
Committee for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (CEES)

Committee Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, April 14, 2021

7:00pm to 8:30pm

GoToMeeting Video Stream

Agenda

Item	Agenda	Start Time
1	Call to Order:	7:00 pm
2	Approval of March 10, 2021 Minutes	7:05 pm
3	Renewable Natural Gas Presentation	7:05 pm
4	Policy Resolutions: Climate Emergency Resolution (Green Voices Society), Carbon Fee and Dividend (Citizens Climate Lobby)	7:30 pm
5	Ongoing Project/Policy Update(s): Community Solar, EV, etc.	8:00 pm
6	Adjourn	8:30 pm

Materials

3.10.21 Meeting Minutes

Board Members

Toby Ahrens, Chair

David Ertz

Kurt Adams

David Craig

Mike Sears

Chuck Parker

Scott Sherriff

Peter Fromuth

Bill Dunn

Anna Siegel, Student Liaison

Staff

Scott LaFlamme,

Economic Development Director

Nat Tupper,

Town Manager



Committee for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability (CEES)

Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

7:00pm to 8:30pm

GoToMeeting Video Stream

Approval of February 10, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Chair, Toby Ahrens, brought the March 10, 2021 CEES meeting to order at 7:00pm. David Craig moved to amend the February 10, 2021 meeting minutes to include a corrected meeting date. David Ertz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Carbon Fee and Dividend Presentation

T. Ahrens introduced Marcia Harrington, Dodie Jones, and Michael Jones from the Citizen's Climate Lobby to introduce the carbon fee and dividend legislative concept.

The presentation (attached) addressed the urgency to address climate change through carbon emissions. To account for the cost of burning fossil fuels, national Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation would place a fee on the carbon content of fossil fuels (coal, gas, and oil) at their source—a mine, a well, or port of entry. The fees would be collected by the U.S. Department of Treasury. 100% of the fees, minus administrative costs, would be held in a Carbon Fees Trust fund and distributed back to households on an equal basis as a monthly dividend.

Several questions were posed to the presenters:

- How does the Treasury Department assess the tax on imported goods?
Who dictates which industries are impacted?
 - o While details are still being determined, specific types of carbon-intense goods would be identified.
- Is there precedent of bipartisan support for this type of legislation? Are there state models that have been explored?
 - o Bipartisanship is a difficult ask given the dynamics currently in Washington, but they are confident that a market-driven solution is the easiest path to bipartisanship. Also, while similar programs have been explored in states, the smaller scale does not produce the same level of economic efficiency.
- Logistically, how would the group suggest bringing the concept forward to the Town Council? What have other communities done?
 - o Several municipalities have supported the legislation. In their experience, Town representatives have seen this as an actionable item that does not carry a budget requirement.
- Some worried that there would be a disproportionate impact on commercial fishermen and other marine-oriented industries that Yarmouth relies on.

Board Members Present

Toby Ahrens
Chuck Parker
Scott Sherriff
David Ertz
David Craig
Mike Sears
Kurt Adams
Bill Dunn
April Humphrey, Town Council
Anna Siegel, Student Liaison

Staff

Scott LaFlamme,
Nat Tupper

Members of the Public

Marcia Harrington
Michael Jones
Dodie Jones
Randy Bates



The committee chose to think about the legislation and potential next steps and vote whether to endorse at the April meeting.

LED Streetlight Evaluation

Nat Tupper provided the LED streetlight product evaluation that the Town's consulting firm, RealTerm Energy, had prepared. The evaluation was based on a diverse matrix of qualifiers. Based on their analysis, RealTerm had proposed the best value (price, energy usage, longevity, etc.) in each category of light fixture. To move forward with the implementation, RealTerm needed the Town's approval of the fixture types.

The committee discussed its role and the need to debate fixture aesthetics. Ultimately, the committee decided that its charge was to select fixtures that were the most efficient and furthered the mission of CEES as a policy advisory group. To that end, D. Craig moved to recommend RealTerm's suggested fixtures, as presented. C. Parker seconded and the vote was unanimously in favor.

Project Update

- D. Ertz and K. Adams provided an update on the community solar project. Based on insight from the Town's attorney and CMP's requirement for environmental liability insurance, the Town will move forward with an RFP that will require solar development partners to obtain the necessary insurance. D. Ertz will begin crafting the RFP language.
- D. Ertz also reported that a contract for wetland delineation survey work has been awarded to Flycatcher Environmental. Their site work will run through the spring, with a final report due in early June.
- K. Adams proposed facilitating a presentation during the April meeting on renewable natural gas and green hydrogen.
- A. Siegel suggested that the committee look for ways to influence upcoming legislation on municipal climate action planning. A. Siegel has connected her legislative contact with S. LaFlamme.
- M. Sears studied interim measures for fish passage during the Army Corps of Engineer's Section 206 reporting. He suggested brining in Landis Hudson, from Maine Rivers, to discuss options.
-

T. Ahrens adjourned at 8:45pm upon mutual consent.

CARBON FEE & DIVIDEND



Citizens' Climate Lobby

Yarmouth Committee for Energy
Efficiency & Sustainability (CEES)

Presented by
CCL MidCoast Maine Chapter
*Marcia Harrington, Dodie Jones &
Michael Jones*

AGENDA

- Prologue
- Urgency of Addressing Climate Change (1 slide)
- Carbon Fee & Dividend
 - How it works
 - Why it's effective
 - Best overall single policy
- Supporters
- Importance of Town Resolutions
- Questions



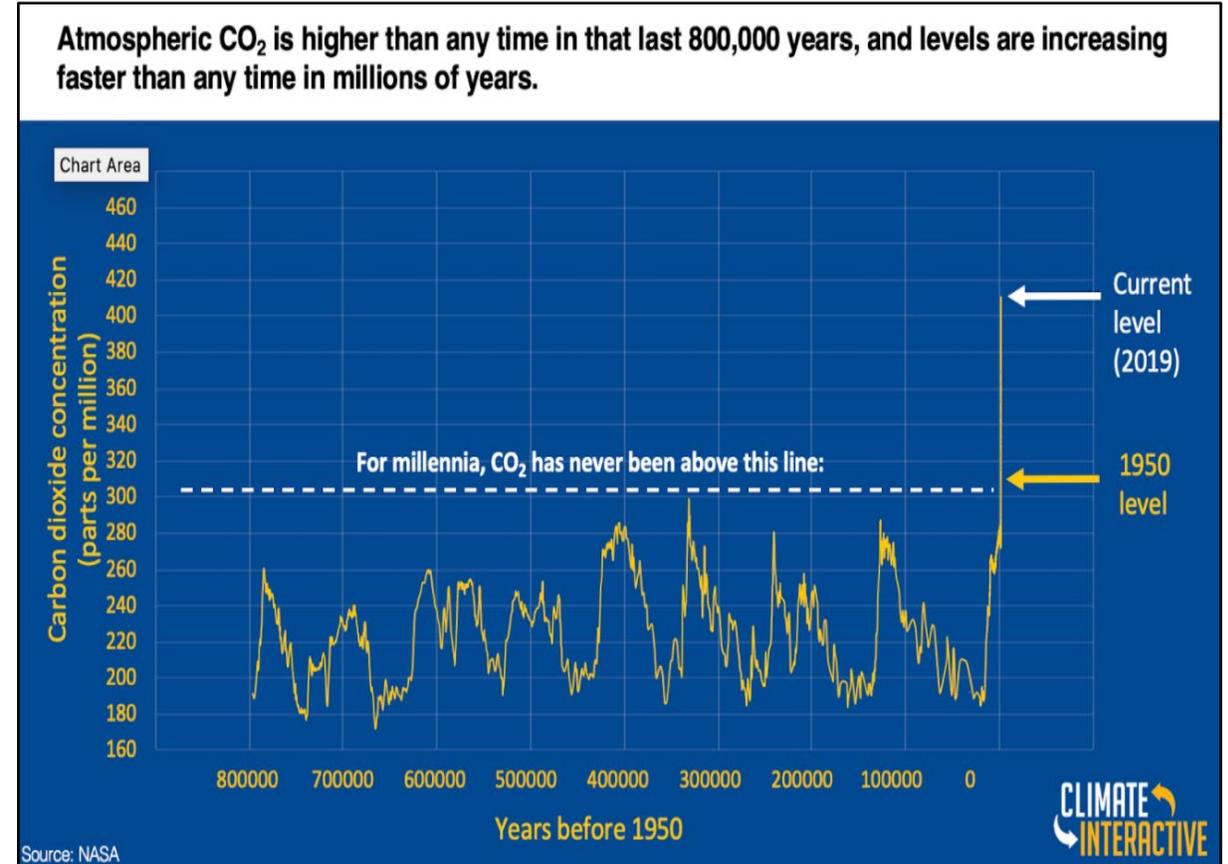
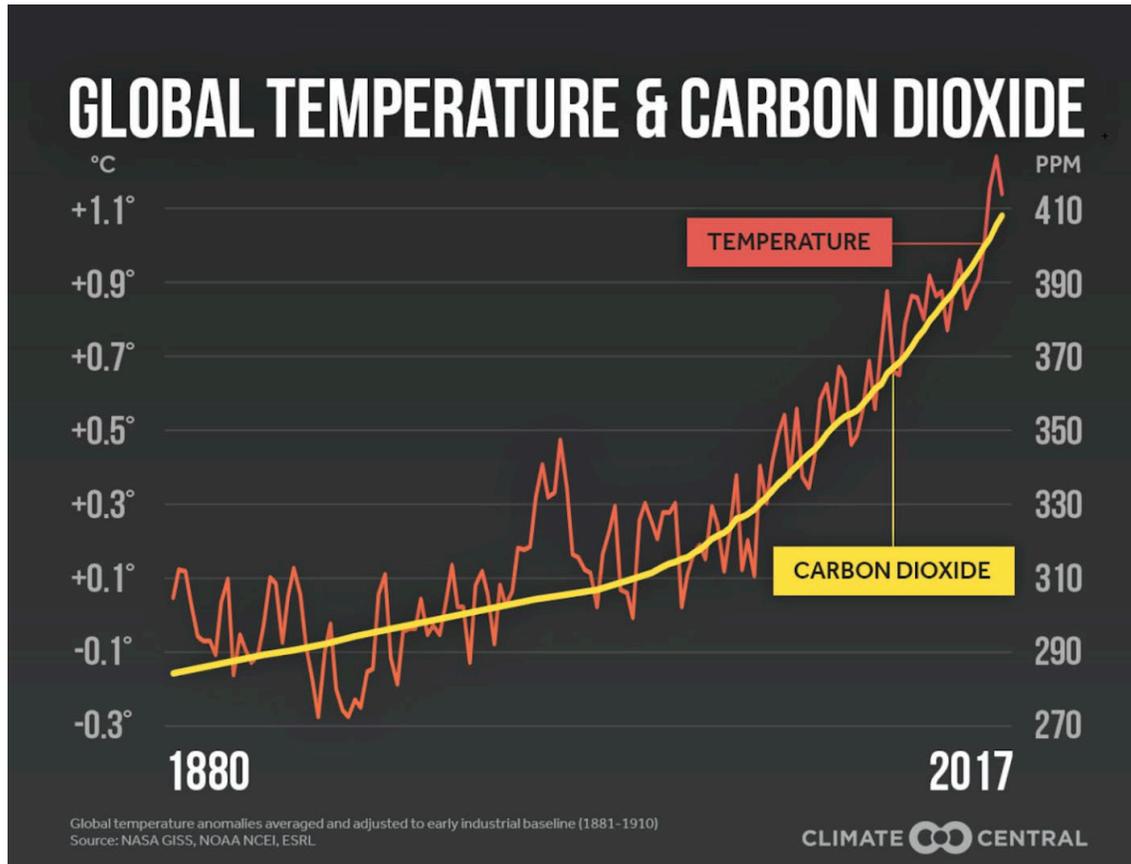
Prologue: Bill Gate's hamburger

Hey, when you're going to zero, you don't get to skip anything.



Urgency of addressing climate change

- Global temperatures have been steadily rising (2020 was 2nd hottest)
- Clear correlation with CO₂ in atmosphere



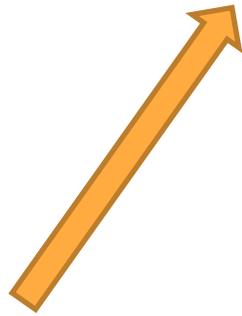
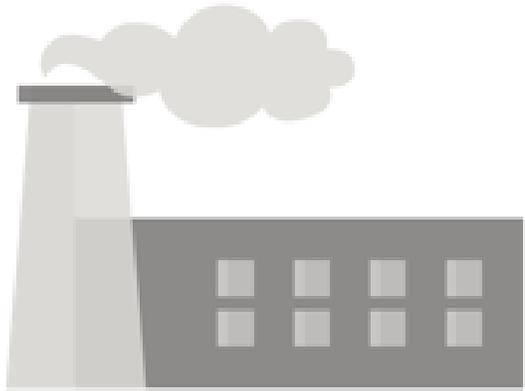
Carbon fee & dividend

or

**Energy Innovation &
Carbon Dividend Act**

(HR 763)

How it Works



Fee is passed on to businesses and households

- Price of dirty energy, fossil fuel-based products goes up (Ex. Gas, air travel, Fiji bottled water)



- Non-fossil fuel products become relatively cheaper (Ex. Electric cars, bus and train travel, local tap water)



Charge a fee on fossil fuels at the source

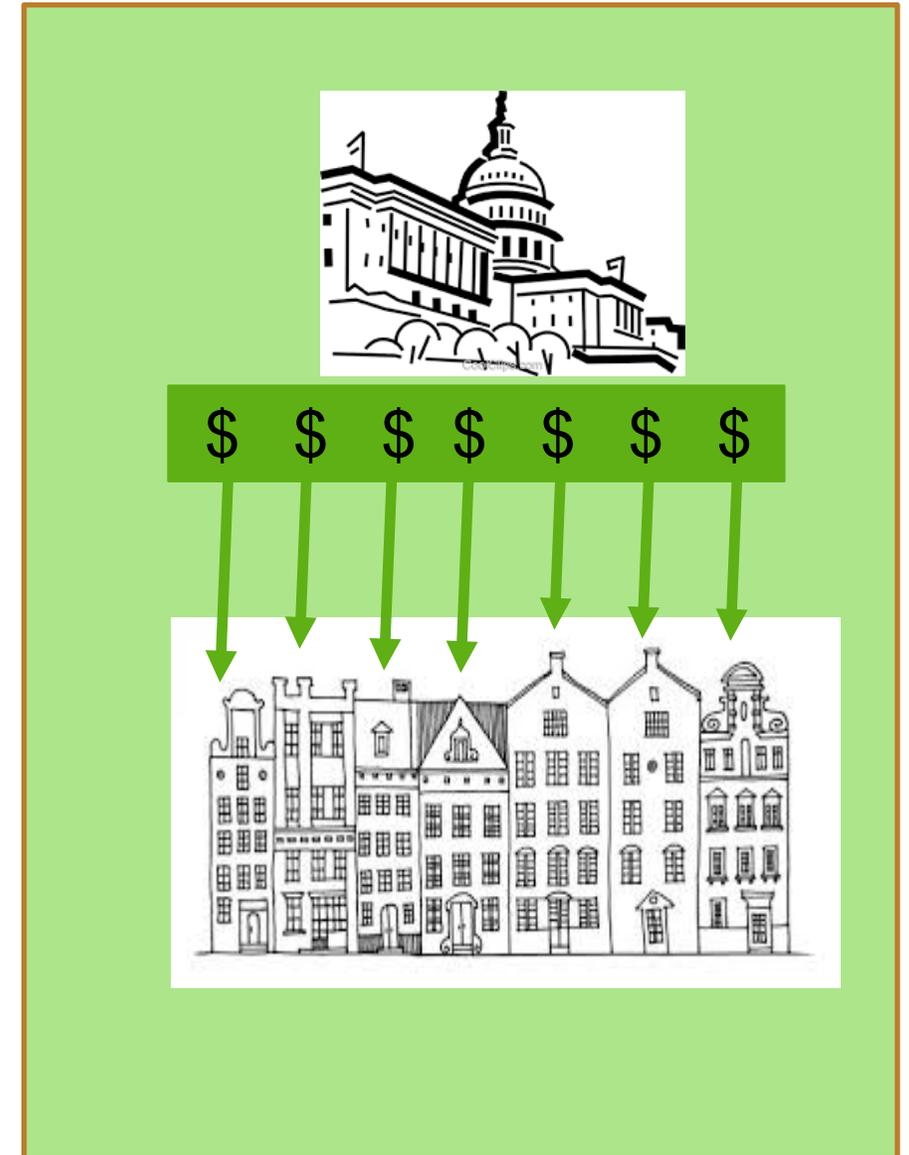
(mine, well, or port)

Fee on carbon is collected by government, then paid out equally to ALL U.S. households as a monthly carbon dividend

- People who use less energy than the average person stand to make money



= About **\$367.50**
per month



Why It's Effective

A predictable, rising carbon fee encourages...

- Businesses and households will buy greener goods and conserve energy
- Businesses and households will make long-term investments in energy saving
- Innovators will discover energy saving technologies



Best Overall Single Policy

1. It will reduce emissions, no question!

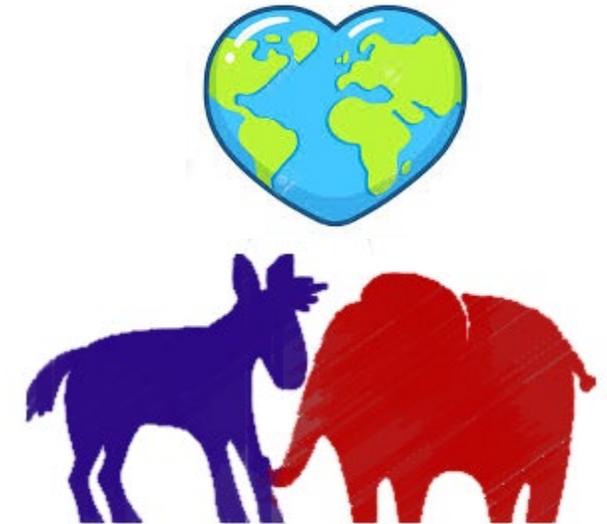
- ❖ Proven track record -- has been implemented in ~60 jurisdictions globally
- ❖ Wealth of scientific and economic studies predict 40% emissions reduction after 12 years

2. Achieves decarbonization in cheapest, most efficient way because of market incentives

- ❖ Other policies—such as renewable subsidies and efficiency standards—cost more
- ❖ It's fair across approaches: renewables vs conservation vs carbon capture

Why It Is Best Single Policy

3. **Dividend protects the most vulnerable**—lowest 60% of earners come out ahead
4. Policy of carbon price **will facilitate international cooperation**
5. Policy should be **broadly popular**, not only to progressives (i.e. equity) and conservatives (i.e. market incentives, minimal role of gov't) but also with people who will get monthly dividends



Supporters, *new support added every day!*



Climate scientists James Hansen, Katharine Hayhoe, and many more

The National Academies of Sciences (NAS)



3500 U.S. Economists

4 former Federal Reserve Chairs

28 Nobel Laureates

86 members of U.S. House of Rep's

The members of CCL's 486 chapters



Supporters, cont.

Municipalities

- Portland, Bangor, Brunswick, Arrowsic, Fairfield, Harpswell, Orono, Hampden, Vinalhaven
- Chicago, Dallas, Kansas City, Oakland (CA), Philadelphia, St Petersburg, Tucson, etc.

Environmental Organizations

Maine Conservation Voters, The Nature Conservancy, Climate Leadership Council, Students for Carbon Dividends

Business

- US Business Roundtable; *US Chamber of Commerce *is open to a carbon tax, 1/21/2021*
- RevisionEnergy, Solar Energy Assoc of ME, CEI, Atlantic Salmon Federation

Support Carbon pricing (generally):

IMF, World Bank, IPCC, the Pope, US Conference of Catholic Bishops

Importance of town resolutions

- With legislation before U.S. Congress, this is single most impactful climate action your town can take
- Important to show groundswell of support.
- Educates citizens.
- Endorsements: Portland, Bangor, Brunswick, Arrowsic, Fairfield, Orono, Harpswell, Hampden, Vinalhaven
- On warrant for 10 other towns



Questions

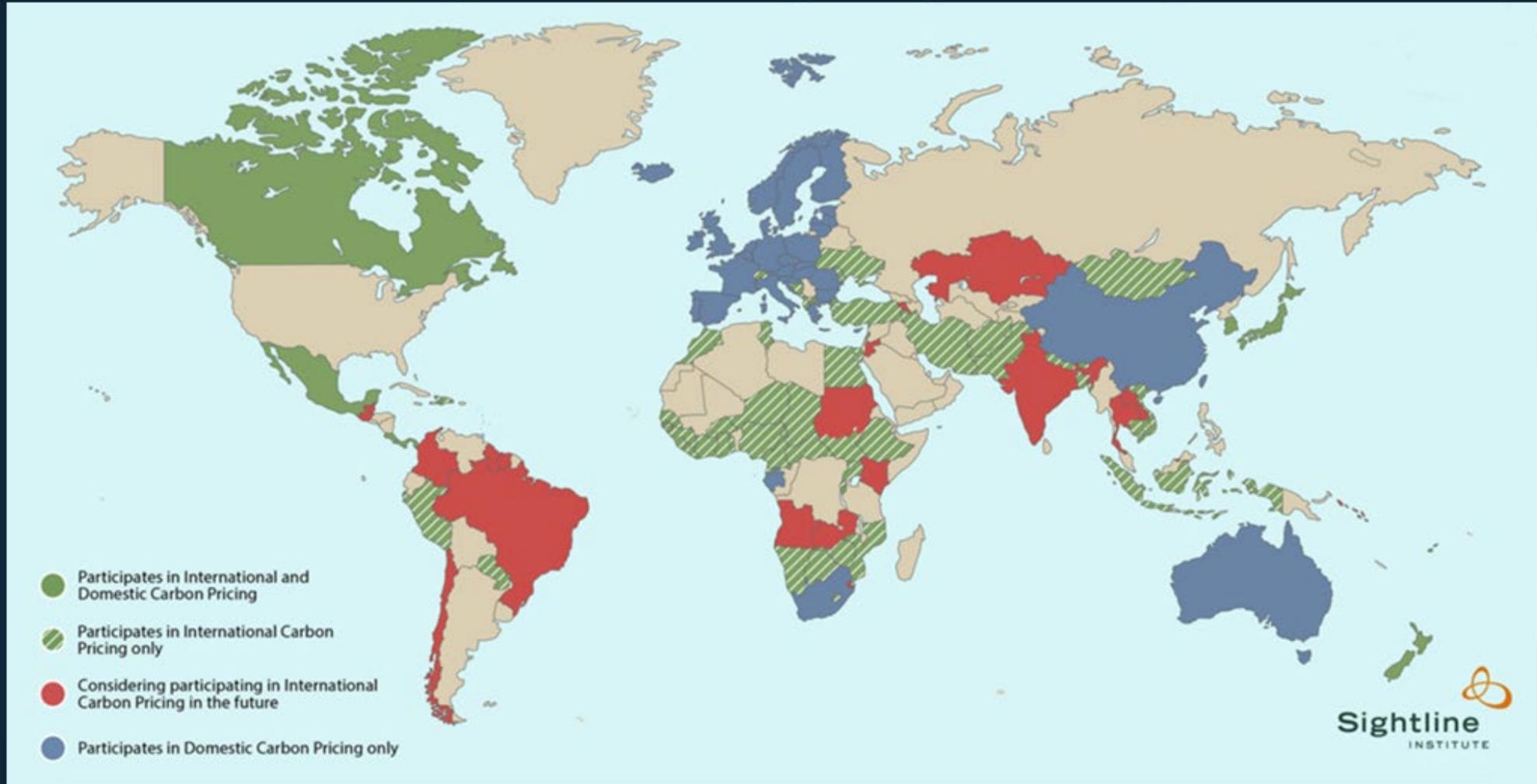


Other Policies Generally Cost More

<u>Policy</u>	<u>Cost of reducing 1 ton CO2</u>
Reforestation	\$1-\$10
CARBON FEE & DIVIDEND	\$15
Wind energy subsidies	\$2-\$260
CAFÉ standards	\$48-\$310
Renewable fuel subsidies	\$100
Solar panel subsidies	\$140-\$2,100
Biodiesel	150-\$250
Weatherization assistance	\$350
Vehicle electric battery subsidy	\$350-\$640

Carbon Pricing around the World

As countries prepare to meet Paris climate goals, more than 100 are using or considering using a carbon price.



Source: World Bank and IETA INDC Tracker

DRAFT

**Resolved, that Yarmouth encourages the U.S. Congress to initiate a
revenue-neutral fee on Carbon Fuels.**

WHEREAS, Maine recognizes that the health of our citizens is dependent on the high quality of our air, water, and natural resources and that the health of much of the state's economy, including agriculture, forestry, fishing, and tourism are favored by a stable climate; and

WHEREAS, the University of Maine's Climate Change Institute agrees with the consensus of climate scientists worldwide that climate is changing rapidly and that changes are associated with increased concentrations of pollutant emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases, derived principally from the burning of the carbon fuels (coal, oil, and natural gas); and

WHEREAS, the State has pursued efforts through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative to reduce the burning of carbon fuels for energy generation, and most recently by following the Maine Climate Council's recommendations across the State's economy, with the intent of meeting goals set in law to reduce emissions 45% below 1990 levels by 2030, and 80% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the State is responsible for only 0.3% of the nation's emissions, it is vitally important to enact national and international control; and

WHEREAS, a steadily rising price on carbon fuels is widely accepted by economists as being the most effective means to achieve emissions-reduction goals; and that a revenue-neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend system (including a pollution fee levied at the wellhead, coal mine or port of entry, with all revenues returned equally to citizens and legal residents as a dividend) would leverage market forces encouraging investments in energy efficiency and alternate, energy sources by both industry and consumers. Carbon fee & dividend aims to **a)** reduce US CO₂-equivalent emissions by 90% of 2016 levels by 2050, **b)** be fair to all segments of our population, and **c)** encourage similar actions by other nations.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Yarmouth supports the enactment of a **national revenue-neutral Carbon Fee and Dividend system**, that includes **a)** a steadily rising pollution fee, levied as far upstream in the economy as possible, that starts low and increases steadily and predictably to achieve the goal of reducing carbon dioxide emissions in the United States by 90% of 2016 levels by 2050; **b)** all net revenues returned equally to citizens and legal residents as a dividend, and **c)** carbon-content-based tariffs for imports from, and rebates for exports to, nations that have not taken similar actions.