

ARTICLE 27 AMEND FOSSIL FUEL BYLAW - COMPLIANCE WITH DOER REGULATIONS AND GUIDANCE

To see if the Town will vote to make further amendments to, or replace, the Town's Fossil Fuel Bylaw, adopted pursuant to Article 29 of the 2021 Spring Town Meeting (as previously amended), to be consistent with Chapter 179 of the Acts of 2022 authorizing a demonstration program for municipal regulation of fossil fuels in new construction, and the regulations or guidance adopted by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources in accordance with that legislation; or act in any other manner in relation thereto.

(Inserted by the Select Board at the request of the Sustainable Lexington Committee)

DESCRIPTION: The state's Climate Bill passed August 2022 includes authorization to implement a pilot project that authorizes ten communities to regulate fossil fuels in buildings if they have passed a Home Rule Petition (which Town Meeting passed in 2021). On December 23, 2022, the Department of Energy Resources issued draft regulations implementing these provisions in the Climate Bill. This Article is proposed to ensure the Town has an opportunity to make changes to the Bylaw as adopted in 2021, and amended in Fall 2022, as needed to align with the Department's regulations.