

Citizens Petition

Diane Jones (29 Francis Ave.), Isabella O'Connor (397 Prospect St.) Rachael Missal (23 Cypress), Sonali Razdan (94 Stoney Hill) and Gretchen Schultz-Ellison (24 Spring St.)

Be it resolved that the Town of Shrewsbury recognizes that we are in a Climate and Ecological Emergency. This emergency is driven by human activities including fossil fuel combustion and land misuse practices, resulting in global heating. The health, safety, and economic security of the residents of this community are already at risk from rising seas, deadly storms, dangerous heat waves, acidifying oceans, melting ice sheets, and major disruptions to the ecosystems on which our species depend on. Unmitigated greenhouse gas emissions risk food insecurity, future pandemics, and the failure of the electric grid.

As of February 2021, 20+ Massachusetts municipalities have passed similar declarations of climate emergency. Progress toward this future is underway in Massachusetts, which is among national leaders on climate initiatives. For example:

- There are 117,000 jobs in the state's clean energy sector.
- Massachusetts was one of the first states to pass decarbonization legislation, GWSA 2008

Shrewsbury, with its own municipal power company, SELCO, is well placed to implement the critical transition away from fossil fuels and to advance a robust, carbon-free, equitable economy, and the improved health and quality of life that will result.

The Town of Shrewsbury has committed to the environmental welfare of the community and our children by taking the following actions:

- Green Communities (2018)
- Plastic Bag Ban (2016)
- Styrofoam Ban (2018)
- Community Preservation Act (2020)
- W. Boylston Pipeline Ban Declaration (2017)
- Shrewsbury signed the Baker-Polito Administration's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (2017)

The Town of Shrewsbury therefore continues the effort of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from human activity within and by the Town to net-zero at the earliest technically and economically responsible time.

Shrewsbury declares that the Climate and Ecological Emergency threatens our town, region, state, civilization, humanity, and the world. We aim for a just, equitable environmental transition for the most vulnerable members of our community, such as our children, the elderly, and people of color.

The text of this resolution calls on state and federal elected officials to initiate a Climate Emergency mobilization and provide appropriate legislative, regulatory, and financial support to municipalities to implement local climate emergency initiatives.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Shrewsbury Representative Town Meeting goes on record as declaring that there is a Climate and Ecological Emergency in the town of Shrewsbury. The Town Clerk will send notice of this resolution to the State of Massachusetts Governor's office.

[illegible]