

BARNSTABLE COUNTY
In the Year Two Thousand Twenty-One
Resolution 21-01

Climate Crisis Declaration

Be it Hereby Resolved by the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates:

Whereas, Cape Cod faces some of the strongest coming impacts from climate change, owing to the rapid warming of our regional ocean waters, and;

Whereas, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has codified, in the 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act, specific goals for targeted reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, and;

Whereas, twelve Cape Cod towns have passed, by great majorities at their town meeting in 2020, or by select board or town council action, similar articles in addressing climate change; three towns have not yet considered the matter, but nowhere has this model warrant article been rejected, and;

Whereas it is the intent of the Regional Government of Cape Cod to lead climate change prevention and mitigation efforts, and to support those efforts of our towns, in any sectors for which we have responsibility.

Now Therefore:

The Cape Cod regional government, known as Barnstable County, hereby resolves:

Barnstable County recognizes that climate change, driven by human activity including energy consumption and land use practices, has led to global warming, rising seas, deadly storms, dangerous heat waves, acidifying oceans, and melting ice sheets. These pose imminent threats to the health, safety and economic security of the region's residents, especially children and future generations, and to our natural resources. As such, these threats represent a crisis.

Barnstable County therefore adopts the following policy objectives:

- a. Reduce net greenhouse gas emissions from the County operations to zero when technically and economically feasible consistent with timeframes and targets of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- b. Establish and support programs to reduce the region's vulnerabilities to climate change.
- c. Direct all officers and departments of the County to report periodically to the Assembly of Delegates such measures taken that are within the scope of their respective responsibilities such measures taken that are within the scope of their respective responsibilities and authority and as may be necessary and prudent to facilitate such policy and objectives, and
- d. Seek and obtain funding sources to assist the County and towns to carry forth said policies and objectives.

The foregoing Resolution 21-01 was adopted by the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates, by a roll call vote of 99.07% voting "YES", and 0.93% "ABSENT" at the regular virtual meeting held on March 3, 2021.

Attested by:



Janice O'Connell, Clerk
Assembly of Delegates