

TOWN OF DOVER-FOXCROFT
CLIMATE ACTION ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE
ORGANIZATIONAL DOCUMENT DRAFT
October 11, 2021

Introduction: Climate change poses a real and significant threat to the environment and to health both globally and locally. After a lengthy and detailed planning process, the Maine Climate Council presented a 4 year plan for climate action called Maine Won't Wait, which outlines robust actions in 8 domains that can be implemented to combat climate change effects in Maine. The town of Dover-Foxcroft recognizes it is the responsibility of all individual communities to not only evaluate their own local risks, but also to take urgent and necessary actions to develop local strategies toward this goal.

The select board is committed to the health and well-being of its residents, the safety of its built infrastructure and protection of its natural environment. To this end, they have approved the formation of a Climate Action Advisory Committee (CACC) whose role will be to guide the town in strategies that further these goals and are affordable and achievable.

Purpose: the purpose of the CACC is to assist the town in evaluating opportunities for adopting more climate-friendly local practices in our community with the ultimate goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 45% by 2030 as laid out in the Maine Won't Wait plan.

Mission: the mission of the CACC is to create a healthy, resilient, thriving community that reduces greenhouse emissions, prepares our community for the impacts of climate change, fosters economic growth and prosperity for all residents while advancing equity in our transition to a sustainable future economy.

Governance structure: The CACC will be a subcommittee of the Promotion and Development committee of the Board.

Membership: the CACC will have from 4-13 members appointed by the Select Board. This should include a representative from the Select Board, and at least periodic if not regular representation in the areas of emergency management, public works, building codes. Other members should come from the community and should give consideration to broad representation of impacted members of the community including potentially representatives from agricultural and forest sectors, healthcare and business, as well as socially vulnerable populations such as older adults, youth, low income residents, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+, people of color and indigenous residents and other often under-represented groups.

The members of the CACC will choose a chairperson and a recording secretary.

Meetings: the CACC will meet at least monthly. All meetings will be open to the public. Minutes will be recorded.

Reporting: the CACC will report to the Promotion and Development Committee and will give at least annual updates to the Select Board.

Duties and Responsibilities: the following will be the duties and responsibilities of the CACC:

- Evaluate Dover-Foxcroft current carbon emissions to establish a baseline for comparison, using the data provided by the state of Maine;
- Evaluate specific community risks from climate change in collaboration with FEMA and other town departments and develop a strategy for updating this evaluation as climate conditions require;
- Evaluate opportunities for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in our community and develop strategies to achieve this goal;
- Develop a 10 year strategic plan that will be consistent with the comprehensive plan guidelines and will achieve a goal of 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.
- Stay aware of funding opportunities that can further the town's strategic goals for climate change and assist the town in securing funding;
- Look to other similar communities for ideas, strategies, successes, and become part of developing community support networks if they should develop across the state or in New England;
- Work with local and state businesses, commissions, educational institutions and non-profits that have expertise in the areas of concern to bring successful change to our community when possible (ie Revision Energy, University of Maine, CMP, Efficiency Maine Trust, Maine State Housing, Natural Resources Council of Maine, MOFGA, Maine forest Service, etc);
- Establish priorities for action based on cost, achievability and relative immediate potential for success, and make specific recommendations;
- Research the steps needed to accomplish recommended projects and work with departments and town manager to prepare "shovel ready" plans which could be easily implemented if monies become available.