

Special Town Meeting 2020-2

*Article 4 Declare Climate Emergency
(Citizen Petition)*

Supporters

Sunrise Lexington

Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition (LexGWAC)

Mothers Out Front

LPS Green Teams

Sustainable Lexington

Current Situation

- Global warming has increased wildfires, floods, rising seas, droughts, etc. in the United States and around the world
- The industrialized countries bear a responsibility to rapidly work toward a solution to the existential threats
- Restoring a safe and stable climate requires mobilization effort across all countries and communities

What the Town of Lexington has achieved so far

(2005) Adopted Sustainable Building Policy

(2007) building the Town's first LEED silver certified building, designed and built to specific environmental standards;

(2010) creating the Sustainable Lexington Committee;

(2010) adopting the state's optional 'Stretch' Energy Code to call for improved building energy efficiency;

(2010) becoming one of the first towns in Massachusetts to be designated a Green Community;

(2013) adopting a Climate Change Resolution to consider climate change in all appropriate decisions;

(2016) approving the Community Choice Aggregation program to move the Town's electricity to 100% renewable energy;

(2017) joining the U.S. Compact of Mayors;

What the Town of Lexington has achieved so far (Cont'd)

- (2018) adopting the Lexington Sustainable Action plan to provide a structured approach to identify, prioritize, and implement Town sustainability initiatives;
- (2018) installing 4.5 acres of solar panels at the Hartwell Ave site;
- (2018) banning the usage of thin-film single-use plastic bags from all retail or grocery stores;
- (2019) approving the hiring of a Sustainability Director to coordinate and implement the Town's Sustainable Action Plan and advance sustainability objectives;
- (2019) constructing the Town's first net zero energy school, Lexington Children's Place;
- (2019) adopting an integrated building design & construction policy for all school and municipal building to maximize sustainability objectives and onsite energy production;
- (2019) banning the use of petroleum-based straws, stirrers, and expanded polystyrene single-use food ware from all food establishments and public buildings.

There is a lot more to do

- Continue to undertake capital projects with green infrastructure and sustainable building design
- Acknowledge residents' call for rapid reduction in greenhouse emissions, and greater investment in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure and cleaner transportation
- Act as a global leader by converting to an ecologically, socially and economically regenerative economy as expediently as possible

Let's start with

- Declaration of a Climate Emergency
- Town-wide climate emergency mobilization effort to combat global warming to end town-wide greenhouse gas emissions as quickly as possible
- Commitment to educating Lexington residents about the climate emergency
- Commitment to join a nation-wide call for regional collaborative effort at all levels of government to restore a safe climate



It is time for us to declare a Climate Emergency

Please Vote Yes on Article 4



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