

Climate Action Committee Meeting Notes

9/11/24

Assign a notetaker

Alex Limpaecher is note-taking

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Review and approve meeting minutes from 8/21/24

The minutes were approved with adjustments to be made by Mark.

Finalize CAC fall meeting schedule

In general, the Climate Action Committee has two meetings a month.

1. One larger that takes place in Town Hall where all members are required to attend on the 2nd Wed of every month.
2. A smaller one takes place at the library on the 4th Wednesday of every month. Takes place at the library. Not all members are required to attend.

The CAC discussed the upcoming meeting schedules and agreed on the following dates.

September

The next meeting is on Sept 25th, which is a smaller meeting at the library.

October

CAC will be switching the small and large meeting in October.

October 9th - Small meeting - at the Library

October 23rd - The larger meeting - Town Hall

November

CAC will be moving forward the meeting due to thanksgiving. Now it will be:

Nov 6th - Full Meeting - Town Hall
Nov 20th - Short Meeting - Library

December

CAC also moved the December meeting
Dec 4th - Full Meeting - Town Hall
Dec 18th - Follow Up - Library

Review CAC 2023/24 goals; finalize 2024/25 goals

The CAC discussed the 2023-2024 goals and reviewed their status. Afterward, they discussed which ones should roll over to the 2024/2025 goals, and which should be removed, and if others should be added.

2023 - 2024 goal

Goal 1 - Climate Action Plan

A Climate Action Plan-related goal will continue into 2025.

Goal 2 - Outreach

The CAC will continue to do the library series for 2025.

Goal 3 - Review/Update Charge

On 23rd of October (next full meeting), the CAC will be reviewing the charge. There will be a discussion at that point to decide if we want to change it.

Lili will be researching the process of changing the charge. Further discussion of the charge happened later in the meeting.

Goal 4 - Earth Day

This goal was reached. Lili will continue to work on this for the next year.

Goal 5 - Climate Action Plan

There was a discussion regarding the status of Goal 5 of the climate action plan. The climate action plan had been brought in front of the select board and was given unanimous support. The first step seems to be for the select board to decide which committee or offices should make up work teams. After that, step 2 is to assign teams to assess risk.

CAC discussed whether the select board was currently working on creating these work teams. And whether the CAC should get in front of the select board to move this forward. There was discussion if we should try to get in front of the select board regarding just this item, or to incorporate it with our twice a year report with the select board.

There was also discussion if we should be waiting for the climate coordinator. Or if waiting for the climate coordinator would lead to further delays.

Lili will be getting in touch with Stephanie who is the liaison of the select board, for input on the best approach.

There was also a discussion about the actual plan document and what the most up-to-date version is, as there are currently two versions neither with date. Lili will be following up to try to find the most up-to-date document.

Climate Action Coordinator Update

Lili gave an update on the Climate Action coordinator. She reported that there had been delays from town hall, and while they had received 8 applications, they had not yet been reviewed.

Ongoing Goal 6 - Provide Updates to Select Board

Lili will be taking on this ongoing task. She will be talking to Emily about the best way to get in front of the select board.

Ongoing Goal 7 - Talking to Truro Talks

CAC will continue to submit to Truro talks. The main submissions will be announcing the library series, but we may also send summaries from the series after.

Georgia also has sent an article to Truro talks, and other CAC members and volunteers are encouraged to submit.

Ongoing Goal 8 - Data Collection

Alex will be taking this over from Rebecca for the 2024/2025 goal.

Stretch Goal 9 - Planting around buildings

Goal 9 had been suspended. Lili will be keeping this as a stretch goal. There was discussion that it could be embedded as part of the climate action plan.

Stretch Goal 10 - Feasibility of Resident's groups

Rebecca suggested that this goal be removed, and others agreed, so this was removed from the 2024/2025 goal list.

Stretch Goal 11 - Green Burials

This was completed.

2024/2025 - Goal

Lili will be sending out a finalized version of the 2024/2025 goals, but there was an overview of the goals discussed.

Priority Goals

Library Series: The library series will continue.

Updating Charge: There was a discussion if this should continue to be a goal to update the charge. The main downside that was brought up is that it takes some work to go through the process of updating it. The point was made by Mark that we should agree on what we are working on each year. We will be reviewing the charge during our next meeting, to decide if it is something we want to update this year.

Earth Day - will continue

Addressing Phase 1 Climate Action Plan - will continue

Added Priority Goals

Yearly Town Article - It was agreed upon that the CAC should put together an article for the town warrant every year. One possibility is to reduce pesticides and fertilizers, which will be covered in the library series.

Pursuing Relations with Energy Committee and other CAC - It was agreed upon to add a goal related to pursuing a relationship with the Energy Committee and other town's CACs.

Ongoing Goals

Provide Updates to Select Board - Will continue

Truro Talks - Will continue

Measuring and Monitoring - Will continue

Added Stretch Goal

Divestment from Fossil Fuels - The CAC added researching whether the town invest in fossil fuel as a stretch goal, which Georgia will be the leader on.

Lili will be sending out a copy that the CAC members and volunteers can review.

Review and discuss Phase One of the Truro Climate Action Plan

This agenda item was postponed due to time remaining and technical difficulties making discussion difficult.

This will be moved to the Oct 23rd meeting.

Updates on library sessions

There was a discussion about the upcoming library sessions including:

Sept 19 - Green Burials (next week)

Oct - Water Health 3/3 Pannel with Emily Bibi. Moderator: Lili

Nov - 3rd Act - Divest from Fossil Fuels from personal financial

December - Reducing Fertilizer and Pesticides

Members were encouraged to bring up any additional topics that could be good meetings.

Updates on Climate Coordinator position

There was a quick update on the climate coordinator position. 8 complete applications were submitted. And hopefully next few weeks this will be reviewed

Other business/ideas

Agenda for next meeting

- climate action plan
- review goals for 2024-2025
- Lili will update input from Stephanie regarding the Climate Action Plan

Members and volunteers will email Lili if they want to add anything to the agenda.

TRURO CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE GOALS 2024/25

Prioritized Goals:

1. Implement Phase 1 of Truro Climate Action Plan

Key Performance Indicators (what constitutes success/completion):

- Engage with Climate Coordinator
- Go before Select Board
- SB assigns work teams
- Data is collected

Lead(s): Lili/CAC

2. Review the Truro Climate Action Committee Charge

Key Performance Indicators:

- Read through charge and discuss
- Make revisions, if desired
- Submit revisions to Select Board

Lead(s): CAC

3. Town Warrant Articles

Key Performance Indicators:

- Identify actions for possible warrant articles
- Submit at least one article to the Town Warrant

Lead(s): CAC

4. Grow Relationships with Truro Energy Committee & other Outer Cape CACs

Key Performance Indicators:

- Share information/goals with Truro EC
- Identify projects/actions to coordinate with Truro EC
- Contact CACs in Eastham, Wellfleet & Provincetown
- Participate in events/initiatives with other CACs

Lead(s): Mark, CAC

Ongoing Goals:

1. Outreach & Education

Key Performance Indicators:

- Introduce the Carol Harris Climate Action Educational Series
- Continue monthly info library sessions

Lead(s): Rebecca, Georgia, Lili

2. Provide CAC Updates to Select Board

Key Performance Indicators:

- Provide summaries for the Select Board twice a year

Lead(s): Lili

3. Earth Day

Key Performance Indicators:

- Organize & host Earth Day 2025
- Grow activities and attendance

Lead(s): Lili

4. Truro Talks

Key Performance Indicators:

- Continue to submit articles to TT regarding Library Info Sessions
- Submit articles based on member/volunteer interests

Lead(s): CAC

5. Measuring & Monitoring

Key Performance Indicators:

- Identify specific sources of available data
- Determine goal/purpose/benefits
- Establish periodic reporting

Lead(s): Alex

Stretch Goals (if time & energy allow):

1. Divesting from Fossil Fuels

Key Performance Indicators:

- Research town investments
- Determine whether divestment is appropriate/attainable
- Consider article for Town Warrant

Lead(s): Georgia

2. Plantings & Buildings

Key Performance Indicators:

- Identify best species for shading and carbon capture
- Identify costs
- Identify resources required to plant and maintain
- Fold into Earth Day?

Lead(s): Lili



TOWN OF TRURO

P.O. Box 2030, Truro MA 02666

Tel: (508) 349-7004 Fax: (508) 349-5505

Date: July 23, 2019
From: Select Board
To: Climate Action Committee

In accordance with the Truro Town Charter, Chapter 6-4-4, and in response to April 30, 2019 Town Meeting, Article 17's motion to establish a Climate Action Committee, the Select Board voted to enact the following Charge:

Climate Action Committee

The Climate Action Committee's primary focus will be to investigate, study, and make recommendations to the Select Board on:

- ◆ The carbon footprint of all Town-owned facilities and equipment.
- ◆ Methods for minimizing the Town's carbon footprint.
- ◆ The Town's vulnerabilities to the consequences of climate change.
- ◆ Methods for minimizing the Town's vulnerabilities to the consequences of climate change.

The Climate Action Committee will also maintain communications with the Truro Energy Committee, as well as with other Climate Committees in Barnstable County, and with county and state commissions, to ensure that Truro works effectively with the wider community in achieving the above Town goals.

The Climate Action Committee may also recommend to the Select Board whatever actions are necessary to implement the Town's commitment to the U.S. Mayors' Cities Climate Protection Agreement, and, if approved, take such actions, including:

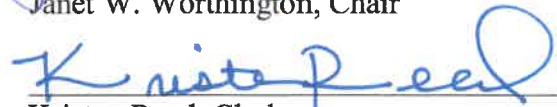
- ◆ To prepare a baseline study of the greenhouse gas emissions of the entire town of Truro, including municipal, residential, institutional, and commercial sectors, in concert with the Truro Energy Committee.
- ◆ To prepare a baseline study of Truro's vulnerabilities to the consequences of climate change that builds on work initiated by staff and regional efforts.
- ◆ To prepare recommendations outlining the specific policies necessary to achieve carbon reduction and vulnerability mitigation goals, for the approval of the Select Board, in concert with the Truro Energy Committee as appropriate.
- ◆ To conduct public education and outreach to residents, homeowners, business, and other stakeholders about Truro's carbon footprint and its climate vulnerabilities.
- ◆ To provide meaningful options for individuals to reduce carbon footprint, including options for groups and/or neighborhoods.
- ◆ To draft a community-wide climate action plan for Truro that sets short and long-term goals for reducing Truro's carbon footprint and its climate vulnerabilities to the maximum extent practical.
- ◆ To provide an annual report for inclusion in the Annual Town Report describing its efforts and accomplishments.

Committee Structure and Term

The Climate Action Committee will include five (5) citizen members-at large with one alternate member. Staff will be assigned as deemed appropriate by the Town Manager. The Committee is authorized to seek outside expert advice. If funding is deemed necessary, in support of the Committee, an expense budget should be submitted in advance to Town Manager for inclusion in the budget presentation.

This is to be a Standing Committee that will serve indefinitely and will provide quarterly progress reports to the Select Board.


Janet W. Worthington, Chair


Kristen Reed, Clerk


Susan Areson


Maureen Burgess, Vice-Chair


Robert Weinstein

Select Board
Town of Truro

TRURO CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

PHASE 1: ASSESS VULNERABILITIES

Prepared by the Truro Climate Action Committee
July 2023

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Phase 1: Assess Vulnerabilities

INTRODUCTION

In Truro, climate change means poorer air and water quality, warmer air and water temperatures, sea level rise, loss of natural habitat and animals, drought, flooding, wildfire risk, and impacts on health and the local economy.

Effects on Truro

- Risk to human health and safety
 - Risk to health of local flora and fauna
 - Loss of native fish and shellfish
 - Damage to infrastructure: roads, power lines, communications, etc.
 - Damage to farms and crops

 - Property damage/loss of property
 - Loss of beaches and beach parking
 - Increased risk of fires
 - Risk to fresh water supply
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Phase 1: Assess Vulnerabilities

Assess the Impact of Climate Change

An assessment of Truro's vulnerabilities must be conducted and prioritized in order to create a Climate Action Plan for Truro.

Goals for Assessing

- Assess where Truro is most vulnerable (at risk) due to climate change
 - Prioritize the vulnerabilities for action
 - Develop plans that address those vulnerabilities
-

Adaptation & Mitigation

In general, there are two ways to address vulnerabilities: adaptation and mitigation. **Adaptation** means adjusting to the impacts of climate change: for example, moving a shorefront home back from beaches and dunes that are eroding. **Mitigation** means reducing the impact of climate change, such as eliminating the use of fossil fuels.

Who Does the Assessment?

◀ Addressing the effects of climate change in Truro requires a collaborative effort between subject matter experts: Truro's municipal staff, elected officials, and boards and committees.

Goals Alignment

Effective climate leadership requires the integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation into daily operations, decision-making, and planning for our municipality. This means the Select Board must be committed to taking the lead on implementation of this approach and the integration of climate change mitigation and adaptation throughout all Town Departments, boards, and committees. This aligns with the Select Board's Values, Goals, and Objective #10.

Phase 1: Assess Vulnerabilities

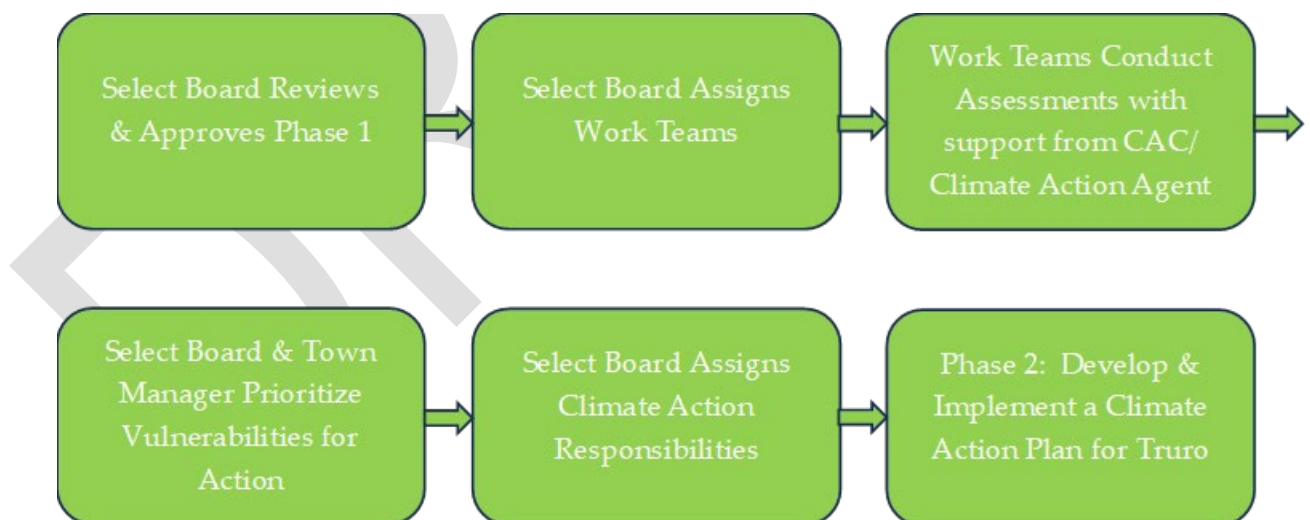
Goals Alignment, continued

Values: Openness and Transparency, Collaboration, Sustainability

Goals: Use long term and strategic planning to guarantee the future health and well-being of our community.

Objective #10: The Select Board will provide support to and collaborate with the Climate Action Committee and the Energy Committee on the goals of creating a Climate Action Plan for the Town of Truro, and researching the hiring of a Climate Action Agent, as well as to work with the Climate Action Committee to develop a policy memorandum that facilitates and guides progress in all relevant areas toward a “Net Zero Truro” by 2050 and will ask for updates at least twice per year.

Work Process



Note that some/much of the information required to make vulnerability assessments may already be available.

Phase 1: Assess Vulnerabilities

Output

The final output of each work team is a recommendation for action and the plan captured in the form below. Teams will create their own methodologies to collect data and assess vulnerabilities. In some cases, the data may already be available.



Vulnerability Assessment/ Recommended

Goal/Task: Goal #4: Assess Resilience of Infrastructure/Cable Service

Assigned to: DPW & Cable & Internet Advisory Committee

Methodology (how to achieve the goal):

1. Identify municipal departments, critical town services, and businesses dependent upon cable access
2. Identify the impact on these groups if cable service is unavailable for five business days. For example, lost revenue, loss of wages for employees, loss of services (ATM, credit card payments, public safety announcements, etc.).

Resources Required to Complete the Task (people, data, expense):

Survey municipal departments, critical town services, and businesses.

Cost of Doing Nothing (what does Truro lose?):

- Town Hall unable to conduct financial tasks
- Police, fire, and rescue services delayed
- Businesses cannot process credit cards, reservations, on-line ordering, and ATMs not available
- Disruption of public safety announcements

Recommended Action:

Work with cable provider to develop redundancy plans.

Phase 1: Assess Vulnerabilities

Goal #1*: Assess Municipal Building Emissions

Based on the Climate Action Committee's (CAC) 2021 greenhouse gas emissions assessment for Truro, building emissions are largely generated from the use of fossil fuels. Gasoline, propane, and oil are used to heat buildings, heat water, and cook. Migrating to electric heating and cooking, as well as reducing heat and cooling loss from buildings, will help reduce emissions.

Recommended Tasks:	Assigned to:
1. Conduct energy assessments for all municipal buildings	EC/DPW
2. Estimate costs to upgrade	EC/DPW

Goal #2: Assess Transportation Emissions

In Truro, most transportation emissions come from cars, trucks, and buses.

Recommended Tasks:	Assigned to:
1. Improve broadband access to reduce travel	Cable & Internet
2. Assess feasibility of carpooling and ride sharing	CAC
3. Assess expanding bicycle and pedestrian paths	Bikes & Walkways
4. Assess EV charging stations	CAC
5. Assess long-term plan to electrify municipal vehicles	DPW

**Note that numbers are for reference only and do not indicate priority.*

Phase 1: Assess Vulnerabilities

Goal #3: Assess Waste Emissions

The EPA estimates food waste is the single most common material in landfills and incinerated in the U.S. Food contributes to 24% of landfill waste and 22% of combusted municipal solid waste. Solid waste contributes to greenhouse gases through the emission of nitrous oxide from solid waste combustion facilities.

Recommended Tasks:	Assigned to:
1. Research feasibility of reducing waste disposal 2. Research feasibility of building materials reuse/recycle	DPW DPW

Goal #4: Assess Resilience of Mechanical Infrastructure

Sea level rise, flooding, and increasing temperatures and severe weather threaten the stability of homes, commercial buildings, municipal buildings, roads, electric service, and cable services.

Recommended Tasks:	Assigned to:
1. Assess vulnerabilities in utility infrastructure 2. Conduct vulnerability assessments of municipal facilities 3. Assess vulnerabilities to low-lying roads 4. Assess vulnerability of septic systems	DPW DPW DPW Health

Phase 1: Assess Vulnerabilities

Goal #5: Assess Ecosystems Vulnerability

Protecting watersheds keeps the aquifer safe. Preserving the natural ecosystem whenever feasible will help reduce greenhouse gases by sequestering carbon, protect habitat for wildlife, shellfish, and fin fish, and provide a healthier environment for Truro's residents and visitors.

Recommended Tasks:	Assigned to:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify shade-starved areas and assess strategic planting of trees to provide building shading and cooling2. Research potential reforestation of disturbed areas3. Research protecting the aquifer4. Research protecting salt marshes	CAC Conservation Health

Goal #6: Assess Production of Clean, Local Energy

Producing green energy locally will reduce the production of greenhouse gases and may protect Truro from sustained power outages.

Recommended Tasks:	Assigned to:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Assess future energy needs for Truro2. Identify affordable renewable energy sources, including mini grids and battery storage, and assess feasibility	EC/DPW EC/CAC

Goal #7: Assess Human Health & Safety

Hotter summers are a risk to elderly, infants, those with health issues, low-income families, outdoor workers, and indoor workers without air cooling. Deaths result from heat stroke and related conditions, but also from

Phase 1: Assess Vulnerabilities

Goal #7: Assess Human Health & Safety, continued

cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, and cerebrovascular disease. Heat waves are also associated with increased hospital admissions for cardiovascular, kidney, and respiratory disorders.

More violent storms, such as northeasters and hurricanes, put human health and safety at risk via loss of heat/cooling, access to potable water, access to health care, and damage to homes. Mental and emotional health is also at risk due to existential threats to physical health and safety. These risks increase with prolonged power outages.

Recommended Tasks:	Assigned to:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Assess viability of heating and cooling shelters in the event of an extended power loss2. Assess viability of cooling centers during extended hot temperatures3. Assess availability of potable water4. Identify existing resources for physical, mental, and emotional health needs	Fire/Rescue/Police Health Dept.

Goal #8: Assess Economic Viability of Truro

Assess the potential loss of income to the municipality and to businesses due to climate change. This may include, but is not limited to:

- Loss of tax revenue: property & businesses
 - Loss of beach parking
 - Loss of tourist revenue
 - Loss of successful farming
 - Loss of aquaculture/fishing/shellfishing
-

Phase 1: Assess Vulnerabilities

Goal #8: Assess Economic Viability of Truro, continued

Recommended Tasks:	Assigned to:
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Assess potential loss of tax revenues due to residential and commercial property loss (flood plain map)2. Assess potential loss of revenues due to loss of beaches and beach parking3. Assess potential loss of revenues due to loss of shell and fin fishing (licenses, launch and mooring fees)4. Assess the potential impact of climate change on local businesses and tourism	<p>Finance Committee</p> <p>Beach & Rec Dept</p> <p>Pamet Harbor Commission</p> <p>Shellfish Committee</p> <p>Finance Committee</p>

Next Steps

After the eight assessment goals have been completed, the next steps are:

1. Select Board reviews data.
 2. Select Board with CAC, town manager, town department heads, and/or appropriate committee/board chairs determine the priority for addressing vulnerabilities.
 3. Select Board assigns the top vulnerabilities to the appropriate town departments and/or committees.
 4. Departments and committees, with the help of the CAC, develop specific plans to address priority vulnerabilities.
 5. Select Board reviews and approves plans. These plans become Phase 2 of Truro's Climate Action Plan.
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APPENDIX B: Vulnerability Assessment Form



Vulnerability Assessment/ Recommended Action

Goal/Task:

Assigned to:

Methodology (how to achieve the goal):

Resources Required (people, data, expense):

Benefits to Truro:

Cost of Doing Nothing (what does Truro lose?):

Recommended Action:

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Phase 1: Assess Vulnerabilities

APPENDIX B: What Has Truro Already Done?


Municipal Actions

- 2004 Truro forms the Energy Committee
- 2009-2020 Energy consumption for municipal buildings/vehicles reduced by 28%
- 2010 6.8 kw Solar PV array installed on Central Elementary School
- 2011 Truro is awarded *Green Community* designation and adopts MA *Stretch Energy Code*
- 2013 Municipal buildings excluding Truro Central School converted to LED lighting

- 2015 Truro institutes ban on use of plastic bags in town stores
- 2017 Truro invests in a solar farm in Canton that supplies 100% of municipal electricity
- 2018 Truro adopts a zoning bylaw limiting house size
- 2018 Truro Central School converts to LED lighting
- 2019 Composting becomes available to residents at the Transfer Station

- 2019 Truro forms the Climate Action Committee
- 2021 A town-wide greenhouse gas inventory is completed
- 2021 EV Charging station is installed at Town Hall
- 2021 Proposed Climate Change Agent for Truro
- 2023 Truro adopts Specialized Energy Code at the Annual Town Meeting

Residential & Business Actions

- 2018-2020 Participates in *Solarize Outer Cape* program for residential rooftop solar
 - 2021 To date, 14 electric cars are registered with the town of Truro
 - 2021 Climate Action Committee meets with Truro Residents for feedback
 - 2022 Climate Action Committee works with Cape Light Compact to sign up 17 Truro businesses for an energy audit
 - 2023 CAC with Truro Public Library conducts information sessions on addressing climate change
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