

Town of Bar Harbor Task Force on the Climate Emergency Bylaws

The mission of the Climate Emergency Task Force is to define and recommend climate goals with the objective of drawing down carbon from the atmosphere and reducing community-wide greenhouse gas emissions by December 31, 2030.

Appointment

The Task Force shall consist of 10 members: 8 residents of Bar Harbor, one student representative and one Town Councilor.

The remaining participants of the Task Force shall consist of representatives from local stakeholder groups including educational and nonprofit organizations, businesses, youth, and concerned citizens.

The term of each resident member shall be for three years, except the initial appointments which shall be three appointments for 1 year; two appointments for two years and three appointments for three years. The term of the student representative shall be for two years and the term of Town Councilor shall be for one year. All newly designated task force members are to be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

The Task Force shall elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary at the first regular meeting of each year for a one year term. The Chair shall call a meeting at least once a month unless there are no agenda items. The secretary shall take minutes at each meeting and send approved minutes to the Town Clerk. A quorum is 5 members of the Task Force. Meeting agendas shall be posted on the bulletin board in the Municipal Building lobby and on the town's website.

Compensation

There shall be no compensation provided for the members of the Task Force.

Duties and Responsibilities

The Task Force will:

- Educate and engage Bar Harbor residents about the climate emergency and the broader ecological crisis, as well as actions they can take to address the impacts and causes of the climate emergency.
- Explore and identify the most effective and economically beneficial opportunities for emergency-speed greenhouse gas emissions reductions across the community in the following areas:
 - Renewable energy
 - Energy efficiency
 - Housing and buildings
 - Transportation
 - Land use
- Provide significant opportunities for public input into strategic planning, project development for greenhouse gas emissions reductions, and all other investigations and work of the Task Force.

- Develop a comprehensive Bar Harbor “Climate Mobilization Action Plan” addressing climate mitigation, climate adaptation, and community education.
- Identify and pursue outside funding sources to advance the work of the Task Force.
- Assist the Town Manager in hiring a consultant to support these duties and responsibilities.

The recommendations of the Task Force will be presented to the Town Council and made available to the public.

Amendment

These bylaws may be amended only by action of the Town Council.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

01/21/2020 – Adopted by Town Council

04/07/2020 – Amended by Town Council