

**January 13, 2013**

## **It's High Time: Climate Change Solutions, A Public Forum**

### **STATE ACTION Group Summary**

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*Minutes taken by Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition*

In addition to action individuals can take to influence statewide policy, the action group discussed some ways that people can act individually and at the community level that will mitigate global warming and hopefully bubble up to statewide policy.

- Individual actions
  - Get home energy audit
    - The state has invested \$6 billion in energy efficiency, and approximately \$15 billion in rebates are available in rebates through public/private partnerships.
    - But these investments are worth nothing if individuals don't act!
    - Businesses are eligible as well; if you own or manage a business, small or large, there are programs for you, too!
    - Groups that perform energy audits:
      - Mass Energy Consumer's Alliance: [massenergy.org](http://massenergy.org)
      - Next Step Living: [nextstepliving.org](http://nextstepliving.org)
      - Mass Save: [masssave.com](http://masssave.com)
      - See also: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/energy-efficiency/>
  - Get out of your car
    - Energy is currently the largest greenhouse gas emission sector
    - But transportation is the fastest growing sector
  - Buy locally produced food, goods, etc.
    - Locally produced goods do not have to be shipped via truck or train, which requires burning fossil fuels.
    - Additionally, creating market demand for locally produced goods diminishes overall shipping miles over time.
  - Support composting, and anaerobic digestion
- Local/Community
  - Urge your town to achieve Green Community status, if not already achieved
    - Achieving Green Community status is relatively easy and common sense
      - Requires
        - Meeting renewable energy generation permitting standards

- Energy efficiency standards
    - More information on Green Community requirements: <http://www.mass.gov/eea/energy-utilities-clean-tech/green-communities/gc-grant-program/>
  - Apply to participate in the Solarize Massachusetts program
    - Solarize Massachusetts is a program run through the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center
    - It allows towns to organize household interest in solar electricity generation to lower installation costs
    - More on the Solarize program is available at the Clean Energy Center website: <http://www.masscec.com/index.cfm/page/Solarize-Massachusetts/cdid/12093/pid/11159>
  - Encourage your town to purchase renewable energy, either through a direct supplier such as Mass Energy Consumer's Alliance, or an energy aggregator, such as PowerOptions.
  - Talk with your neighbors, both around the block and in the next town. There are lots of details and successes to make your community's work more feasible!
  - Introduce a resolution on Extended Producer Responsibility to reduce emissions related to waste management.
- Statewide
    - Demand real carbon emissions caps!
      - Massachusetts is part of the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, a multi-state agreement for a carbon cap and trade program.
      - But the carbon cap needs to keep moving down, and we can't lose sight of our goals
      - Call Gov. Patrick's office at 617.725.4005 and ask for a carbon emission cap no higher than 20% lower than 1990 levels, or 72 million tons.
    - Ask the state to enforce the Global Warming Solutions Act
      - Massachusetts groundbreaking 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act required the state to set sector wide limits for carbon emissions.
      - Unfortunately, the state has yet to write the regulations to implement this important step to slow global warming.
      - Ask Gov. Patrick to set the regulations! Call at the number above, and say, "Governor, make sure section 3D of the Global Warming Solutions Act is effective, and require the Dept. of Environmental Protection to move forward with regulations for declining emissions for all sectors."
    - Transit Funding
      - This may be the year the legislature provides serious funding for transit systems in Massachusetts.

- A coalition to support increased transit funding has formed, called “T for Mass,” including Conservation Law Foundation.
- Call or write your state representative or senator and ask for serious investment in Massachusetts public transportation, from the Blue Line to the Berkshires. You can find your elected officials’ contact information at [malegislature.gov](http://malegislature.gov).
- Support continued incinerator moratorium in Massachusetts
  - Massachusetts has a long-held moratorium on incinerators
  - However, some interests are pushing to create exceptions
  - Write a comment to support continued incinerator moratorium to this address: [dep.swm@state.ma.us](mailto:dep.swm@state.ma.us)