



Re: Request to Prioritize Climate Resiliency and Greenhouse Gas Reductions in Sudbury as Part of Top 6 Select Board Goals

Dear Chair Roberts and Members of the Sudbury Select Board:

Our hometown and our home planet face a climate emergency.

As Sudbury residents, property owners, and organizations we ask you to include urgently reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions among your Select Board goals, as well as in your guidance to the Town Manager and other town boards.

WHY PRIORITIZE ACTION TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE?

- Climate change is already here. It is widespread, rapid and intensifying (IPCC August 2021). In just the last few months, many communities, including some here in New England, have suffered unprecedented flooding, severe temperatures and damaging storms associated with the impacts of climate change. It is not safe to assume that Sudbury will always be immune.
- There are steps we can take now to slow and reverse this trend, but time is of the essence. The sooner we act, the more effective and less costly these actions will be. A 2018 FEMA study found that \$1 spent on natural hazard mitigation saves an average of \$6 in disaster response.
- Taking action now means we can be proactive rather than reacting in the midst of a crisis.

TO ADDRESS THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY, SUDBURY NEEDS A SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTOR.

- There are funds available from a range of sources for Sudbury to invest in a full-time Sustainability Director to coordinate activities across all town departments and lead community outreach.
- Sustainability Directors in nearby communities have a track record of generating enough savings and revenues (e.g., from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects) to be a significant positive return on investment.
- This helps ensure we have key personnel with the time and resources to prepare a comprehensive Climate Mobilization Action Plan and build on the work of dozens of nearby communities.
- A Sustainability Director can guide creation of a menu of actions for Sudbury residents, businesses, and government to empower local action in meeting our state's established greenhouse gas reduction goals.

SUDBURY NEEDS TO ACCELERATE THE CLIMATE ACTIONS LAID OUT IN ITS MASTER PLAN.

- We applaud the town's 2021 Master Plan which includes climate resiliency, mitigation and adaptation
- It takes urgent action starting now, not sometime in the next 5 to 10 years, to address the accelerating and long term nature of climate change
- Protecting a livable planet that keeps Sudbury safe and prosperous should be near the top of the priority list for the Select Board, the Town Manager, and in our Master Plan. We respectfully urge you to act accordingly.