

Developing a Climate Action Plan for the Town of Nantucket



The First Step – Nantucket Joins the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign

In 2008, in response to the request of local non-profit, Sustainable Nantucket, the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Nantucket unanimously voted to join the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) and participate in the ***Cities for Climate Protection Campaign***. Nantucket joined over twenty-seven participating communities in Massachusetts alone, including, among others: Amherst, Barnstable, Boston, Falmouth, Gloucester, Hull, Kingston, Newburyport, Newton, Northampton, Salem, Somerville, Springfield, Williamstown and Worcester.

What is the International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI's) Cities for Climate Protection Campaign (CCP)?

The International Council of Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI's) Cities for Climate Protection Campaign (CCP) is a performance-oriented campaign that offers a framework for local governments to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve livability** within their municipalities. It is designed to educate and empower local governments worldwide to take action on climate change.

- **What are the Milestones of the ICLEI Cities for Climate Protection Campaign?**
- **Milestone One:** Conduct a baseline greenhouse gas emissions inventory for the entire community and municipal operations.
- **Milestone Two:** Set an emissions reduction target.
- **Milestone Three:** Develop and adopt a local action plan or a collection of initiatives to reach the target reductions. These initiatives will include finding efficiency and technological improvements available to the municipality.
- **Milestone Four:** Implement actions. This milestone involves municipal government to formally adopt individual emission reduction initiatives. Further, various municipal departments may be called upon to coordinate and implement the adopted initiatives.
- **Milestone Five:** Monitor emission reductions. Perform follow-up inventories.

Achievements – In May of 2009, with the help of Sustainable Nantucket, the Town of Nantucket achieved the first two milestones of the Climate Protection Campaign process

On March 25, 2009, Nantucket achieved the first two milestones of the Climate Protection Campaign process. Board of Selectmen Chair, Michael Kopko & Selectmen Brian Chadwick, Allen Reinhard, Patty Roggeveen, and Rick Atherton **accepted the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory report** completed by Sustainable Nantucket on behalf of the Town, and **approved the suggested targets for reduction** of greenhouse gas emissions reduction detailed in the report.

Achievement of these **milestones fulfills two of the criteria outlined in the Green Communities Act** for Nantucket to be considered for upcoming **“Green Communities” funding from the state of Massachusetts** – which could provide significant funding from the state **toward energy**

efficiency and renewable energy initiatives on the island.

NOW In Progress: Achieving the 3rd Milestone of the Campaign, designing a Climate Action Plan for Nantucket.

What is a Climate Action Plan?

It is a collection of initiatives to reach the target reductions. These initiatives will address both primary and secondary sources of carbon emissions, and include finding efficiency and technological improvements available to the municipality. Areas addressed will include buildings, (Historic District Commission guidelines; incentives for energy efficiency and renewable energy sources) lighting, town fleet, public transportation, community policies (e.g., idling policy), life cycle cost analysis for purchases, composting program, gray water /lo-flow toilet program, bio-degradable plastic trash bags; biker/pedestrian friendly community; public education campaign for the environment; school curriculum...

a.) Why do we need to have a Climate Action Plan?

- ❖ Reduction of Nantucket's carbon emissions will *provide multiple economic and environmental benefits* including:
 - cleaner air and water
 - cost savings from reduced energy use through efficiency and conservation measures
 - reduced dependency on fossil fuels
 - development of renewable energy
 - reduced traffic congestion & pollution benefiting tourist economy and downtown revitalization
 - potential for economic benefits from eco-tourism
 - potential for economic benefits from agri-tourism
- ❖ **Increases TON eligibility for state funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy production:**

The Climate Action Plan can be used as a basis for a Municipal Energy Use Reduction Plan, tailored to fulfill the requirements for Green Communities funding (\$10 million per year currently available to qualifying municipalities with populations under 35,000) from the state of MA for energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives.

 - Qualifies the Town of Nantucket for additional Smart Growth Points from the State of Massachusetts increasing our eligibility for grants and lower interest rates on long-term capital loans.
- ❖ **It is important for the municipality to become the leader**, showing the Nantucket community that reducing energy use & carbon emissions is a priority. The plan includes implementing energy efficient & carbon gas emission within their own operations including building, facilities, and vehicle fleets. The plan also includes outreach initiatives to change public attitudes and behavior around lowering our carbon footprints and energy efficient practices.

Potential grants, incentives & assistance:

- ❖ Green Communities Grants for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency – \$10 million available annually - (Includes Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant)
- ❖ Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP): Municipal Waste Reduction & Climate Protection Grants –
- ❖ Massachusetts Technology Collaborative
- ❖ Sustainability Fund written into Plan – could be created by Town to generate funds for this effort – revenue from fees leveraged on new construction over a certain square footage in lieu of using renewable energy to power 20% of the new construction – people pay a fee. This funds Aspen’s municipal department and efforts in this area.
- ❖ Current federal legislation includes provisions for additional incentive funding as well.

In January of 2010, Sustainable Nantucket was hired as a consultant to facilitate the completion and adoption of Nantucket’s Climate Action Plan.

The Plan as it is written in DRAFT form is designed to give stakeholders a comprehensive view of the scope and scale of actions that will be necessary in achieving the goal. The initiatives listed are a **broad menu of possible steps** and the list is illustrative and flexible. **In order to reach the targets however, bold steps will need to be taken, possibly involving changes in current behavior patterns and will require sacrifices at both the individual and collective community level.**

The Town of Nantucket is seeking community input into this Plan.

Click [HERE](#) for a DRAFT of the Climate Action Plan

Please email any comments on the Plan to climateplan@sustainablenantucket.org

Next Steps

TON’s steps after a Plan has been refined and adopted.

Create an Implementation Plan. This follows the Climate Action Plan and outlines recommended actions, progress indicators, and the estimated costs and emissions reduction.

Take action in order of priority as determined in the Implementation Planning process.