

Subject: Video for Arlington Declaration of Climate Emergency
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Dear Select Board members:

Thank you for the invitation to the Select Board meeting tomorrow night Mon Feb 22 to present our warrant article for an Arlington Declaration of Climate Emergency.

We made a short video introduction (in part to be efficient with your time, recognizing that you have a long meeting in front of you, and that we are the last agenda item). We just finished it (after sending our materials).

Here is the short video:

https://youtu.be/-e_zzZ3d-pw (3:14 min)

And a longer version with more detail (presumably for later viewing if interested):

<https://youtu.be/eYKzGqNJHjo> (7:21 min)

Here again is the warrant article text for discussion tomorrow:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FGfOj7mLyomkIGNxeiFYVVbkFuISDBh5/view>

Background is at:

EmergencyArlington.org

Let me know if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing you Monday.

Thank you for all you do for the Town!

Parke

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Parke Wilde

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Emergency Arlington

Building on Climate Emergency Declarations in other municipalities and adapting them to local concerns, Emergency Arlington is drafting an [Arlington Declaration of Climate Emergency](#) to be considered for adoption by Arlington Town Meeting in 2021. To garner support for this declaration, Emergency Arlington is hosting a series of public actions encouraging the residents of Town of Arlington to support and ally with us, to endorse the Climate Emergency declaration, and take suitable steps consistent with that declaration. This project originated as part of the [Emergency Everywhere](#) campaign of Extinction Rebellion Massachusetts (xrmass.org), the regional chapter of the global climate action organization.

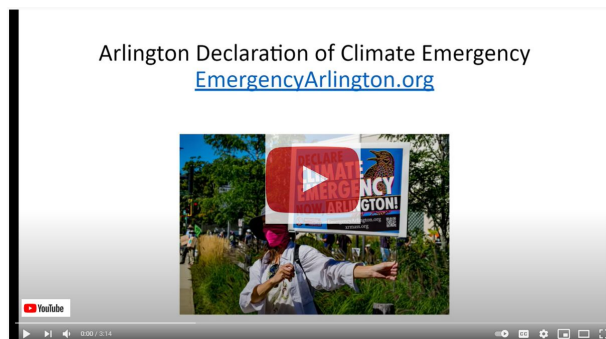


Upcoming Events

- **Monday, February 22, 2021** [EEA will present our Warrant Article](#) to the Select Board. Please attend if you are able. The hearing begins at 7:15 pm, but we are last on the agenda. **Share our video (below)** The Zoom registration & meeting link and the official agenda are posted on the [Town website](#). **Register in advance:** https://town-arlington-ma-us.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_uBTC4wwrSRGuC-vH_2MSaQ
- **April, 2021.** We are planning a Winds of Change event (with wind-themed art) and other activities in advance of Arlington's April 2021 Town Meeting.

Arlington Declaration

Following Boston and Massachusetts towns like Lexington and Acton, it is time for Arlington to join the movement and have the Town officially pass a declaration of climate emergency in 2021. [Read the EEA_ArlingtonTownMeeting_Warrant_Article_2021 here.](#)



[Short video \(3:14 min\).](#)
[Longer video \(7:21 min\).](#)

Our draft [Arlington Declaration of Climate Emergency](#) proposes that the Town of Arlington will speak plainly about the climate crisis, report on progress in fossil fuels reduction, act to reduce unnecessary fossil fuels use (in matters within Town authority), speak up for climate-friendly policies (in matters outside of Town authority), and work for climate justice.

Since the fall of 2020, we have been working with other environmental organizations in Arlington to refine the draft text and develop a [warrant article](#) to present to the Arlington Select Board and bring it before the spring 2021 Town Meeting for a favorable vote.

This declaration is supported by:

- [East Arlington Livable Streets](#) (support for declaration, Oct 1, 2020).
- [Sustainable Arlington](#) (endorsement of warrant article, Jan 27, 2021).
- [Mothers Out Front](#) (endorsement of warrant article, Feb 1, 2021).

How to Support Us

- Support this initiative:
 - **Join.** The [sign-up page](#) for our local Emergency Arlington initiative.
 - **Participate.** Come to our fun and artful **Upcoming Events**.
 - **Share.** On social media and in person, tell friends about our initiative.
 - **Publicize.** Use the comment field of our sign-up page to request our yard sign pictured above (free).
- Support other wonderful environmental initiatives in Arlington:
 - [Sustainable Arlington](#)
 - [Mothers Out Front](#)
 - [Sunrise Arlington](#) ([sign-up form](#), [instagram](#), and [campsite](#))
 - [East Arlington Livable Streets](#)
 - [Clean Energy Future Committee](#)
- Take action regionally:
 - [Join](#) the [Extinction Rebellion Massachusetts](#) movement.

Past Events

- Discuss the Climate Emergency and what we can do about it. We had a **Zoom Chat Sunday, Jan. 17, 5 pm - 6 pm**. This is a follow-up event based on the December 2020 presentation by John B.
- [Heading for Extinction \(And What to Do About It\)](#). December 16 at 7pm by Arlington resident John Burkhardt, one of the founders of Extinction Rebellion, Boston, MA. At this meeting, John shared the latest climate science, discussed the current psychology

around climate change and ecological breakdown, and explained why disruptive mass action is our best hope to avert catastrophe. (Video [link](#) with passcode: hn?qL=D9)



- [Responding to the Town of Arlington's climate initiative by November 6!](#) The Town of Arlington has a remarkable interactive web page, seeking your input on climate action steps now through Nov 6. The website is extensive, so it may take 15-30 minutes to reply in full, but the site is information-dense so the time is not wasted. Please, friends and neighbors, speak up for vigorous climate action. Now is the time!
- **Climate Change is Scary!** October 31. [NBC 10 Boston coverage](#), [YouTube](#). It's a frightening season outside, with fires, and floods, and hurricanes! Even more scary than ghosts... lurks the once quiet and now unmistakable emergence of rapid and increasingly destructive Climate Change. On Halloween eve, we created a force for positive change that will scare off this looming threat for just one moment, and make as much noise as we could together, at a safe distance. We processed with costumes from Arlington Town Hall, through the Old Burying Ground, to Pleasant St. and Mass Ave. while calling for immediate local and state climate action with our noise makers and chants. We had speeches by Sunrise youth and Emergency Arlington, and shoutouts to many organizations doing great work in Arlington.



- **Boat Making Workshop. Sep 26.** Saturday afternoon September 26, Emergency Arlington invited all ages and stages to a socially distanced fun day event making paper boats together. Having fun, children and parents spend a few hours creating paper boats with messages. You may now encounter them around Arlington, especially on the bike path. Look for them on your next walk. Make statement and hang your boats around town. Thanks go to our Arlington Arlington host: Laurie.bogdan@gmail.com



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- **Global Day of Climate Action. September 25,** 5pm-6pm, at Pleasant Street and Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, MA. ([Press Release](#)) Wearing masks and keeping social distance, people from local climate organizations join EEA holding banners, distributing flyers, and getting “honks” from the passing cars - all to the accompaniment of an upbeat fun brass band. Our aim is to raise awareness and build grassroots pressure locally, in every town and city, in order to make environmental repair happen, now. This event was part of the [global day of climate actions](#) called by Swedish teen [Greta Thunberg](#) and the worldwide [#FridaysForFuture](#) youth movement.



- **Shoe Strike, September 5** ([press release](#), [YourArlington](#), and [video coverage](#) from the terrific reporter Maxime Isaac at ACMi). Calling upon the Town of Arlington to enact a “Declaration of Climate Emergency,” a group of Arlington residents gathered for a lively rally Saturday morning September 5, having assembled over 100 pairs of shoes to symbolize the many people who could not be present in person during a time of coronavirus. The event launched [Emergency Arlington](#), a local extension of [Extinction Rebellion MA](#) that aims to partner with Arlington climate advocates and push municipalities to take meaningful climate action within the next five years. Emergency Arlington member Parke Wilde explains, “Arlington has a key opportunity to show similar towns how a comparatively prosperous community can drastically reduce fossil fuels use while preserving a delightful high quality of life.” In drafting an



Arlington Climate Emergency Declaration, Emergency Arlington is inviting Town leaders into the discussion while gathering the expertise of other local groups such as Sustainable Arlington. “We’re running out of time,” says Gina S., a member of [Fridays for Future](#) - a youth-led global action group started by Swedish teen climate activist Greta Thunberg. “We are now experiencing the intense weather events which have already been baked into our future as a result of greenhouse gas emissions burnt into our atmosphere years ago. Governments have put the responsibility of mitigation on individuals, but this crisis calls for systemic change on a global level.”

Contact:

If you have questions, email parke.wilde@gmail.com (Twitter handle [@flyingless](#)).
<https://actionnetwork.org/groups/emergency-arlington>