

Workshops on Combatting Climate Change

The newly formed climate justice committee of Am Hayam Havurah (People of the Sea Jewish Fellowship), in conjunction with the Federated Church of Orleans, is presenting a series of three workshops on Combatting Climate Change. The workshops will be held, via Zoom, on May 18, June 1, and June 15 at 7:30 PM. The program addresses the way Cape Cod residents can combat and reduce Climate Change, what plans are in place to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, and what we, as residents of Cape Cod, will need to do in the near-term to set us on the path to achieve the net-zero goal.



The thesis of these workshops is that:

1. Greenhouse gas emissions cause climate change and that on Cape Cod transportation and home/business heating and cooling are the major contributors.
2. We understand what needs to be done to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in these areas.
3. We are optimistic. We have made good progress so far and we can get to net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.
4. **It is up to us. We can act. We have a part to play.**

This optimistic action plan follows the Massachusetts 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap. It addresses what needs to be done and how we can do our part. The emphasis will be on a three-pronged approach to mitigating emissions. These involve conserving energy, transitioning to renewably generated electricity and electrifying transportation and the heating/cooling of homes and businesses.

We show how, with foresight, we can avoid purchasing equipment that will need to be replaced because of its greenhouse gas emitting effects during its lifespan. The program talks about the technological changes that have already occurred including home heating and air conditioning, energy efficient home appliances, and solar photovoltaic systems. It examines emerging trends such as electric vehicles, and it looks forward to what to expect by 2030, such as offshore wind.

The first workshop is about home heating, cooling, appliances, and conservation, and is presented in conjunction with the Cape Light Compact (CLC). Air source heat pumps (mini splits) and air source hot water heaters are explained. CLC will discuss support for environmental justice, general and income-based rebate programs that enable everyone to participate in this effort. CLC will also talk about the 100% local green program for supporting locally sourced green energy.

The second workshop is about electric vehicles, how much fun they are, and when they will be less expensive than fossil fuel vehicles. We explain the types and uses of charging stations for EVs and how much more convenient they are than gas stations. The workshop will look at near term trends and what to expect in the next few years. One of our members will talk about her cross-country road trip in an EV. We will discuss how EVs fit into other emerging trends such as public transportation and self-driving vehicles.

The final workshop will be about solar photovoltaic arrays, primarily on our homes and businesses and about battery storage. We will discuss the merits of generating your own electricity and the subsidies available. We will talk about the different types of systems (micro-inverters, optimizers, string inverters) and how to choose the size system that is right for you.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Dick Elkin at dickelkin@gmail.com