

Resolution to pursue a Building Energy Reporting/ Reduction Ordinance

Councilor Crossley on behalf of the ZONING & PLANNING COMMITTEE, seeking a Resolution from City Council confirming its support for pursuing an ordinance that would require large property owners to report annual energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, and then to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions over time, to further the objectives of the Newton Climate Action Plan.

RESOLUTION to pursue a Building Energy Reporting/ Reduction Ordinance

Whereas, the City of Newton recognizes the urgency of the climate crisis;

Whereas, in December of 2019, the Newton City Council adopted the Newton Climate Action Plan, a collaborative effort among the City Climate and Sustainability Team, the Newton Citizens' Commission on Energy, Councilors and many citizens; and

Whereas, Newton's Climate Action Plan requires steady reductions in energy use and GHG emissions across all city sectors over time, in order to meet a long term goal of net zero emissions by 2050; and

Whereas, the most significant measure taken to date is the city's implementation of *Newton Power Choice*, where ratepayers on Eversource basic service now purchase electricity powered by 82% clean renewable energy; and

Whereas, the Newton Climate Action Plan identifies strategies necessary to reduce carbon emissions from buildings over the next five years; and

Whereas, the Newton Citizen's Commission on Energy 2019 citywide emissions update shows that the largest 400 buildings in the City of Newton contribute 27% to Newton's greenhouse gas emissions; and

Whereas, the next most impactful measure the city can take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to reduce emissions from Newton's large buildings; and

Whereas, the City is committed to working closely with property owners and stakeholders to achieve an ordinance that sets clear expectations, is workable and allows building owners time to properly plan; and

Whereas, our Mayor, Co-Directors of Climate and Sustainability, Citizens' Commission on Energy, City Councilors, Green Newton Building Standards

committee members and others stand ready to enthusiastically support this measure;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the City Council commits to developing an ordinance that will require large property owners to report energy use and emissions to the city annually, and in subsequent years demonstrate reductions in energy use and emissions to meet benchmarks established for their building type, with the goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2050.