

C3 Town Select Board presentation

Suggested strategy: speak with a few select board members one-on-one a few weeks before before you present to the entire board to share some information with them. You can share the carboncashback.org/carbon-cash-back page, a few resources from the carboncashback.org/files page ([info sheets](#)) and the carboncashback.org/benefits page to build some support.

This is a non-binding resolution that doesn't cost the town anything. It gives our town's voters a choice about supporting legislation of an effective and beneficial climate pollution mitigation policy that most experts recommend. The resolution asks our state and federal representatives to pass legislation to implement the most cost-effective and equitable way to reduce climate pollution, Carbon Cash-Back.

In 2007, our town was one of 164 New Hampshire towns that voted in favor of a warrant article that asked the federal government to address climate change by passing legislation to reduce carbon emissions. That was over a decade ago, and Congress has failed to act. This Carbon Cash-Back warrant article is more direct. It asks legislators to use a specific approach that is based on sound economic principles and has proven results. We are asking for legislation at the state level also, to avoid further delay in case Congress is tempted to ignore NH voters' wishes again.

The World Economic Forum, a group consisting of the 1000 largest businesses in the world, produces a risk report based on an annual survey of businesses and thought leaders. This risk report has identified climate change as one of the top-five risks to business both in terms of severity and likelihood for every one of the past ten years.

The Department of Defense says climate change is a threat multiplier, and is working to adapt where possible. The costs of adaptation are very high.

Nearly every scientific organization in the world with a public position on the subject says human-caused climate change is happening, it's from our climate pollution, it's serious, and we are seeing the growing impacts and costs from it today. That's the conclusion of [200 scientific organizations](#) worldwide - private, public, and university funded. No scientific organization in the world disputes this. There are some biased organizations and PR firms that get paid to misrepresent the science.

When pollution is free we get too much of it. The cheapest way to reduce pollution is to put a price on it. Carbon emissions from fossil fuels are the pollution causing climate change. Experts estimate we need a price of \$100 per ton of carbon dioxide emitted from burning fossil fuels globally by 2030 to remain on an emissions path consistent with a relatively safe climate. The recommended way to do it is to charge fossil fuel producers and importers based on the carbon in their product that will end up as climate pollution and rebate the money collected to citizens. We can either start now with a low price and increase it gradually, or act later, starting with a much higher price and potentially shocking the economy.

Forty-six countries have already put a price on carbon. Canada implemented the cash-back solution called Carbon Fee and Dividend last year, and the recent re-election of Prime Minister Trudeau was a referendum showing Canadian citizens' support for it. Voters like it because it is a cash-back approach.

The Carbon Cash-Back approach is recommended by [3500 leading US economists](#) across the ideological spectrum.

This solution charges a steadily rising carbon fee directly on fossil fuel production (oil and gas wells and coal mines) and imports, and rebates all the money collected (minus administration costs) back to all households on an equal basis as a cash-back dividend each month.

The fee sends a strong market signal, harnessing efficient market forces to reduce pollution in the most cost-effective ways. There are many co-benefits: when the policy is applied at the federal level the reduction in associated air and water pollution - mercury, sox, nox, etc. - will prevent ten thousand premature deaths in the US a year.

The cash-back dividend compensates everyone in equal shares of all the money collected for the costs and damages being done to each of us from the pollution. This has the important co-benefit of protecting household purchasing power. Those with smaller than average carbon footprints receive more money in their monthly dividend than they pay in higher prices due to the fee, and that includes most low income families. The extra spending this income allows will help struggling families, and their extra spending creates jobs. Anyone can have a smaller than average carbon footprint and come out ahead, so the assistance to low income households is not due to redistribution, but rather to each person paying fairly for their contribution to the pollution problem.

This carbon cash-back warrant article will let town voters decide if they want our state and federal legislators to use the carbon cash-back approach to address the main cause of climate change. This is part of creating the political will needed to enable our representatives to pass effective and necessary legislation to address this pollution problem.

Legislation at the state level will reduce our carbon footprint, making New Hampshire more competitive when carbon pricing is global and it costs all producers more to use fossil fuel-based energy. The state price will go away when the federal price kicks in. At the federal level we will use border carbon adjustments to put the carbon pollution price on imports and remove it from exports to protect US jobs and encourage all other countries to match our carbon price as we need for our safety. There is a bill in Congress to do this, called the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, and Representative Annie Kuster is a co-sponsor. We would like to give the voters of our town the option to ask their legislators to do this, just as voters of over 40 other towns across New Hampshire have done (75% of them passed the resolution).

I hope you will support this warrant article because cash-back carbon pricing at the state and federal level is good for families, businesses, and New Hampshire, and we should give our town's voters the chance to support it.