

Climate Action Committee – Newsletter Update – April 2025

Clean and Profitable: The Solar Project on Landfill at the Truro Transfer Station

I'm writing about Warrant Article #13, for the May 3, 2025 Annual Town Meeting, which proposes an appropriation for the installation of a solar panel array on our town landfill at the Transfer Station. This initiative is supported by the Climate Action Committee because it offers both environmental and financial benefits. The array is expected to net millions of dollars for Truro in its lifetime, while delivering clean, renewable energy.

Let me share why this solar project is supported by our committee. It has four key benefits that make it a great investment for Truro.

Climate Action: The green energy generated by the solar array will significantly reduce our carbon footprint, helping to mitigate climate change. This is especially important in Truro, as our Outer Cape location makes us vulnerable to climate change impacts.

Financial Opportunity: It creates an impressive new revenue stream that is expected to completely pay for itself. At approximately \$500,000 annually, this project would become one of Truro's largest income sources—generating more profit than all beach permits combined. This isn't just great for the environment; it's a tremendous financial boost for our Town Budget.

Energy Independence: We can utilize this electricity internally at reduced costs, keeping energy dollars within our community, rather than flowing to outside utility companies.

Resilience Planning: With optimal upgrades in the future, this system could provide backup power to essential town buildings during grid outages caused by extreme weather events.

Financial Investment: While the \$5 million price tag might initially seem steep, it's important to understand that we anticipate that this will be a self-funding investment. The town will issue a bond, spreading payments over time (similar to a mortgage). The anticipated revenue from the solar array is expected to be sufficient to cover these payments and all maintenance costs.

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Benefits: Currently, the federal government will reimburse us 50% of the cost of the system. However, with the new administration these incentives are now uncertain. While the IRA makes this project even more financially attractive, our financial models show that the project can be profitable for Truro even without these incentives. The IRA enhances the returns but is not required for this to be a sound financial investment for our town.

This solar project is projected to generate millions in net revenue over its lifetime, fully pay for itself, and deliver clean, renewable energy for many years to come. Let's take this opportunity to invest in Truro's sustainable future!

By Alex Limpaecher, on behalf of the Truro Climate Action Committee

This statement was supported by a vote of the Climate Action Committee at a public meeting held on April 15, 2025.

If you want to learn more about the Climate Action Committee, would like to volunteer, or are interested in becoming a member, contact chair Lili Flanders at climateaction@truro-ma.gov. Full or part-time residents welcome!