

ARTICLE 31. *Concord's Updated Goals to Meet the Climate Emergency*

Motion:

Mr. Hubbard-Nelson moves that the Town take affirmative action on Article 31 as printed in the Warrant.

Concord's Updated Goals to Meet the Climate Emergency

To determine whether the Town will:

- a) Declare a Climate Emergency, in recognition that climate change threatens humanity and that we could do significantly more to mitigate the harms imposed by climate change.
- b) Update Concord's Energy Goals (2017 Article 51) to better align with the Commonwealth's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals by providing that Concord will strive to reduce emissions by 50% by 2030, 75% by 2040 and 85% by 2050 from the 2008 baseline year

Climate Emergency

Climate change is having devastating effects in many places throughout the world, including close to Concord

- Last 10 years were the 10 hottest in human history
- 2023 was "off the charts"



We read about this every day

Out of control wildfires

Flooding from extreme precipitation



Why “Emergency”?

- **What we do now** will affect the lives of generations to come.
- We need to **quickly change course**, and focus less on cost or convenience.
- It is all **our responsibility** to prevent climate catastrophe.

State Leadership

Massachusetts has recently upgraded its goals to meet this crisis.

2021 Climate Roadmap

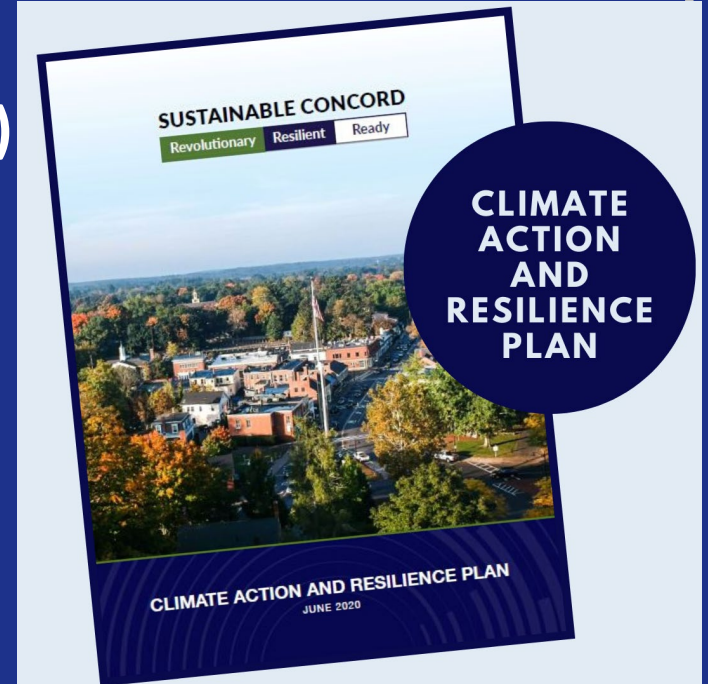
- 50% GHG emissions reduction by 2030, 85% by 2050
- Net-zero emissions target by 2050 including sinks

Concord can, and should, keep up with State goals and continue to be a leader among Massachusetts Towns

Concord Leadership

Climate Action & Resilience Plan (2020)
was one of the first adopted in MA

- Priority actions to reduce emissions and make Concord more resilient to climate change
- The Plan is good as is
- Not changed by Article 31



Some primary steps

Good solutions exist today to meet 2030 targets:

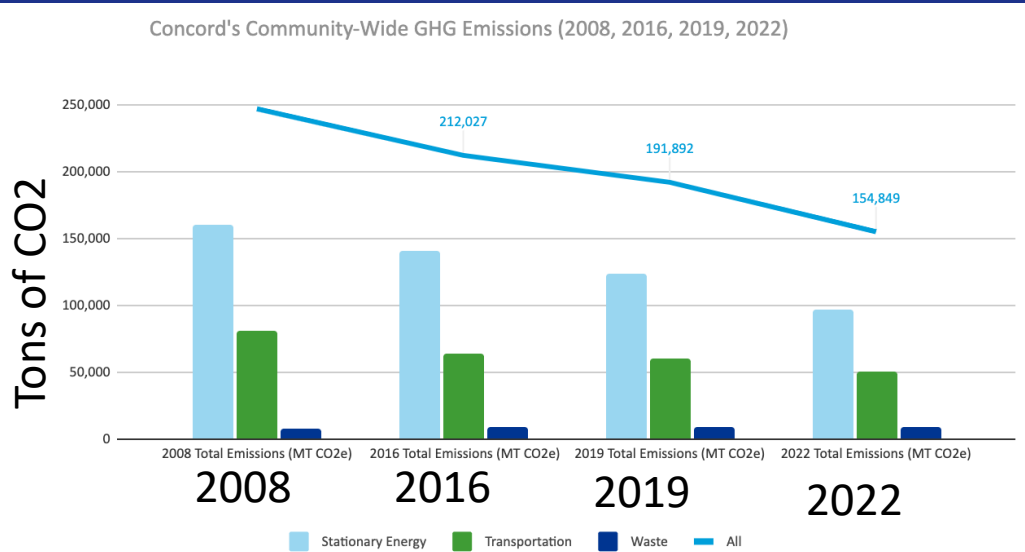
- 1. Emission-free, low-cost, reliable electricity (DONE)**
- 2. Electrify homes with heat pumps**
- 3. Electrify transportation with EV's**

Safer, healthier, cost-effective options



Concord's Progress

2022 data show 37% GHG emission reduction from 2008



50% reduction by 2030
is within reach!

The challenge ahead:

- Emissions-free electricity done, further reductions require many more homes, buildings and vehicles be electrified
 - 2030 goal: need to double the conversion rate to 200 homes/year
 - Town and CMLP prioritize helping residents and businesses, and upgrading municipal buildings and schools
- 50% and ultimately 85% or more emissions reduction will require all buildings and vehicles eliminate fossil fuel use

Article 31 is a resolution asking Concordians to renew our commitment to deal with the reality of the Climate Emergency.

Article 31 does not request funding or change our Climate Action Plan. It only speeds up the rate at which we achieve our goals.

The Climate Action Committee asks your support for Article 31

- Concord should remain a leader.
- Climate emergency demands our commitment to reducing GHG emissions in every sector
- By our actions we will inspire communities across the Commonwealth to do the same.

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