

Truro Climate Action Committee- Minutes Wednesday May 21, 2025, 10:00AM

Town Hall, Type: In-person (ZOOM provided for [members] who could not attend)

Attendees: In person: Lili Flanders, Chair, Chip Cornell, member; Georgia Neill, Volunteer Chris Palmer, Climate Action Committee Coordinator.

By Zoom: Mark Gebhardt (Vice-Chair) Benoit Allehaut, Paul Holt, Alex Limpaecher (Members)

Assigned Note Taker: Chip Cornell

Public Commentary: None

Approve Minutes: From 5/07/25: The minutes were amended to state that Truro as a Climate Leader is preparing a grant application for \$3.5 million for renovations (HVAC) at Truro Central School along with other grants totaling \$ 5million. The minutes were then accepted by unanimous vote.

Climate Coordinator Update

1. Charging Smart Program: The funding for this State of Massachusetts program appears to still be available. Truro is planning to take part in this program. This program will provide for additional public charging sites for EV's. Truro is considering ending free charging at the Town Hall chargers.
2. The Town is considering changes to the building code that will make newly constructed houses charger-ready.
3. The RFP for the solar project is ongoing. It has been submitted to the town legal department for review.
4. During this report Benoit Allehaut noted that the US Senate is considering a bill to reduce credits for solar installation. A House version of the bill is debating elimination of residential solar tax credits. Community solar appear to be ok until 2028. This is obviously bad news for any solarization planning. This adds impetus for moving forward quickly with our land fill installation. The tax credits would be likely scheduled to be lost by end of the calendar year. In Massachusetts, community solar projects are still available and provide an alternative if federal support for residential solar incentives are lost. The Mass Clean Energy website lists the community solar project companies that are available. Unfortunately, the date that is reported to get the Tax Credits is when Eversource approves the installation rather than when the construction is completed. This will delay approval for most residential projects and may jeopardize tax credits

Discussion of Climate Action Plan (CAP):

At the 5/7/25 meeting committee members were tasked with reviewing the transportation sections of the Climate Action Plans for the State of Massachusetts and Cape Cod. Chris Palmer was also able to access plans from several communities around the State. Members reported on their reviews of the transportation plans of various towns to capture similarities that could inform Truro's climate action plan. Topics that were discussed included:

1. Creating a document that is easy to read and that appeals to the town citizenry. It was noted that several action plans from the State as well as the Cape were extremely long. Preparing a well written and concise plan that is made appealing by illustrations and tables was agreed upon. Committee Chair Flanders was enthusiastic about Marblehead's plan that begins with a letter to the community from the future, thanking the present community for the efforts they made. Their plan provides for community and citizen invitations to doable actions. Chris Palmer suggested recruiting artists in the [Truro] community to help illustrate the plan to market it and give it broad appeal. It was also recommended that the plan be clear in distinguishing between short and long-term projects. Short-term projects need to be simpler and less costly.
2. Transportation for Truro will have to address private vehicle usage as well as potential improvements to public transit. In addition, the promotion of alternatives including electric bikes, electric golf carts and bicycles will be needed. It was suggested that the plan should include maps of available bike paths and routes to encourage their use.
3. In discussing promotion of public transit, it was noted that a key need is making public transit services more visible and appealing. Educating the public about public transportation opportunities and services are needed. Improvements in bus schedules to reduce waiting at stops would be essential. Educating the public as to available options such as the flexibility in getting drivers to divert for pickups that are close to the normal route. Enhance the bus shelters to make them more usable and to serve as sources of information regarding public transportation.
4. It was agreed that safer bike lanes and walkways are needed. Discussion focused on the challenge of Route 6 as a deterrent to use of bikes or walking. Route 6 is controlled by the State so we can't make changes as a town. However, creating safer lanes and potential cross walks need to be addressed in the action plan.
5. The plan should encourage the growth of the use of electric vehicles. Addressing common concerns of the public regarding purchase of electric vehicles through educational materials may be helpful. Concern regarding the higher cost of EVs could be dispelled by promoting the cost savings realized by changing from fossil

fuels and the infrequent maintenance required by EVs. Promotion of programs such as Smart Charging will lead to additional savings by charging at low usage times of the day when electricity rates are less.

6. Committee member Benoit Allehaut recommended that the action plan be informed regarding The Truro public's perceptions. He is encouraging surveying the public to understand why people do what they do. He would encourage survey of public opinion to determine preferences around transportation. He encourages an in-depth survey to better understand the level of knowledge and perceptions of the town citizens.
7. Committee Chair Lili Flanders ended the discussion with a summary. The summary included the idea that the Climate Action Plan will benefit from doing a survey to understand community ideas. The committee needs to explore ways to gather information about community ideas regarding climate action and provide an assessment of the level of knowledge of the community regarding the impact of climate change. She also noted the committee needs to find out the barriers to achieving our goals. Our goals are clear but achieving them is the challenge.

General Updates/Next steps

1. Alex and Chris will reformat the climate action plan and finalize a draft of the transportation section.
2. Chris will work on looping in the Bikes and Walkways committee for their input regarding the CAP.
3. The committee has discussed the upcoming schedule of meetings. We will continue meeting every 2 weeks.
4. Next meeting Chris and Alex will present the draft for transportation and we will start to move onto the buildings section, again using the plans from other towns and State. Committee members will review the plans for discussion next meeting.
5. Cape Light Compact presentation provided excellent information regarding electrifying homes. They presented resources available to the community
6. Truro Talks regarding fire is coming out and Solar for homes is being worked on.

Next meetings are June 4 and June 25th. July 9th and the 23 of July. Lili will propose those dates by email. August will be the 6th and 20th. September will be the 3rd and 17th.

Also: for next meeting we need to plan the Library sessions for July and August. Please bring ideas for future library sessions to the next meeting.

The meeting ended at 11:56 AM

	Action	Details		Lead	Duration	Cost	
Goal: All community members have access to a variety of safe, no and low-carbon transportation choices							
<i>Better Utilize Existing Bus System</i>							
	Share information about current services, routes, free Fridays, DART, etc.		Education	CAC	Short	\$	
	Hold a "take the bus day", possibly once a month	Many people have no experience taking the bus, and a lack of knowledge can be a deterrent. Things like where the bus stops, how to pay, how to load your bike on the front	Education	CAC	Short	\$	
<i>Improve Bus Service and Infrastructure</i>							
	Install and Improve Bus Shelters to increase enjoyment of buses, and increase visibility	Add bus shelters throughout Truro. Bus shelters can could improve bus info, electronic display, little free library, food pantry, etc. Ideally hold bus shelter design competition and get artists to build comfortable appealing structures	Capital Improvement	CAC?	Medium	\$\$	
	Lobby CCRTA for Improved Service	Best practice is that people don't have to check the schedule before heading to the bus stop. You can just show up and know a bus will be there in the next 10 minutes.	Advocacy	CAC	Long	\$	
	Lobby CCRTA for Efficient Bus Services		Advocacy		Long	\$	
	Lobby for dedicated bus lanes for improved traffic	Buses are more attractive and efficient when they don't get stuck in the same traffic as personal vehicles.	Advocacy		Long	\$	
	Explore microtransit - using smaller vehicles to run the bus routes more frequently		Research		Long	\$	
	Explore other forms of transportation	Such as a ferry bus and golf carts	Research		Long	\$\$\$	
<i>Better Bike and Pedestrian Infrastructure</i>							
	Install bike lanes and cross walks		Capital Improvement?	B&WC	Medium	\$\$	
	Install Bike Racks and Fix it stations		Capital Improvement	B&WC	Medium	\$\$	
	Join Complete Streets program		Town Policy	B&WC	Short	\$	
	Hold bike oriented events	Including testing an e-bike, "bike days" where certain roads closed to cars, bike tours in Truro, group bike rides to Provincetown/Wellfleet	Education	CAC	Short	\$	
	Expand Bike Sharing to Truro		Education				
	Share info on ebike credits/incentives		Education	CAC	Short	\$	
	Create Incentives for e bikes		Town Policy	CAC	Medium	\$\$	
	Provide maps of bike routes, racks, fix-it stations, etc.		Education	B&WC/CAC	Short	\$	

	Work with local businesses and employers to incentivise bike riding	Such as a "get a discounted drink if you biked here today!"	Advocacy	CAC	Short	\$	
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Goal: EV adoption will reach 17% by 2030 and be nearly complete by 2050.

<i>Increase EV Charging Infrastructure</i>							
	Increase public charging stations		Capital Improvement	EC	Medium	\$\$	
	Advocate to Truro business to install charging stations		Advocacy	CAC	Medium	\$	
	Increase residential charging through building codes/electrician incentives	(Note, I think the building code is in place)	Town Policy	EC	Short	\$	
	Education residents about charging rebates (if and when available)		Education	CAC	Short	\$	
	Educate Residents about Benefits of Smart Charging		Education	CAC	Short	\$	
	Join Charging Smart and become Bronze/Silver/Gold Community		Town Policy	CAC/EC	Medium	\$	

<i>Increase Electrical Vehicle Adoption</i>							
	Public education about rebates, incentives, benefits	Possibly EV coaching, based on Cape Light Compact Energy Coaching	Education	CAC	Short	\$	
	Electrify commercial vehicles, e.g. delivery trucks		Advocacy	CAC	Medium	\$	
	Create incentives for EV ownership such as discounted stickers	Note: equity concerns	Town Policy	CAC	Short	\$\$	

Goal:Truro's municipal fleets reaches 50% zev adoption by 2030 and full adoption by 2050

	Electrify municipal fleet, inc. school buses, through capital planning, and grant applications		Capital Improvement	EC	Medium	\$\$\$	
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Goal: Reduce greenhouse gases emitted from transportation

<i>Improve ability to remote work in Truro</i>							
	Improve broadband so more people can work remotely		Advocacy	CAC	Medium	\$\$	
	Provide spaces in town for people to co-work, e.g. library, community center, a space in downtown Truro		Capital Improvement?	CAC	Medium	\$\$	

More housing and services in Truro

	Increase affordable housing in Truro, so workers do not need to drive from distant towns		Town Policy	?	Medium	\$\$	
	More services and shops in Truro so residents don't have to travel to other towns		Advocacy/Town Policy	?	Long	\$\$	
<i>Increase carsharing and carpooling</i>							
	Explore the possibility of residents carsharing	Where a community has a pool of shared (electric) cars that people can use whenever they need. Most cars are not used xx% (a high percent) of the time. Cost to buy EV is high, but to buy 1/10th of a shared car is low.	Research/Educate	CAC	Medium	\$	
	Explore Carpooling	Due to the geography of the Outer Cape, most cars are heading in the same directions, north or south. Most cars also only have one person in them. Explore how to increase carpooling, where more people get rides in the same car. https://groupcarpool.com/ is one tool to help.	Research/Educate	CAC	Medium	\$	
	Explore how to reduce care use by vacationers and second home travel	Explore specific challenges and opportunities that are faced by vacationers and part time residents. Solutions include: encouraging carsharing, so people can leave the car at home and take the bus/ferry here and have a car to use	Research	CAC	Short	\$	
	Explore carbon footprint of ferries/planes/buses and cars		Research	CAC	Short	\$	
	Pass or enforce anti-idling laws	Not sure if we have these laws, look into it. Also not sure if idling emissions are significant.	Advocacy/Town Policy	?	Medium	\$	
	Explore if our current parking space requirements for buildings can be reduced incentivize personal car use less		Research/Town Policy	?	Short	\$	

Building Climate Action Plans

Please read the buildings section of the following plans

- [Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Action Plan for 2025 and 2030](#)
- [Cape Cod Commission Climate Action Plan](#)
- [Folder with about 20 MA town/city Climate Action Plans](#) – pick any one (or more) that you like!
- [Truro draft Climate Action Plan](#)