

## ARTICLE 22: MEDFIELD NET ZERO GOAL & ACTION PLAN

Sponsored by the Medfield Energy Committee

### **Q: What is the intent of this Warrant Article?**

**A:** This Warrant Article affirms the Massachusetts Net Zero 2050 goal and charges the Town with creating a plan for how the Town, its residents, and its businesses, can responsibly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, leading to net zero emissions in the town by 2050 or sooner.

### **Q: Why does Medfield need a goal if the State is already doing this?**

**A:** The State plan is focused on the needs of the whole state, including on producing green electricity from renewable sources, providing the legal and regulatory framework for the energy transition, supporting job training, public transportation and developing resources for towns, residents and businesses to facilitate the equitable transition to a carbon-neutral future. The State expects residents and businesses to take advantage of these rules and resources to make the transition locally – in our homes, vehicles, businesses and towns. Medfield needs a plan that recognizes our specific needs and challenges, focuses on public outreach, involvement and education, and prepares the town and residents to take advantage of opportunities.

### **Q: What is “Net Zero” (also referred to as Carbon Neutral)?**

**A:** The goal would be achieved when carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions are reduced as much as possible and remaining emissions are offset by carbon sequestration (ex. afforestation) resulting in a net zero GHG emissions.

### **Q: Are we blazing the trail with a Warrant Article like this?**

**A:** No, other communities that have or are developing Net Zero Action Plans include, representatively: Acton, Arlington, Bedford, Boston, Brookline, Cambridge, Concord, Framingham, Lexington, Melrose, Medford, Natick, Newton, Wayland, Wellesley and Westborough.

### **Q: How much will this cost?**

**A:** There is no funding request with this warrant article. Action Plan examples from neighboring towns will be used, as will resources from regional organizations.

### **Q: Do town residents agree with the need for this warrant article?**

**A:** 72% of the 504 respondents to a MEA Fall Survey (meamedfield.org) supported Medfield adopting climate goals and developing a plan.

### **Q: What are the long-range considerations of adopting the goal and developing a plan?**

**A:** Having a Medfield goal will provide a framework that can be referenced as we evaluate future town projects. Outreach will invite all community organizations to help in the development of the Plan. The Plan will be dynamic and reviewed and updated as needed.

### **Q: What are the benefits to Medfield?**

**A:** Affirms that Medfield is committed and intends to put in place a plan to reach the goal.

