

## **RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE DECLARATION OF A CLIMATE EMERGENCY AND CREATION OF A CLIMATE ACTION PLAN TO RESTORE A SAFE CLIMATE**

**WHEREAS**, global climate change poses catastrophic perils to the natural, social, ecological, economic, and cultural environment, and presents profound implications for an array of issues, and requires high-priority responses and action plans from all sectors of society and all levels of government; and

**WHEREAS**, restoring a safe and stable climate requires an extraordinary, 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 be a leader in the State of Maine by initiating climate mobilization actions to convert to an ecologically regenerative local economy at emergency speed, as well as advocating for regional and national efforts necessary to reverse global warming and the ecological crisis;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Town of Yarmouth, Maine joins other Maine communities including Portland, South Portland, Bar Harbor, Saco, and Brunswick, to declare that a climate and ecological emergency threatens our town, state, nation, civilization, humanity, and the natural world; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town of Yarmouth, commits to take prompt actions, while recognizing that significant commitment, including regulatory, fiscal and time, is needed to slow and eventually halt the local contribution to global climate change and the associated negative ecological, economic, social, and public health crises. The Town's commitments are to:

- A. Participate in the State of Maine's Community Resilience Partnership, including completing the Resilience Self-Assessment and Community Action Inventory; and
- B. Bring municipal greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero as quickly as possible and no later than December 31, 2030, with the intention to focus on carbon reduction, elimination and carbon positivity; and
- C. Provide education, resources, programs, and a policy framework that promotes significant residential, commercial, transportation, and industrial greenhouse gas emission reductions by 80% by 2030 such that total community emissions are on a path to reach net-zero by 2050 or sooner; and
- D. Engage the community throughout the process to solicit input from a broad cross-section of the population, creating accountability to maintain a focus on affordability and accessibility to all residents of Yarmouth while accelerating local adaptation and resilience strategies in preparation for intensifying climate impacts.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Town of Yarmouth designates the Committee for Energy Efficiency and Sustainability ("CEES") to 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 and approves in the public interest. The Climate Emergency Task Force shall; develop a “Yarmouth Climate Action Plan”, aligned with federal, state, and regional plans to guide efforts required to establish the Town’s future sustainability vision and prioritize actions and funding decisions. The Climate Emergency Task Force shall:

- A. Collaborate with the Town Council to identify candidates 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. Complete the Community Resilience Self-Assessment and Community Action Inventory as required for participation in the State of Maine’s Community Resilience Partnership;
- C. Engage with the community through workshops throughout the process, including a workshop(s) with local stakeholders to review the Resilience Self-Assessment and Community Action Inventory;
- D. Commission, either independently or in collaboration with regional organizations, to update the “2007 Municipal & Community Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Baseline Report for Yarmouth, Maine” (the “Baseline”) as well as other assessments as deemed necessary (i.e. vulnerability assessment);
- E. Be held accountable to Town Council for regular updates and reports on progress;
- F. Develop a Yarmouth Climate Action Plan based on data and input from Baseline, other studies, and stakeholder input within 1 year of the passage of this Resolution;
- G. Ensure that costs and projected impacts associated with acting/not acting are captured in the Yarmouth Climate Action Plan and that a mechanism for tracking progress and accountability are in place;
- H. 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, Falmouth and other Maine municipalities who have declared a climate emergency 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 climate mobilization and action plans to slow and speedily 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 Representative Art Bell, State Senator Catherine Breen, US Senators Susan Collins and Angus King, Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, Governor Janet Mills, and the Maine Climate Council and request that all relevant support and assistance in effectuating this resolution be provided.