

ENERGY/CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE

The Orleans Energy and Climate Action Committee (ECAC) was set up in 2009 to support the town's ability to tackle climate change challenges.

The goals of the committee are to:

Educate our residents, businesses and town departments on energy conservation and climate action mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Reduce the community's contribution to global warming with a focus on ensuring that current and future energy infrastructure is cleaner, leaner, and more resilient.

Prepare, coordinate, and execute climate actions and adaptation strategies that anticipate and respond to the effects of climate change.

The ECAC strongly supports Articles 6, 7, 8, and 30 which directly supports the community's reduction of greenhouse gases.

ENERGY



CLIMATE ACTION

ARTICLE 6

FUND ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

This article supports the addition of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging at Nauset Beach and a Level III charger at Depot Square. A state grant program and local utility Make Ready programs support this initiative. Additionally, the town is eligible for the Inflation Reduction Act tax credits which will return 30% of the cost for providing and installing EV chargers. The addition is expected to address the predicted growth in EV use in town from residents and visitors.



ARTICLE 7

FUNDING FOR SUSTAINABILITY & ENERGY MANAGER

This article supports hiring a part time energy manager, shared with other cape towns, under Cape Light Compact supervision. Having an Energy Manager would reduce municipal energy use, save money by more efficiently using Green Community grant funds, take advantage of tax credits available to municipalities and assist with renewable energy development. The ECAC recognizes the challenges to increase our use of the Green Community Grant program, reduce municipal energy use, increase town municipal renewable energy development, and promote actions to encourage greenhouse gas reductions with current staffing.

ARTICLE 8

FUND DESIGN OF SOLAR PROJECT AT THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

This article is the opening step to be able to construct a 300KW solar array to power the town water treatment facility. This solar array would generate over 500,000 kWh: worth \$130,000 per year. Over the 25-year life of the solar panels, this investment will save over \$3 million and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. To bring this project forward, the Town will need to petition the Commonwealth to permit the installation of the solar array. \$25K in conceptual design services are needed to develop an invitation to bid. Under the Inflation Reduction Act, tax credits are available should the town decide to finance this project.



ARTICLE 30

AMEND GENERAL BYLAWS TO ADOPT SPECIALIZED ENERGY CODE

This article proposes that the Town of Orleans adopt the Specialized Energy Code. The Specialized Energy Code adds requirements for new residential and commercial construction to be more energy efficient. It encourages all electric buildings but allows mixed fuel buildings if they offset greenhouse gases with solar and prepare for future electrification. The Specialized Energy Code adds no new requirements for additions or renovations to existing construction. The Specialized Energy Code advances the effort to combat climate change and global warming. The Energy Climate Action Committee unanimously supports the adoption of this new state energy code.