

Dear Friends,

Each month in 2021 the Sustainability and Creation Care newsletter will focus on a different Climate topic. For March, we'll do a deep dive into the Climate Roadmap Bill which Governor Baker signed on Friday. This bill is far-reaching legislation which will have substantial positive impact on fighting Climate Change in Massachusetts.

We've also focused on the Episcopal Bishops' Climate Emergency Declaration. Finally, we're continuing the "Climate 101" section which helps to develop a baseline of understanding around the science of Climate change. This month's topic is emissions from food.

If you know of others who should receive this email, please forward it to them, and let me know who to add to the email list. More up-to-date info can be found on the Sustainable Winchester Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SustainableWinchester, please like that page and share with others who should know.

In Faith,

Josh

Epiphany Sustainability and Creation Care Group Meetings



The Epiphany Sustainability and Creation Care Group Meetings are held the last Monday of each month from 5:30pm – 6:30pm. In the first half of 2021 they will be Zoom Meetings.

The next Zoom Meeting is **Monday, March 29.**

Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8734975675>

Meeting ID: 873 497 5675

Dial by Phone at: 929-205-6099



As a group committed to environmental justice, we stand with those calling for racial justice, accountability and an end to violence. We grieve for the loss so many are experiencing in our community, and we stand with those most affected by racist structures and systems.

The Mass. Bishop's Declaration of Climate Emergency drafted this month says: "We recognize that the climate crisis affects low-income communities and communities of color first and hardest. We confess that we, and our churches, have not yet responded with adequate seriousness or urgency to the ongoing, intensifying effects of climate change, and to its underlying causes." It calls on us all to pray, learn, act and advocate for environmental justice reform.

MASSACHUSETTS EPISCOPAL DIOCESE NEWS

Bishops Declare a Climate Emergency

Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts

*"Pray, learn, act, advocate":
MA bishops declare climate emergency*

March 23, 2021

Dear People of the Dioceses of Massachusetts and Western Massachusetts,

With the advent of spring, our thoughts turn with renewed gratitude to the great gift of God's creation. "For behold, the winter is past; the rain is over and

On March 23, the Bishops of Massachusetts and Western Mass. issued a *Declaration of a Climate Emergency*. They asked all congregations in the Diocese to *"pray, learn, act and advocate"* to respond with *"adequate urgency to the ongoing effect of climate change..."*

Bishops Gates, Harris and Fisher (Western MA) confessed the Church's lack of urgency...

"We honor the call of our church's presiding bishop....to care for God's beloved world. We recognize that accelerating global warming and mass extinctions are destroying God's creation, threatening to make our planet uninhabitable. We likewise recognize that the climate crisis affects low-income communities and communities of color first and hardest.

We confess that we, and our churches, have not yet responded with adequate seriousness or urgency to the ongoing, intensifying effects of climate change, and to its underlying causes."

They urged members of the Diocese to “take up the mantle of moral leadership and preach regularly about our moral obligation to protect God’s creation.” They encourage deaneries and congregations to convene educational events around such topics as: how tackling the climate crisis connects with efforts to fight racial and social injustice; how eco-theology and eco-spirituality can guide us in the days ahead.

They called on congregations to reduce their use of fossil fuels; and restore ecosystems, soil, habitat, and biodiversity. The Climate Emergency Declaration provides numerous groups and resources to “Advocate” for systemic change by participating in local, state and national efforts to make a swift and just transition to clean, renewable energy and to support vulnerable communities.

Learn more about the Bishops’ Climate Emergency Declaration, and read the full text at:

<https://www.diomass.org/news/pray-learn-act-advocate-ma-bishops-declare-climate-emergency>

MARCH FOCUS: THE NEW MASSACHUSETTS CLIMATE ROADMAP BILL

Governor Baker signs sweeping Climate Bill – Mass now leader in Climate Legislation



This past Friday March 26, Governor Baker signed a sweeping climate change bill after two years of iterations. The bill, [*“An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy,” \(S9\)*](#) is one of the most extensive climate bills passed in Massachusetts. It puts Massachusetts in the leadership for fighting the Climate crisis on numerous levels.

Here are the key elements of the Bill. It:

- Establishes **legally-binding greenhouse gas emissions**:
 - 50% (of 1990 levels) by 2030
 - 75% by 2040
 - Net Zero by 2050
- **Electric company emissions limits**: Requires electric companies (municipal light plants) to purchase 50% non-emitting electricity by 2030 and get to “net zero” emissions by 2050.
- **Establishes binding 5-year binding emissions limits** (which force the state to begin making reductions quickly and, as the bill drafters say, “keep our attention riveted on the climate.”)
- **Sets “sector-by-sector” targets**. For six “high-priority” sectors of the economy: electric power, transportation, commercial and industrial heating and cooling, residential heating and cooling,

industrial processes, and natural gas distribution and service. (The most recent version adopted Baker's request that these targets be non-binding if overall targets are met.)

- **Codifies environmental justice.** The bill requires that each roadmap plan explicitly include ways the state can improve or mitigate economic, environmental, and public health impacts on low- and moderate-income individuals.
- **Allows towns to adopt local net zero zoning codes.** It allows for cities to adopt local bans on new fossil fuel construction (which previously were deemed illegal).
- **Boosts clean energy.** Increases offshore wind development by 43%. Forces the administration to prioritize low-income communities in the state's primary solar incentive program.
- **Sets nationally consistent standards for appliances.** Sets appliance efficiency standards based on California standards. This will help drive down emissions from common household and commercial appliances, and may save residents more than \$287 million annually by 2035.

Here's a recap of the Climate Bill when introduced in January. <http://bit.ly/Mass-Climate-Deal>

In the rest of this newsletter, we'll dig deeper into specifics of the bill.

Climate Bill Specifics: Setting Statewide Climate Policy



The Climate Bill Establishes aggressive 5-year emissions limits

The Bill will change state law to require Massachusetts to set emissions targets (known as 'limits') every five years which bill drafters say "keeps our attention riveted on the climate." It also requires the Governor to create and release "clear, and specific" plans known as 'roadmaps', that outline how the state will meet each emissions limit.

The First sector-by-sector sub-limits in the nation

Massachusetts will become the first state to adopt "emissions sub-limits." This means that in addition to having economy-wide emissions limits, the state will also require further emissions reductions in six "high-priority" sectors of the economy: electric power, transportation, commercial and industrial heating and cooling, residential heating and cooling, industrial processes, and natural gas distribution and service.

It benchmarks clean technology adoption

It requires the state to set numerical benchmarks for the adoption of electric vehicles, charging stations, solar technology, energy storage, heat pumps, anaerobic digesters, and other clean technology solutions. These must align with new limits and sub-limits.

It establishes a goal of net zero emissions by 2050

The Bill makes legally binding the statewide greenhouse gas limit for 2050 at net zero, as opposed to the previous target of 85% reductions by 2050. It requires 50% reductions by 2030 and 75% reductions by 2040.

Requires municipal light plants (MLPs) to reduce emissions

MLPs are electric utilities operated by a specific city or town, and collectively account for 14% of the state's energy. For the first time, the bill requires MLPs to meet emissions standards, requiring them to purchase 50% non-emitting electricity by 2030 and get to "net zero" emissions by 2050.

Read More at: <http://bit.ly/Mass-Climate-Deal>

Climate Bill Specifics: Climate Justice



Codifying environmental justice

For the first time, the Bill requires that each roadmap plan to explicitly include ways the state can improve or mitigate economic, environmental, and public health impacts on environmental justice populations and low and moderate income individuals.

Read more details at: <http://bit.ly/Mass-Climate-Deal>

Climate Bill Specifics: Heating and Building Emissions



Mandating creation of net zero building codes

The Bill Mandates the administration to create net zero energy code that municipalities would have the option to opt-in. If new buildings are built inefficiently, they lock in emissions for the lifetime of the

building, so new building codes are a crucial step in de-carbonizing buildings. The Bill also allows cities to adopt local bans on new fossil fuel construction, which had been ruled illegal until now.

Read more details at: <http://bit.ly/Mass-Climate-Deal>

Climate Bill Specifics: Appliance Energy Efficiency



Setting nationally consistent appliance efficiency standards

The Bill sets Massachusetts appliance efficiency standards according to precedents set in California and likely future federal standards. This will help drive down emissions from common household and commercial appliances, and may save residents, businesses, and local and state governments more than \$287 million annually by 2035.

Read more details at: <http://bit.ly/Mass-Climate-Deal>

Climate Bill Specifics: Clean Energy



Increasing offshore wind development by 43%

The Bill boosts the amount of offshore wind utilities are required to purchase by an additional 2,400 megawatts. This builds upon previous legislation and will result in a total authorization to 5,600 megawatts of offshore wind for Massachusetts. It also gives the administration the power to require offshore wind developers to coordinate on building offshore wind energy transmission lines to the mainland.

Requiring 40% of state's electricity from renewables by 2030

Raises the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) by 3% each year for 2025-2029, which would ensure at least 40% of the state's electric power will come from renewables by 2030.

Seeking to increase solar access & equity

Forces the administration to prioritize low-income communities in the SMART, the state's primary solar incentive program and establishes a new solar energy grant program for nonprofits working to address food insecurity and homelessness.

Read more details at: <http://bit.ly/Mass-Climate-Deal>

Climate Bill Specifics: Utility Reforms



Incorporating climate into the Department of Public Utilities mandate

For the first time, statutorily enacts a mandate for the Department of Public Utilities (DPU), the state's regulator of electric and natural gas utilities. Going forward, the DPU would be required to balance priorities for system safety, system security, reliability, affordability, equity, and, significantly, reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Putting \$12 million towards workforce development & jobs

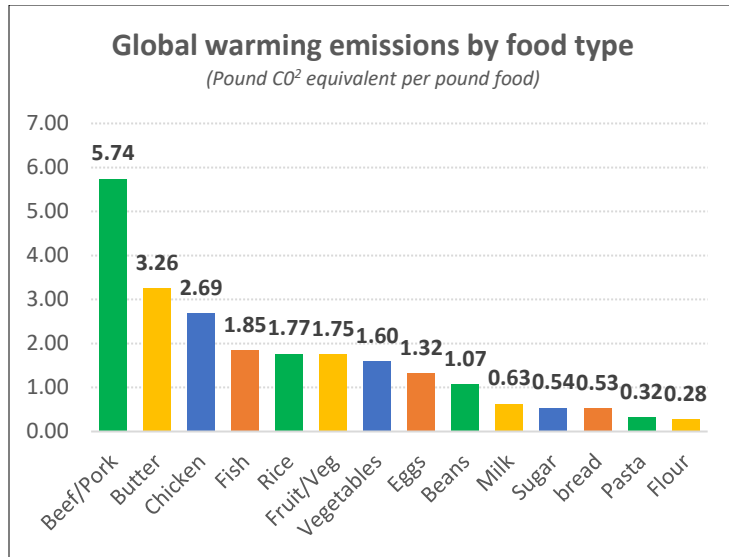
Gives the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) \$12 million in new annual funding for clean energy workforce development for minority and women owned small businesses, environmental justice communities, and fossil fuel workers.

Read more details at: <http://bit.ly/Mass-Climate-Deal>

CLIMATE 101 – UNDERSTANDING OUR IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Food and climate emissions

The average Winchester (or other suburban Mass.) household generates 64.9 tons of carbon/year.* Food accounts for 11.9 tons of these emissions. Here's how this breaks down by type of food.



This points to some clear ways to reduce emissions.

- ✓ **Eat less meat.** The average American eats 270 lbs. of meat/year. Meat is such a large producer of emissions because it is a resource-intensive food. Cattle consume 7 pounds of grain to produce 1 pound of meat. Most US Cattle is grown in confined areas and fed corn and the confined areas produce high amounts of methane (which is a 25x more potent global warming gas than CO²)
- ✓ When you do eat meat, **buy grass-fed meat from regeneratively-produced farms.**
- ✓ **Buy organic food grown without synthetic fertilizers.** Synthetic fertilizers produce large amounts of Nitrous Oxide which is a 300x more potent global-warming gas than CO².
- ✓ **Reduce your food waste – compost.** Food waste accounted for 33.4 thousand tons of waste in municipal landfills in the US in 2009, and that number has grown in the past decade.
- ✓ **Minimize Food Packaging and processing.** Plastics from food packaging accounted for 27.7 thousand tons of municipal waste in the US in 2009.

* Source Cooler Climate Calculator: <https://coolclimate.org/calculator> . Winchester Average based on map of carbon footprint by zip code: <http://shrinkthatfootprint.com/american-carbon-footprint>

You can read more at <https://www.ucsusa.org/resources/cooler-smarter-geek-out-data>

RECOMMENDED ORGANIZATIONS & GROUPS

Here are some organizations committed to climate change. This is only a small sample of the many environmental groups. If you have other groups that should be included on this list, please email joshua.reynolds85@gmail.com

350 Mass is a legal non-profit at 350mass.betterfutureproject.org

350 Mass Action engages in political action and is at: www.betterfutureaction.org

Cool Winchester www.coolwin.org

Heat Smart <http://heatsmartccl.org/>

Green Car Reports <https://www.greencarreports.com/>
Green Energy Consumers Alliance <https://www.greenenergyconsumers.org/>
Mass Clean Energy Center <https://www.masscec.com/>
Mass Interfaith Power & Light <https://www.massipl.org/>
Mothers Out Front.org <https://www.mothersoutfront.org/>
Sustainable Winchester www.facebook.com/SustainableWinchester
WinPower Community Choice Electricity www.winpowerma.org
Wright Locke Farm <https://www.wlfarm.org>