

# Truro Climate Change Action Committee

## 9-24-19 Meeting Agenda

---

**When:** Tuesday, September 24, 4:00pm to 5:30pm

**Location:** Truro Library, Cobb Conference Room

**Invitees:** Bob Higgins-Steele, Carol Harris, Emily Beebe, Fred Gaechter, Joanne Hollander, Michael Holt, Rebecca Bruyn

Item Number	Topic	Who
1	Assign note-taker for this meeting	All
2	Public comment	
3	<b>Housekeeping:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting frequency</li> <li>• How to handle member absences</li> <li>• Communicating outside of Committee Meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Agendas, reading materials for an agenda, and meeting notes</li> <li>▶ Information sharing, such as articles, etc., outside of the meeting</li> <li>▶ Any other communication outside of meetings</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	All
3	<b>Committee updates on meetings/liaison:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Truro Connections meeting</li> <li>• Wellfleet Energy &amp; Climate Committee</li> <li>• Energy Committee Liaison</li> <li>• Response from Rae Ann re: US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement</li> <li>• Carol meeting with Rae Ann Palmer</li> </ul>	Bob, Mike Carol Bob  Fred Carol
4	<b>Complete Climate Change Working Definition.</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Fred's update to the Climate Change Definition</li> <li>• Review Michael's proposed definition</li> <li>• Finalize and vote</li> </ul>	All

# Truro Climate Change Action Committee

## 9-24-19 Meeting Agenda

---

Item Number	Topic	Who
5	Background and status of MVP and HMP. What activities are happening and what needs to be addressed.	Emily
6	<p><b>Path Forward: agree to next steps for this committee:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Develop working definition of Climate Change</li> <li>2) Develop a brief sentence or two: what's the problem we're trying to solve</li> <li>3) Develop parameters for identifying and prioritizing actions; i.e., how do we decide what to work on.</li> <li>4) Understand what work has already occurred or is in process</li> <li>5) How Truro is/will be affected by Climate Change. This is a brainstorming session where we identify all ideas without judgement. Ideas will then be grouped for commonality.</li> <li>6) Identify potential policy areas/actions. This is a brainstorming session where we identify all ideas without judgement. Ideas will then be grouped for commonality.</li> <li>7) Prioritize</li> <li>8) Identify what resources we need</li> <li>9) Propose to Select Board</li> </ul>	Carol/All
7	Do we need any additional information in order to appropriately prioritize actions identified in item 6 above? (For example: we need data on air quality; we need population demographics to understand our constituents.)	All
8	Suggestions for the next agenda and adjourn.	All

# Truro Climate Change Action Committee

## 9-24-19 Meeting Agenda

Item Number	Topic	Who
<p><b>Future Agenda Items and Actions</b></p>	<p>Review the following suggestions at future meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do we hope to achieve in the next 3/6/12 months?</li> <li>• Identify what we need to learn and how to do the research</li> <li>• A plan for the reduction of carbon emissions in Truro</li> <li>• Education and outreach as well as research into the vulnerabilities mentioned in the charge</li> <li>• Plan liaison with other groups/committees inside and outside of Truro Town Hall: id groups, agree on liaison goals, set template for asking for input</li> <li>• Determine if we want to be a clearing house for all climate change activities for Truro (collaborate/ publicize/centralize information sharing, but not ownership of all activities)</li> <li>• Share and record all ideas members have for specific work that can be done by the Committee, Town, and community, regardless of feasibility</li> <li>• Identify grant resources</li> <li>• Cape cod light compact battery RFI</li> <li>• The Truro Conservation Trust is to embark on a planting plan around Truro on conservation land, on citizen property (voluntarily), and along Routes 6 and 6A, to significantly increase the carbon-absorbing capability with specific plants in Truro. There's a list of about 10 deciduous and evergreen plants that are appropriate for such a project. The Conservation Commission has asked landscapers, contractors, and citizens who have not complied with regulatory requirements to plant a specified number of trees in Truro as public compensation for their mistakes. We can create a positive program and, probably, get funding for it.</li> <li>• Joanne's proposal re: Switch to Green</li> <li>• Trucks idling</li> </ul>	<p>All</p>

# Truro Climate Change Action Committee

## 9-24-19 Meeting Agenda

---

### Agenda Item #4: Updated proposed definition from Fred Gaechter

#### Truro Climate Action Committee

### **Definition: Climate Change in Truro**

**Background:** The international climatology community has presented definitive evidence that the earth has experienced 30+ years of an increase in the average land and sea temperatures. A decade of change in the average is accepted as the definition of "climate change". Since the current change is an increase in the average temperature, it is accepted to be, by definition, "global warming". In this context, the scientific community sees "climate change" and "global warming" as synonymous. The numerous potential causes of climate change, whether warming or cooling, fit into two general categories: natural and man-made.

**Truro Definition:** Accepting that "climate change" and "global warming" are occurring, the task in Truro is to:

1. identify the local impact of a global issue,
2. develop a local program intended to mitigate and/or prepare for the adverse impacts on all aspects of our lives and Truro's sustainability,
3. recommend actions to be taken by the Town and,
4. educate the public on the threat and their role in its mitigation.

#### **Potential Areas of Adverse Impact to Study (no order of priority)**

This is a preliminary list of potential impacts only, not a suggestion of what solutions might mitigate them.

Agriculture/Aquiculture

Water Supply

Air Quality

Wildlife Habitation (flora and fauna)

Rising Sea Levels and Temperatures

Commerce

Public Safety: e.g., Severe Storms, Fire, Flooding

Financial: e.g., Town budget, Flood Insurance, Disaster Relief

# Truro Climate Change Action Committee

## 9-24-19 Meeting Agenda

---

### Agenda Item #4: Proposed definition from Michael Holt

#### **DEFINING THE CRISIS: WHAT DOES CLIMATE CHANGE MEAN FOR TRURO?**

The Earth's temperature, mostly steady for millennia, has been rising since the start of industrialization, mainly due to human-caused emissions of greenhouse gases, exacerbated by widespread deforestation. While the pre-industrial climate was ideal for life on Earth, rising temperatures make the planet increasingly inhospitable, triggering cascading disruptions throughout the environment, including irreversible feedback loops.

Preparing ourselves to deal with the climate effects we are already seeing in Truro—like coastal erosion, flooding, and disease—is important. Such preparations can help motivate our community by alerting it to the immediate, local threats, and by showing people that if we work together, we can address those threats through the implementation of concrete solutions.

Furthermore, Truro's carbon footprint is small, because of its size, while its fragility is great, because it is on the coast. Therefore, it could be argued that we should focus more on preparations than on carbon-reduction.

However, humanity's only chance to stop far worse, irreversible, and ever-increasing devastation lies within about the next decade. It is therefore essential that we focus our primary efforts on achieving net zero or negative carbon within that time frame, without adding hardship to the vulnerable and economically stressed elements of our communities. We in Truro must see ourselves as part of a great, global effort requiring truly heroic achievements, and recognize that whenever any locality achieves something big, it helps all others to believe they can do the same.

**ADVERSE EFFECTS LIKELY IN TRURO THIS CENTURY, UNLESS RADICAL GLOBAL CHANGE IS MADE THIS DECADE:** Read "The Uninhabitable Earth" by David Wallace-Wells

- Inclement weather: storms, flooding, deadly heat, tornados, snow disasters, giant hail, etc.
- Effects of flooding at chemical and nuclear facilities
- Fires
- Sea level rise and erosion
- Water shortage and loss of quality
- Disease
- Loss of air quality
- Threats to local food production—shellfish, fishing
- Threats to national and global agriculture affecting local food supply
- Threats to food, water, air, and health arising from environmental crises related to, but not normally defined as, climate change, such as pollution and habitat destruction
- Difficulties absorbing climate refugees from the global south
- Threats to local economy, such as tourists' loss of spending power, loss of seafront businesses, loss of tax base, reduced aviation, reduced navigability

# Truro Climate Change Action Committee

## 9-24-19 Meeting Agenda

---

- Shortages or high prices of globalized goods and services such as digital devices, medical supplies, and IT support
- Local effects of broad economic crises and collapse
- Local effects of broad political crises and collapse
- Local effects of international wars
- Increased local conflicts
- Social crises and collapse
- Awareness of suffering and death in other parts of the world, knowing our children and grandchildren will suffer or die
- Anguish, depression, addiction, and other psychological effects

### HUMAN EXACERBATIONS OF EFFECTS

- Fragility of Truro's poor, sick, and old (old people are more vulnerable to heat death than either children or sick people)
- Lack of tools at the individual, family, and community levels to deal with psychological effects

