

submitted by

A of D 1-16-19



**CAPE COD
CLIMATE
CHANGE
COLLABORATIVE**

(public comment)

Statement on Regional Policy Plan

January 16, 2019

The Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative (5C's)* commends the staff of the Cape Cod Commission (CCC) for their hard work producing an excellent and comprehensive draft RPP. This plan can be an essential tool guiding important decisions affecting the future of Cape Cod.

The 5Cs believes that climate change is now and will continue to be, the over-arching and cross-cutting issue impacting virtually every aspect of our lives. Warming oceans are driving many of those impacts, such as shifting fishing grounds, coastal erosion and sea level rise. And ocean waters adjacent to Cape Cod are warming *faster than any other place in the world*, giving Cape Codders an unfortunate "front row seat" for climate change impacts.

The 5C's main concern with the draft RPP's content and format is that it does not fully reflect the wide-ranging impacts of climate change and the urgency with which Cape Codders must address them. The 5Cs Board of Directors requests that, rather than relegate climate change to a stand-alone topic among many in the RPP, the CCC staff reexamine each goal and sector to include proposed actions to reduce CO2 emissions and to adapt to changes already negatively affecting the health and well-being of Cape Cod.

We on Cape Cod must take decisive action to address climate impacts in all governmental, business, educational, civic and individual decisions. The Commission's RPP can provide the needed leadership for doing so. Just as Boston's Mayor Walsh announced plans for Boston to be carbon-free by 2050, our regional plans must, at a minimum, embrace the same target. Revising the RPP to address and prioritize climate change in every sector presents an immediate opportunity to take bold action needed to deal with the existential threat posed by climate change to the future of Cape Cod

** Established in 2015, the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative is a consortium of Cape and Islands-based organizations and individuals whose mission is to unite available resources, organizations and intelligence to mitigate climate change impacts on Cape Cod, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and work toward achieving "net zero"-based goals for the region. Board members include community leaders from across the region representing organizations such as the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, Cape Air, Cape Light Compact, Center for Coastal Studies, Friends of Pleasant Bay, Outer Cape Energize, Woods Hole Research Center, and numerous faith, educational, non-profit and business entities.*

Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative PO Box 1092, South Orleans, MA 02662
WWW.CAPECODCLIMATE.ORG · 607-351-8681
CAPECODCLIMATE@GMAIL.COM