



**Town of Arlington
Office of the Town Manager**

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To: Members of the Board of Selectmen

From: Adam Chapdelaine, Town Manager

RE: Creation of Clean Energy Future Committee and Approval of Mission and Membership

Date: July 13, 2018

On behalf of Arlington's Energy Working Group, I am writing to propose the creation of a new Clean Energy Future Committee. The purpose of this committee would be to lead Arlington's campaign to become carbon neutral by 2050 (net zero emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases attributable to the Town of Arlington).

At the January 22, 2018 Board of Selectmen meeting, you voted for Arlington to join the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition (MMC), comprised of Boston and 14 surrounding communities whose leaders gather to exchange information and create solutions for common problems. As you know, municipalities seeking to join the MMC must commit to becoming carbon neutral by 2050, a pledge formally made by Arlington upon joining the MMC. We believe creation of this new Clean Energy Future Committee (CEFC) is an important next step in realizing that long-term climate and energy goal.

This goal is ambitious, and will ultimately require active involvement and support from Town government as well as residents and businesses. Achieving carbon neutrality will require careful planning, and the implementation of a wide variety of changes to reduce energy use in our homes, schools, businesses and transportation system. It will also create many opportunities for new technologies, both to reduce energy use and to produce new, clean energy. We believe all of these changes will create opportunities to save money, create jobs, and protect Arlington from future damage caused by climate change.

We propose a diverse committee drawn from the breadth of the community, as follows:

- One representative from the Board of Selectmen

- One representative from Arlington Public Schools
- One representative from the Planning Department
- One representative from the Department of Public Works
- A member of the Transportation Advisory Committee or the Town's Transportation Planner
- The Town Manager
- The Energy Manager
- Four at large representatives
- Two Town Meeting Members
- One representative from the local business community
- One representative from the building/construction sector

Total: 15 members.

This should be a formal town committee, subject to the Open Meeting Law. Given the magnitude and complexity of the committee's charge, it will need subcommittees to help with subject matter research, public outreach, and other work. We suggest that CEFC members be appointed by the Town Manager, subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen, but that the CEFC have the authority to create advisory subcommittees and appoint their members, who need not be members of the CEFC.

At present we anticipate that the work of the Energy Working Group, as well as its current members, would be absorbed by the new CEFC. Work could be spread across the CEFC and one or more subcommittees. Some current members could be appointed to the CEFC, while others may join a subcommittee.

Recommended committee mission:

The mission of the Clean Energy Future Committee is to guide the Town of Arlington to a future where, by 2050, net emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions attributable to all sources in Town are zero. The Committee shall identify short and long-term energy goals; facilitate research studies, projects and collaborations; enlist the support of residents and businesses; recommend changes to laws and regulations; seek state and local funding; and take any other actions necessary for Arlington to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2050.