition, that 3-foot increase in sea level would increase the amount of wetland loss adjacent to the river; and

WHEREAS, according to the same study, in the Cousins River & Pratts Brook Area,

1) a 1-foot increase in sea level may impact a small boatyard, and as well as the I-295 crossing along the northern road bank, and

2) a 3-foot increase in sea level would expand areas of conflict at the boatyard, a low-lying stretch of US Route 1, an additional road bank along I-295, and possibly two restaurants on Route 1; and

WHEREAS, according to the same study, a rise in 3 feet, the analysis predicts that existing tidal wetlands at the head of Broad Cove will be lost and that the “increased volume of water in the upstream marshes would likely increase the size of channel dimensions, putting further strain on the undersized culvert on Princes Point Road”; and

WHEREAS, according to flood risk projections and history are based on records from the NOAA water level station at Portland, “Yarmouth, ME has already experienced about 8 inches of sea-level rise over the last 103 years of records”; and

WHEREAS, over 1855 local, county, and national governments worldwide, have passed a declaration of Climate Emergency and committed to taking emergency action to restore a safe and stable climate, including five municipalities in Maine and counting; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires a Climate Mobilization: an emergency mobilization on a scale not seen since World War II in order to reach zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy, rapidly and safely drawdown and remove all the excess carbon from the atmosphere at emergency speed and with the utmost care until safe, pre-industrial climate conditions are restored, and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the impacts of abrupt climate breakdown; and

WHEREAS, such necessary measures to restore a safe climate include a rapid, just, managed phase-out of fossil fuels, ending greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible to establish a zero-emissions economy, a widespread effort to safely draw down excess carbon from the atmosphere, and an end to the Sixth Mass Extinction through widespread conservation and restoration of ecosystems; and

WHEREAS, Yarmouth, Maine can act as a leader in the State of Maine and worldwide through initiating an emergency Climate Mobilization to convert to an ecologically, socially, and economically regenerative local economy at emergency speed, as well as advocating for regional, national, and international efforts necessary to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis; and

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Town of Yarmouth, Maine declares that a climate and ecological emergency threatens our city, state, nation, civilization, humanity, and the natural world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Yarmouth commits to a city-wide mobilization effort to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, which, with appropriate financial and regulatory assistance from State and Federal authorities;

(a) Ends town--wide greenhouse gas emissions and initiates additional greenhouse gas drawdown efforts as quickly as possible and no later than December 31, 2030; prioritizing zero-carbon solutions for local electricity, heating, and transportation systems; and

(b) Ensures a just transition for local residents and accelerates local adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying local climate impacts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Yarmouth recognizes that the full participation, inclusion, support, and leadership of youth, community organizations, faith communities, academic institutions, Indigenous groups, labor organizations, and racial, gender, immigrant, and disability justice organizations and other allies are integral to the climate emergency response and mobilization efforts; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Yarmouth Town Council directs that an all-staff meeting be held to educate Yarmouth Municipal staff on the latest climate science, climate risk to Yarmouth and the surrounding area, and the mobilization of resources needed in response within four weeks of the date of this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Yarmouth Town Council directs all Yarmouth departments, proprietaries, and commissions to report back within 180 days of the date of the all-staff meeting referenced above on maximum emergency reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from their operations feasible by the end of 2030; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Yarmouth Town Council must report back on opportunities, within 60 days, for radical greenhouse gas emissions reductions through new local ordinances, building codes, and permitting processes facilitating the rapid phase-out of fossil fuel use and adoption of renewable energy within the community in collaboration with local organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Yarmouth Town Council will report back within 60 days on the establishment of a Yarmouth Climate Emergency Task Force, with representatives from town staff, local youth, and other stakeholders, responsible for collaboratively planning and coordinating the town's climate emergency response, including emergency climate mitigation, education, resilience and adaptation programs, and the development of a "Climate Mobilization Action Plan" to guide efforts to reach the goals stated in this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Yarmouth commits to designating at least 1% of its annual budget to accelerate greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the community and to hire staff to coordinate the implementation of the Yarmouth Mobilization Action Plan, including the rapid expansion of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainable transportation initiatives within its jurisdiction, as well as other projects to rapidly eliminate community-wide greenhouse gas emissions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Yarmouth commits to engaging our residents and local stakeholders in education and public deliberations on the climate emergency, ensuring that local voices will directly inform the creation of the Yarmouth Climate Mobilization Action Plan as well as ensure a just transition with the full democratic participation of the residents of Yarmouth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Yarmouth joins the global Climate Emergency Movement and calls on the State of Maine, the United States Congress, the President of the United States, and all governments and people worldwide to declare a climate emergency, initiate a Climate Mobilization to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, and provide maximum protection for all people and species of the world; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in furtherance of this resolution, the Town of Yarmouth shall submit a certified copy of this resolution to the County Commissioner's office, State Representatives, Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, Governor Janet Mills, and the newly convened Maine Climate Council and request that all relevant support and assistance in effectuating this resolution be provided.

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY
AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE
(Condensed and reduced version)**

WHEREAS, global climate change poses catastrophic perils to the natural, social, ecological, economic, cultural environment requiring the highest priority response and actions plans from all sectors of society and all levels of government; and

Whereas the adverse impacts of global climate change are projected to have profound negative implications for a wide variety of issues including but not limited to severe storms, hurricanes, flooding, wildfires, drought, loss of farm and grazing lands and food shortages, mud slides, loss of habitat and various species of plants and animals, significant sea level and inundation of coastal areas and communities; and

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires an extraordinary Climate Mobilization response in order to achieve zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy, rapidly and to safely drawdown and remove excess carbon from the atmosphere at emergency speed and with the utmost care until safe and sustainable climate conditions are restored, and to implement measures to protect all people and species from the impacts of abrupt climate breakdown; and

WHEREAS, Yarmouth, Maine can act as a leader in the State of Maine and worldwide through initiating an emergency Climate Mobilization to convert to an ecologically, socially, and economically regenerative local economy at emergency speed, as well as advocating for regional, national, and international efforts necessary to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis; and

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, the Town of Yarmouth, Maine declares that a climate and ecological emergency threatens our town, state, nation, civilization, humanity, and the natural world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Yarmouth commits to a town-wide mobilization effort to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis which would seek to reduce or eliminate greenhouse gas emissions from the Town of Yarmouth prioritizes zero-carbon solutions for local electricity, heating, and transportation systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Yarmouth recognizes that the full participation,

inclusion, support, and leadership of youth, community organizations, faith communities, academic institutions, Indigenous groups, labor organizations, and racial, gender, immigrant, and disability justice organizations and other allies are integral to the climate emergency response and mobilization efforts and encourages all such participation and engagement; and

BE IT ORDERED THAT THERE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED a Yarmouth Climate Emergency Task Steering Committee to be comprised of up to 11 members serving staggered 3-year terms, with stakeholder representatives to include a wide variety of ages, interests, socio-economic backgrounds, skills and expertise. Said Steering Committee members to be appointed initially by the Town Council as soon as practical and thereafter annually by the members of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee shall be responsive for collaboratively planning and educating, and advocating for the community's climate emergency response efforts, including such actions as emergency climate mitigation efforts, public and business education, resilience and adaptation programs, and the development of a "Climate Mobilization Action Plan" to guide efforts to reach the goals stated in this resolution and advocacy to local, state and federal agencies toward effective climate change mitigation policies; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Yarmouth joins the global Climate Emergency Movement and calls on the State of Maine, the United States Congress, the President of the United States, and all governments and people worldwide to declare a climate emergency, initiate a Climate Mobilization to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis, and provide maximum protection for all people and species of the world.

ARPA Funding And One Climate Future Projects that qualify for ARPA Funding

Tim Honey's Analysis:

One Climate Future Climate Resilient projects that would appear to qualify for ARP funding. I have suggested the projects to be completed by 2025. Total of 31 specific projects that will have a positive effect on the economic future of South Portland

Resilient Buildings and Neighborhood

1) Resilient New Development projects

- Work with partners to model combined storm surge and SLB overlays
- Review and update land use codes to reflect resilience objectives.

2) Resilient Existing Building projects

- Prepare for securing federal funding for mitigation and recovery
- Participate in FEMA Community Rating System

3) Resilient Open Space Planning projects:

- Expand Land Bank Open Space Goals to include resilience goals

Strong and Healthy Communities projects

1) Housing Affordability and Resilience projects:

- Launch area-wide housing supply studies in both cities

- Review zoning codes and re-assess development fees to remove constraints
- Enable options for renewable energy financing for affordable housing

2) High Heat Mitigation projects:

- Preserve and expand protected open space, public parks and tree cover
- Increase access to and awareness of places to cool off.

3) Resilient Food Systems projects

- Expand public land access for food production
- Expand/improve policies to connect producers/harvesters and consumer

4) Transportation Access projects

- Collaborate with GPCOG to launch next phase of CTLP program
- Invite Community Leaders to participate in OCF planning initiatives

5) Neighborhood Resources projects

- Establish a small grants program to support initiatives that build resilience
- Launch the Sustainable Neighborhood programs

Resilient Local Economy projects

Resilient Working Waterfront projects:

- Develop PPP to access grant funding for waterfront resilience collaboration

Climate Ready Industry and Innovation projects

- Support business resilience via economic development programs
- Identify barriers and opportunities for the growth of the blue economy.

Resilient Infrastructure Systems projects

Stormwater Systems:

- Fill gaps in geospatial data for the sewer and stormwater systems
- Implement comprehensive asset management system
- Build out protocol for consistently tracking flood incidences.

Green Infrastructure:

- Evaluate/Adjust ordinances to increase infiltration in new development
- Collaborate with regional partners to build education/awareness about GI

Transportation Systems projects

- Build out robust geospatial data to support modeling and predictions.

Ecosystem Resilience:

- Monitor and manage pests and invasives
- Mitigate coastal acidification by reducing stormwater pollution
- Adopt post-construction soil health standards
- Pilot and monitor healthy soil land management practices

**Portland Press Herald, August 16th Article:
Explaining how local governments are planning to spend their
ARPA funds.**

Allowed expenses

- include public health measures,
- hazard pay for public and private front-line workers,
- business grants,
- affordable housing,
- child care and other costs resulting from revenue losses or budget shortfalls.

The money cannot be used

- expressly to pay down debt,
- cover pension obligations,
- finance rainy day funds,
- reduce taxes or
- provide matching funds for federal grants.

Examples

Lewiston:

Lewiston officials agreed:

- to spend \$9.8 million on a combined-sewer overflow storage tank for the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority;
- \$9.8 million on a redundant water transmission main;
- \$1.2 million to improve ventilation in public city buildings;
- and \$65,000 on computer software to improve the city's code enforcement and licensing response.

Auburn:

Auburn, the City Council has earmarked

- \$250,000 to provide energy efficiency incentives to homeowners

Governor Mills and State ARPA funds.

Making Strategic Investments for future Prosperity:

- **Create Clean Energy Partnerships: \$8.** The Clean Energy Partnership will support clean energy and energy efficiency

BUILD OUT FAMILY INFRASTRUCTURE

Build More Affordable Housing for Maine's Workforce: \$50M

- Maine's surging real estate market during the pandemic has put home ownership and rental opportunities
- out of reach for many Maine families, and displaced renters from stable housing opportunities.
- These funds would be used to expand housing options that are affordable to workers and their families to
- own or rent, through existing financing programs through MaineHousing, as well as new incentives in
- partnership with DECD. They would also provide planning and technical assistance for communities,
- developers, and builders to encourage construction or production of affordable, energy efficient housing
- units close to service and employment centers to support families and reduce commuting times.

Save Money Through Energy Efficiency: \$50M

- Home energy efficiency and heating and ventilation upgrades for both renters and low-income, older
- Mainers are needed to reduce energy costs, improve public health, and cut carbon emissions.
- This initiative, via the Efficiency Maine Trust, will accelerate weatherization and efficiency upgrades for

- Maine homes, especially for low-income, older Mainers and renters (\$25M). These funds will also help municipal, county, school, and community organizations to secure efficiency grants by providing match-ing funds (\$15M), and support incentives for industries and businesses to invest in energy cost savings and efficiency measures (\$10M).

Invest in Transportation Improvements:

- **Protect Infrastructure from Climate Change: \$20M**

Climate change poses a serious risk to Maine infrastructure, with damage estimates in the billions of dollars unless action is taken. These funds will create a pilot “Infrastructure Adaptation Fund” to support local, regional, and state infrastructure projects that addresses these vulnerabilities. These funds will help

protect vital infrastructure most at risk, help unlock Federal and other funding options, and benefit public safety and emergency management efforts. Expand

- **Municipal and Public EV Charging (\$8M)**

These funds, through the Department of Transportation and Efficiency Maine Trust, will support the continued expansion of electric vehicle charging stations at town buildings, school buildings, State facilities, and public locations.