

Committee for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (CEES)

Board Meeting Agenda
December 8, 2021
**7:00pm – 8:30pm
GoToMeeting

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Item	Agenda	Start Time
1	Call to Order: Welcome!	7:00 PM
2	Approval of the November 10, 2021, Meeting Minutes	7:00 PM
3	<p><u>Climate Emergency Declaration (Revised)</u> Background: The Town Council recently assigned CEES with reviewing a proposed climate emergency declaration that has been presented by the Green Voices Society. A working group has collaborated on revised language to be voted on. Action Required: If agreeable, vote to recommend the revised version to the Town Council.</p>	7:05 PM
4	<p><u>Ongoing Project/Policy Update(s)</u> 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. Action Required: No action required.</p>	7:35 PM
5	<p><u>Other Business</u> Background: The Committee will reserve time for new topics for future discussion. Action Required: No action required.</p>	8:00 PM
6	<u>Adjourn</u>	8:30 PM

Packet Materials

- November 10, 2021, Meeting Minutes
- Revised Climate Emergency Resolution

Committee for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (CEES)

Committee Meeting Minutes
November 10, 2021
7:00pm – 8:30pm
GoToMeeting

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)
 Scott LaFlamme (Staff)

Public in Attendance: Danielle Hood, Karen Orenstein

Agenda Items

Approval of the September 8, 2021, Meeting Minutes

Toby Ahrens brought the November 10, 2021, CEES meeting to order at 7:00pm. Peter Fromuth moved to accept the September 8, 2021, meeting minutes, with the minor adjustment of adding Scott LaFlamme's name to the minute roll. David Ertz seconded the motion. It carried unanimously.

Green Voices Society – Climate Action Emergency

The Town Council recently assigned CEES with reviewing a proposed climate emergency declaration after a presentation from the Green Voices Society. The Town Council has asked that CEES collaborate with GVS and provide guidance on potential next steps.

After a brief discussion on the Town Council's intended charge to CEES, P. Fromuth suggested working with GVS to establish a climate action plan for the Town, prior to declaring a climate emergency. A climate action plan would provide baselines for future climate-related benchmarks. Anna Siegel responded that regardless of the order, a climate action plan is needed. The group agreed.

Kurt Adams moved to establish a working subcommittee to review both GVS's original declaration and the Town staff's revised version and come back to the committee in December with a collaborative alternative. P. Fromuth seconded the motion. It carried unanimously. K. Adams, A. Siegel, and Danielle Hood volunteered to champion the effort.

ARPA Project Possibilities

During the previous committee meeting, A. Siegel provided the group with a list of sustainability-related projects that were identified as ARPA-eligible in Portland. The group was to review the list and return with projects to explore.

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- P. Fromuth was encouraged by the list but was especially interested in exploring resilient land use planning, land banking, and energy efficiency for affordable housing.
- A. Siegel mentioned that the list that was distributed in November has been updated. She will work to circulate the revised version.

Ongoing Project/Policy Update(s)

- S. LaFlamme reported on the LED streetlight conversion. RealTerm Energy has nearly completed retrofitting Yarmouth's 400+ streetlights.
- Solar PPA: David Ertz reported that the Town's power purchase agreement is almost operational. Energy produced at the Naples location will start in late November, with the Acton site due to become operational in December.
- Community Solar: D. Ertz and S. LaFlamme reported that the Town and EDPR are continuing to work with CMP to finalize option agreement requirements. Work is ongoing, albeit slowly.
- Electric Busses: P. Fromuth reported to the committee that after significant work, the School Department had been awarded grants to purchase two electric busses. To purchase each bus, local investment will be needed. With the School Board's finance committee is scheduled to meet soon to discuss, P. Fromuth asked the committee to consider submitting a letter of support for the initiative. The committee was unanimously supportive and P. Fromuth was tasked with writing the letter.
- P. Fromuth shared his work, related to ongoing conversations with Efficiency Maine. P. Fromuth has encouraged EM to consider changing their policies to increase subsidies on used electric vehicles.
- With T. Ahrens rotating off the committee in January, he reminded the group that they will need a new chairperson soon.
- K. Adams suggested offering another informational session on heat pumps. With energy costs trending up, it may make sense to connect folks with resources, especially those at lower incomes.

Adjourn

The Committee adjourned upon mutual consent at 8:40pm.

(Condensed and reduced version)

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE

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

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

WHEREAS, restoring a safe and stable climate requires an extraordinary, expedient, municipal-scale, emergency mobilization response in order to rapidly achieve [net-]zero greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors of the economy, and to safely drawdown and remove excess carbon from the atmosphere ; and

WHEREAS, The Town of Yarmouth, Maine can lead the State of Maine 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

NOWHEREFORE, BE IT 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 take actions to slow or halt the progression of global climate change and the associated negative ecological, economic, social, and public health crises by reducing or eliminating greenhouse-gas emissions from all Town of Yarmouth municipal operations and prioritizes [net-]zero-carbon solutions for electricity, heating, transportation systems, and waste management processes, which with appropriate financial and regulatory support from State and Federal authorities;

- A. Eliminates town-wide effective greenhouse gas emissions and initiates additional greenhouse gas drawdown efforts as quickly as possible and no later than December 31, 2030; 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 directs the Committee of Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (“CEES”) to work collaboratively with town, county and state agencies to plan, including the development of a “Yarmouth Climate Mobilization Action Plan” to guide efforts to reach the goals stated in this resolution, as well as advocacy to local, state and

federal agencies toward effective climate-change mitigation policies. CEES will establish a task force (the “Climate Emergency Task Force”), which shall be initially composed of members of CEES and such other members of the public as the Town Council determines is in the public interest. The Climate Emergency Task Force shall;

- A. Work to identify additional representatives specifically for the Task Force within 60 days of the Town’s approval of this resolution. These additional representatives should reflect the diversity and interests of the town (i.e. include a range of ages, socio-economic backgrounds, skills)
- B. Solicit bids and commission a third-party to update the “2007 Municipal & Community Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Baseline Report for Yarmouth, Maine” (the “Baseline”) which should be completed within 180 days of the approval of this resolution
- C. Report out to Town Council within 30 days after the completion of the Baseline with recommendations for next steps
- D. Engage in discussions and deliberations on the climate emergency with local stakeholders to ensure that local voices will inform the creation of the Yarmouth Climate Mobilization Action Plan
- E. Develop a Yarmouth Climate Mobilization Action Plan that is specific to the Town of Yarmouth, rooted in the Baseline within 120 days of receiving the Baseline
- F. Ensure that the Yarmouth Climate Mobilization Action Plan provides quantitative characterization of savings, costs and impacts, including a robust reporting and accountability mechanism such that the Town Council and the public can assess the progress of the Yarmouth Climate Mobilization Action Plan implementation
- G. Recommend tools and strategies to mitigate economic and social dislocations arising from the implementation of the Plan to support a just energy transition

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Yarmouth joins with Portland, South Portland, Bar Harbor, Saco, Brunswick, and more Maine municipalities who have declared a climate emergency 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 slow the progression of and halt the climate and ecological crises, and provide maximum protection for all people and species of the world.

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 Maine Climate Council and request that all relevant support and assistance in effectuating this resolution be provided.

(Original version)

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY
AND EMERGENCY MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE**

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;

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;

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;

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

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;

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;

[https://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/docs/NortheastClimateImpactsAssessment\(MainSummary\).pdf](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/municipalplanning/docs/NortheastClimateImpactsAssessment(MainSummary).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;

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;

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.

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 deepwater access, a bountiful property for energy production Yarmouth can be proud of

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;

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;

- 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;
- 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;

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,
- 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

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”;

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”;

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;

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;

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;

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;

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the city 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 city-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;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the city 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;

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;

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;

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;

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;

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;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the city 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;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, The city 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 city of Yarmouth shall submit a certified copy of this resolution to the County Commissioners 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.

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