

MODEL Climate Change Resolutions

WILLIAMSTOWN

Resolution to Participate in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign

WHEREAS, a scientific consensus has developed that carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gases (ghg) released into the atmosphere have a profound effect on the Earth's climate; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence including the Third Assessment Report from the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the U.C. Global Change Research Program's (USGCRP) First National Assessment indicate that global warming has begun, with the 1990s being the hottest decade in recorded history; and

WHEREAS, more than 160 countries pledged under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, in 2001 at the request of the Administration, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) reviewed and confirmed the concerns of the environment and public health community and declared global warming a real problem impacting key vulnerable populations. The NAS report also confirmed that global warming is caused, at least in part, by the actions of humankind.

WHEREAS, energy consumption, specifically the burning of fossil fuels, accounts for more than 80% of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS, local governments greatly influence the community's energy usage by exercising key powers over land use, transportation, construction, waste management, and energy supply and management; and

WHEREAS, local government actions taken to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase energy efficiency provide multiple local benefits by decreasing air pollution, creating jobs, reducing energy expenditures, and saving money for the City government, its businesses and its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, sponsored by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI), has invited the Town of Williamstown, MA to become a partner in the Campaign;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Williamstown, MA pledges to join with jurisdictions from all over the world in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and, as a participant in the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, the Town of Williamstown, MA pledges to:

1. Establish an inventory and forecast for key sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the community.
2. Set an emissions reduction goal.
3. Develop and adopt a local greenhouse gas emissions action plan to achieve those reductions.
4. Implement the local greenhouse action plan.
5. Monitor and report on greenhouse gas emissions and implementation of actions and measures.

By unanimous vote of the Williamstown Board of Selectmen, December 10, 2001.

WILLIAMSTOWN COOL COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

Passed at Town Meeting May 20, 2008

Whereas, Williamstown is a member of the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign, sponsored by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives; and

Whereas, Williamstown has set a goal of reducing overall carbon emissions by 10% below 2000 levels by 2010, and

Whereas, residential energy use and transportation account for more than half of Williamstown's total carbon emissions; and

Whereas, a recent report by McKinsey & Company has shown that reducing greenhouse gas emissions can save money, and

Whereas, reducing energy use promotes energy independence and reduces air pollution; and

Whereas, Williamstown has met its first three Cities for Climate Protection milestones by conducting an emissions inventory and forecast, setting an emissions reduction target, and developing a local climate action plan; and

Whereas, Williamstown is committed to implementing its local climate action plan;

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the citizens of Williamstown, pledge to lower household carbon emissions with a goal of 10% or greater reduction. Steps for achieving this goal include improving household energy efficiency, reducing waste and increasing household recycling, purchasing and using energy efficient vehicles and appliances, reducing driving, installing renewable energy systems, purchasing green power, and buying food and other products that are produced and sold locally.

Be it further resolved that, to help achieve and monitor progress toward our community goal, citizens are encouraged to calculate their carbon footprint and pledge carbon reductions by participating in the Williamstown COOL Challenge, a program of the Williamstown COOL Committee (www.coolwilliamstown.org or brochures available at Town Hall and Milne Public Library).

LEE, MA

Proposed Article for the Lee Annual Town Meeting-2008:

"To see if the Town will commit to reducing its carbon footprint through programs to promote energy conservation and efficient use of resources. To this end the town will endeavor to engage the citizens of Lee in a cooperative effort to follow the guidelines provided by the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement and the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign."

TYRINGHAM, MA

Citizens' Petition Passed at Town Meeting May 13, 2008

Tyringham pledges to promote public awareness about greenhouse gas emissions and work towards reducing residential and municipal energy consumption. In order to achieve a reduction, volunteer residents would form a committee to assist and inform residents and the municipality of ways to reduce their energy consumption.