

Climate Action Committee – Newsletter Update – March 2025

Responsibility and our Planet

Recently I have been reading Wampanoag author and historian Linda Coombs' book: [Colonization and the Wampanoag Story](#) and had the pleasure of attending a presentation by Dr. Casey Thornbrugh at the Native Land Conservancy in Mashpee. It got me thinking about responsibility and relationship. My understanding of the Indigenous perspective on our existence is that we-- all living things-- are related and equal to one another, and part of the human job is to keep things in balance by respecting and honoring all of creation. We should give thanks to all the elements and living beings that support us, should not take more than we need and should give back and share when we can. Clearly, we have fallen far short of our responsibility to keep things in balance.

Dr. Thornbrugh informed us that many Tribal Nations are developing Climate Plans, and it occurred to me that Truro and other towns are as well. My guess is that while the philosophy that informs the plans may be different, the end goal is the same. We want to preserve and protect our planet, whether it is because we know our survival is at stake or simply out of love and responsibility.

I can't help but wonder, though, what will be different, how we will be different, when we think not only about our need for clean water and air, but the air and waters' need for health? Or the birds' and other animals' needs—not for our pleasure but for their own well-being? What will things be like when we love this planet and all creation so fiercely that we are willing to make more sacrifices? What will it take to commit to those sacrifices?

Considering and enacting change is an ongoing process. For each of us, that will look different: some of us are able or willing to give up more, and certainly many of us have already made some changes. Wherever we are in the process, we can all think of small changes to our habits which might even lead to bigger changes. Here are some to consider:

- [Get a free Energy Assessment from Cape Light Compact.](#)
- Thank the plants or animals before we eat.
- Eat less meat.
- Buy or find used items.
- Compost left-over foods.
- Find ways to use less plastic.
- Contact politicians to ask them to do certain things and to thank them for what they're doing.

- Bring our own containers for extra food when we eat out.
- Refuse, reduce, repair, reuse, recycle.
- Lower the thermostat in the winter and dial it up when using air conditioning.
- Use less water, electricity, fossil fuels.
- Do not use chemicals on our yards and gardens.
- Use/buy/make environmentally friendly products.
- Work with and/or financially support environmental groups and causes.
- Invest in solar energy, through opting for green energy through your electric company or installing solar panels.
- Divest from fossil fuel funds.
- Use “green” credit cards and banks. (Go to YouTube, Truro Public Library, “Aligning Your Money with Your Values” presentation for more information about this.)

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If you want to learn more about the Climate Action Committee or become a member or volunteer, contact Chair Lili Flanders at climateaction@truro-ma.gov. Full- or part-timers welcome!