



## **Truro Climate Action Committee**

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## **One Small Town: Reduces, Reuses, Recycles**

Climate change is a multifaceted issue that affects the air we breathe, the water we drink, the ecosystems we live in, including salt and fresh water, plant life, and animals. At its simplest, climate change is the earth suffocating in our carbon emissions which cause air and water pollution, warming temperatures, fierce storms, too much water (flooding) and too little water (drought).

These emissions largely come from the combustion of fossil fuels (oil, coal, and natural gas) that we use for heating, electricity, manufacturing, and travel. Carbon dioxide accounts for approximately 82% of all greenhouse gases, while methane, nitrous oxide, and fluorinated gases make up the rest.

Sound kind of big for one small town to address?

We know the big changes we can all make to reduce greenhouse gases: use solar for energy instead of oil, coal, and natural gas, travel less, use electric vehicles, etc. Those aren't immediately within reach of everyone, but there are many small changes we all can make in our daily lives if we want to address climate change.

Truro's Climate Action Committee (CAC) was appointed by the Select Board to develop a variety of actions to address climate change in Truro. Truro's CAC is responsible for providing you, the people who care about Truro, with some actions we can all take. We're developing a series of articles to help you navigate the changes you can make in your daily lives to reduce greenhouse emissions.

To start off, think about the idea of reduce, reuse, and recycle. We've all heard it and it plays a role in limiting carbon emissions.



## REDUCE

**Reduce** means using less. Less fuel, fewer plastics, fewer consumer goods. Do you need to make several grocery trips a week or can you do one trip a week or every two weeks? Do you need to single-use plastic cups or can you use glass or ceramics? When you reduce, you're spending less money and creating less waste.



## REUSE

When you consider **reuse**, think about the single use products that you could replace with reusable products. Reusable cloth towels instead of paper towels? Reusable cloth shopping bags instead of single-use plastic? These all save money over time and reduce the amount of waste you generate.



## RECYCLE

**Recycle** is more than bringing your plastic, glass, metal, and paper to the transfer station. Are you looking for an exercise bike? Consider buying a used one. T-shirts worn out? Use them instead of paper towels to clean. Have clothes you don't need? Donate them.

These aren't the only ideas and examples, but here's the thing: for the next few weeks, pay attention to what you buy, what you use, and what you throw away. Any changes you can make? Reduce, reuse, recycle!

What are your questions about climate change? We'll help you find them. Tell us what you're doing to address climate change in Truro. You can join Truro's Climate Action Committee, or you can volunteer to work on a specific activity.

Contact us at: [ClimateAction@truro-ma.gov](mailto:ClimateAction@truro-ma.gov)

For a good description of greenhouse gas emissions, check out:

<https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases>

And for more ideas about reduce, reuse, recycle, go to:

<https://www.epa.gov/recycle>

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/reduce-reuse-recycle-most-all-reduce>