Climate Change & Sustainability

SUDBURY TOWN FORUM July 14, 2022



Agenda

- Introduction
- Article 58/ATM 2022: Climate Emergency Declaration
- Climate Change in Sudbury: Vulnerabilities and Hazards
- Legislative Update & Guest Speaker Comments
- Q&A
- Select Board Goal: Sustainability and Climate Changes Initiatives

Welcome! Guest Speakers and Panelists

Massachusetts Senator Mike Barrett Massachusetts Senator Jamie Eldridge State Representative Carmine Gentile Alison Field-Juma, OARS Executive Director Ken Pruitt, Sustainability Director, Winchester Janie Dretler, Vice-Chair, Select Board (Moderator) Rami Alwan, Energy and Sustainability Committee Lori Capone, Conservation Coordinator Adam Duchesneau, AICP, Director of Planning & Community Development Sandra Duran, Combined Facilities Director Bill Murphy, Health Director Dan Nason, Public Works Director Beth Suedmeyer, Environmental Planner John Whalen, Fire Chief

Article 58/Annual Town Meeting 2022 Climate Emergency Declaration

- Citizen petition article brought forward to the May 2022 Sudbury Annual Town Meeting.
- Passed by well more than majority of hall.
- Calls for the hiring of a Sustainability Director and appropriation of \$130K from Free Cash or other sources for salary/benefits.
- Declares Climate Emergency.
- Calls for community-wide greenhouse gas emissions reductions as soon as possible, but no slower than state benchmarks as signed into law.
- Organize 90-day stakeholder meeting to educate about climate emergency risks and Town's plans to address them. (*Today's Forum*)
- Convene advisory team led by Sustainability Director to research and develop a Climate Mobilization Action Plan (CMAP).
- Provide annual status report to Town Meeting on progress towards meeting communitywide greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Climate Change in Sudbury

- Sudbury recognizes it is vulnerable to the impacts of natural hazards and climate change and will build capacity to be more resilient.
 - What are the risks posed by the climate emergency?
 - What are the various ways that the town can address these risks?

Flooding of March 2010





Winter Storm of 2018

Sudbury: Vulnerabilities

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Public Workshop January 2020 - Horsley Witten Group

• Economic

- FEMA 100-Year Flood Zone Impacts 882 parcels / \$566,333,882
- FEMA 500-Year Flood Zone Impacts 1270 parcels / \$795,974,100

Social

- Public Infrastructure and Emergency Lifelines
 - Public buildings and structures in the flood plain, access roads
- Evacuation and Population at Risk
 - Emergency shelter
- Environmental
 - Direct Impacts
 - Loss of habitat
 - Salinization of land and groundwater
 - Indirect Impacts
 - Inland damage to the built environment
 - Threats to ecosystems and species
 - Contamination of potable water

Sudbury: Hazards

Hazard Mitigation Plan Update Public Workshop January 2020 - Horsley Witten Group

| Hazard | Frequency | Severity |
|--|-----------|-------------------|
| Flood-Related Hazards Inland/Urban Flooding/Heavy Rain | High | Extensive |
| Winter-Related Hazards Blizzards/Snow/Nor'easter | High | Extensive/Serious |
| Wind-Related Hazards Hurricanes/Tornados/High Winds/Lightning/Thunderstorms/Hail | High | Extensive/Serious |
| Drought | High | Serious |
| Urban Fire/Wildfire | Medium | Minor |

Legislative Update & Guest Speaker Comments





Kickoff Questions



What climate risks to Sudbury have you identified through your work? What has your department already done to plan for and address risks?



What are the benefits that could be gained for residents and their quality of life through additional sustainability measures?



Moving forward, what steps, processes, and/or resources should the Town utilize to address climate risks and become more sustainable?

Select Board Goal and Next Steps

Jennifer Roberts, Select Board



Select Board Goal: Sustainability and Climate Change Initiatives

- Overall, enhance Select Board focus on addressing climate change and supporting sustainability initiatives.
- Review goals and recommendations of the Hazard Mitigation and Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Plans to understand and help advance next steps/prioritization. Partner with relevant departments, boards, committees, and commissions to achieve goals.
- Support pursuit of sustainability measures such as municipal solar projects, enhancing energy efficiency in Town buildings, environmentally friendly transportation. etc.
- Schedule at least one annual Select Board update from the Energy & Sustainability Committee.
- For new building projects, establish goal of net zero/maximum energy efficiency.
- Review and understand State legislation related to sustainability/climate change and requirements for Sudbury.
- Encourage Town pursuit of sustainability-related grants and external funding.
- Per ATM Article 58:
 - hold Climate Emergency stakeholder public meeting within 90 days of the 2022 ATM (by 8/3/22).
 - support hiring of Sustainability Director.
 - convene advisory team to create Climate Mobilization Action Plan (CMAP).
 - provide annual status report to ATM on progress on greenhouse gas reduction goals.



Thank you for joining!