

submitted: A of D  
2-6-19

**BARNSTABLE COUNTY**  
**In the Year Two Thousand and Nineteen**  
**PROPOSED ORDINANCE 19-XX 04**

**Whereas**, gases like carbon dioxide occur naturally and are essential for human survival, and

**Whereas**, carbon dioxide, methane, and other gases trap heat in Earth's atmosphere and are known as "greenhouse gases" for the warming effect they produce,<sup>1</sup> and

**Whereas**, fossil fuel burning creates these gases, and over 150 years of industrialization their quantity in the atmosphere has increased,<sup>2</sup> with climate consequences resulting,<sup>3</sup> and

**Whereas**, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has identified that the state's climate change impacts are likely to include effects including declining air quality, heat waves, shifting habitat boundaries, impacts to marine species that will affect the state's fishing industry, sea level rise, amplified shoreline erosion, increased storm surge height, among others,<sup>4</sup> and

**Whereas**, impacts on and degradation of regional infrastructure, beaches, coastal wetlands, and other built and natural assets, could threaten local economies as well as human and environmental well-being in the region,<sup>5</sup> and

**Whereas**, policy strategies and initiatives have been advanced by the Cape Cod Commission, the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative, the Association to Preserve Cape Cod, the Massachusetts Legislature, the Massachusetts Climate Change Adaptation Coalition, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, the Volpe Center of the National Transportation Systems Center, the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies, the Cape Light Compact, among others, that could be adopted to guide Barnstable County's climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, and

**Whereas**, the County mission is to promote and sustain a pro-active open government that enhances the quality of life for all citizens of Barnstable County.

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

---

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (2019). Overview of Greenhouse Gases. Retrieved from <https://www.epa.gov/ghgemissions/overview-greenhouse-gases>.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations. (2019). Climate Change. Retrieved from <http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/climate-change/index.html>.

<sup>3</sup> NASA. (2019). Global Climate Change. Retrieved from <https://climate.nasa.gov/causes/>

<sup>4</sup> Commonwealth of Massachusetts. (2019). Climate Change in Massachusetts and Its Impacts. Retrieved from [www.mass.gov/service-details/climate-change-in-massachusetts-and-its-impacts](http://www.mass.gov/service-details/climate-change-in-massachusetts-and-its-impacts).

<sup>5</sup> Massachusetts Institute of Technology Science Impact Collaborative. (2014). New England Climate Adaptation Project: Case Study Barnstable, Massachusetts. Retrieved from <https://necap.mit.edu/sites/default/files/documents/Barnstable%20Case%20Study.pdf>

**BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED** that the Barnstable County Assembly of Delegates:

1. Will work to reduce climate change impacts on Barnstable County through mitigation and adaptation activities in two areas of influence:

a. **County Government Programs, Policies and Assets:**

- i. The Assembly urges County government to continue and strengthen current efforts to reduce the County's carbon footprint, and to make climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts a priority. The Chair of the Board of Regional Commissioners and County Administrator will be invited to present the Assembly with progress reports.

b. **Barnstable County Generally:**

- i. **Step 1:** The Assembly recommends establishing a short-term working group to evaluate how to best establish a permanent entity that will guide Barnstable County's multi-pronged approach to climate change.
  - i. **Composition:** The short-term working group would be composed of representatives from the three arms of County government:
    - a. 2 or 3 Assembly Delegates
    - b. Chair, Board of Regional Commissioners/County Administrator
    - c. Director, Cape Cod Cooperative Extension
    - d. Executive Director, Cape Cod Commission
    - e. Natural Resources Specialist, Cape Cod Commission
    - f. County Health Director
  - ii. **Product Requested:** A proposed organizational structure, mission, location, name, sources of technical and administrative support, member type and number (e.g., town representatives, county representatives, climate change nonprofit representatives, local experts, citizens, and/or others).
  - iii. **Timeline:** 3-4 months
- ii. **Step 2:** The Assembly would, upon receiving the recommendations of the short-term working group, put forth an ordinance urging the County Commissioners/Administrator to establish a permanent entity to address climate change mitigation and adaptation in all areas of the County.

Submitted by Mary Chaffee (Brewster Delegate)