

TOWN GREEN January 2025

In December 2024, Truro took a major step forward to combat climate change here and now. As a [Green Community](#) since 2011, Truro became eligible for the [Climate Leader Communities \(CLC\)](#) program, which commits a town to meeting the goals of the Massachusetts 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap and the Commonwealth's [Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2025 and 2030](#) (2025/2030 CECP). On December 17, 2024, the Truro Select Board voted unanimously to accept the Truro Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap, presented by the Energy Committee, the Climate Action Committee, and DPW Director Jarrod Cabral, making Truro eligible to apply for Green Communities Climate Leader certification.¹ After years of work by Town committees and staff, with essential support from Truro voters, the Select Board vote ticked the last box for Truro's application for Climate Leader designation. Truro can now claim to meet the six application requirements:

1. Be a Green Community in good standing
2. Have a local body (sustainability committee, energy committee, etc.) that advises the municipality on clean energy/climate initiatives
3. Commit to eliminate on-site fossil fuel use by 2050 (municipal buildings/operations).

Truro has also:

4. Created a municipal decarbonization roadmap
5. Adopted a Zero-Emission Vehicle first policy
6. Adopted the Specialized Opt-In building code

An important aspect of becoming certified as a Climate Leader Community is the availability of grants to support energy efficiency and decarbonization work. Grants may fund “studying, designing, constructing and implementing energy efficiency activities; procuring energy management services; adopting energy efficiency policies; and siting activities related to and construction of renewable energy generating facilities on municipally owned property.” As soon as Truro receives CLC designation, the Town will apply for grants for architectural and engineering services to begin its energy transformation.

The Truro Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap establishes baselines for measuring progress towards decarbonization goals in 2027, 2030, 2040, and 2050, and provides insight into the Town's future as a Climate Leader Community. But it's important to remember that Truro has reached this point after a decade of collective action and collaboration. In his report to the Select Board on December 17, Jarrod Cabral outlined the steps that had brought Truro to this significant moment. He noted that in 2013, Truro Town Meeting had overwhelmingly passed Article 33. This article, A Resolution on the Climate Crisis, recognized both individual and community responsibility for reducing the Town's carbon footprint by decreasing use of fossil fuels and making buildings more energy efficient, and resolved “that the citizens of Truro commit ourselves to meeting our individual and collective responsibility in the face of the increasing climate crisis by adopting energy efficiency and conservation practices...” Following up, in 2019, Annual Town Meeting approved the establishment of the Climate Action Committee

¹ The Truro Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap is attached to [the Select Board agenda packet for December 17, 2024](#), Item 7E.

(CAC), with the [charge](#) to investigate, study, and make recommendations to the Select Board on “the carbon footprint of all Town-owned facilities and equipment; methods for minimizing the Town's carbon footprint; the Town's vulnerabilities to the consequences of climate change; and methods for minimizing the Town's vulnerabilities to the consequences of climate change.” Mr. Cabral further noted two of the Select Board’s vehicle replacement policies, Policy 43 and Policy 46; in particular, Policy 46, the Zero Emission First Vehicle Policy, prioritizes electric vehicles when replacing older vehicles in the Town fleet. Mr. Cabral has himself been instrumental in the Town’s planning for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and maximizing the efficiency of buildings and transportation.

Also, at the December 17 Select Board meeting, Energy Committee co-chair, Bob Higgins-Steele, thanked Truro voters for their steadfast support of this journey to a future free from greenhouse gases. Notably, in 2020, Town Meeting passed Article 17, a pledge to reduce Truro’s net greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050. The CAC and the Energy Committee were charged with recommending specific actions to the Select Board to achieve Net Zero buildings, balancing the carbon we emit with the carbon we remove from the atmosphere by cutting the use of fossil fuels in favor of renewable energy sources and reducing energy use in buildings.² At the 2023 Annual Town Meeting, voters passed Article 30, adopting the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Specialized Energy Code, “for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.” This code aligned Truro with the Commonwealth’s decarbonization goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 33% from the 1990 level by 2025 and by 50% before 2030, ultimately achieving a net zero economy by 2050.

These goals lie at the heart of the Truro Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap, which begins by detailing baseline 2022 greenhouse gas (GHG) emission levels emanating from eight municipal buildings: Truro Central School, the Public Safety PFR, the Library, Town Hall, the Community Center, the Transfer Station, the Beach Office, and the Field House. It also covers vehicle fleet emissions. For each building, the goal of the Roadmap is “to identify Energy Conservation Measures (ECMs) to achieve complete fossil fuel elimination” by 2050, and to do the same for the Town’s vehicles. The Roadmap also estimates the potential costs of decarbonization. Town staff worked on the facility review with [Cape Light Compact](#), RISE Engineering, and the consulting firm, ICF, “to identify the scope of the Roadmap, incorporate stakeholder feedback, develop the municipal goals, and identify implementation processes and roles to achieve the strategies outlined in the Roadmap.” ICF, a frequent partner of [Mass Save](#), provided technical expertise on energy efficiency measures, decarbonization strategies, and program design.

The Decarbonization Roadmap Narrative details the timeline and the categories for implementing energy efficiency and electrification measures: Lighting Retrofits, Weatherization Measures, Envelope/Insulation Improvements, HVAC Electrification and Controls Retrofit, Water Heating Electrification, and Solar PV Installation. An excellent explanation of the Roadmap may be heard in three podcasts, [Amy & Ian Explore Truro’s Decarbonization Roadmap](#). The podcasts conclude with some important reminders: decarbonizing has major positive effects on public health, such as reducing air pollution that causes respiratory illnesses. Reducing GHG emissions helps slow the rate of global warming, mitigating the extreme weather and sea rise associated with climate change. In Massachusetts, even small towns like Truro have

² See the Truro Energy Committee’s Net Zero Basics [Video](#)

an opportunity to show that positive change can happen when individuals, communities, and governments take collective action to invent a better future, one that relies on renewable energy sources like sun and wind to help us tread more gently on the earth.

By Sept 2022: so far, Truro has received over \$350,000 to fund energy conservation and equipment in municipal facilities and Central School.

Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER)---Green Communities
<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/climate-leader-communities>

Webinars: See Trigger events

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-clean-energy-and-climate-plan-for-2025-and-2030>

EEA--Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

<https://www.truro.news/newsreals/Energy>

⁷ Weatherization and Envelope/Insulation improvement energy reduction potentials were derived from ICF industry experience in alignment with recent studies completed and reduction potentials from commercial buildings. Since reduction potentials of building envelope vary based on investment, higher cost and reductions potentials were used for the Envelope/Insulation Improvements.
<https://www.insulate.org/ICFStudy2022.pdf>

This Roadmap considers how emissions are generated throughout Truro's facilities and vehicles and the potential costs associated with the ECMs necessary to achieve decarbonization by the year 2050. Truro staff worked closely with their technical assistance team to identify the scope of the Roadmap, incorporate stakeholder feedback, develop the municipal goals, and identify implementation processes and roles to achieve the strategies outlined in the Roadmap.