

Dear [FirstName]:

I'm writing to invite [insert organization] to endorse a "Climate Emergency Declaration" petition that will be presented at Spring 2020 Town Meetings across the Cape.

The petition is part of a coordinated, Cape-wide effort to urge all 15 Cape Cod towns to declare a similar resolution (or bylaw) through its Spring 2020 Town Meeting warrant\*. It is also part of a global effort in which governments in the U.S. and around the world are taking actions to declare a Climate Emergency, adopting an emergency response to climate change and the ecological crisis.\*\*

The idea for a Climate Emergency Declaration was developed by grassroots activists, political leaders and organizations who see a need for a WWII-scale mobilization to address the climate crisis on the scale and in the timeframe needed. According to the National Climate Assessment, the world is steadily getting warmer due to human activities, namely the burning of fossil fuels, and we are already seeing the devastating effects. Yet, governments are not acting with the requisite sense of urgency to keep rising emissions from exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius, the threshold scientists say is needed to avoid catastrophic, runaway climate change.

While the petitions vary slightly from town to town, each one acknowledges the threat of health, safety and economic security to the residents of the Town; declares an emergency emergency; and resolves to implement policies to reduce net greenhouse gas from human activity by the Town to zero at the earliest technically and economically feasible time.

The Falmouth petition has been submitted as a resolution, so it is non-binding. That leaves discretion to town leaders to take the necessary and feasible actions to act in their official capacity with a sense of climate urgency.

We believe Declaration of a Climate Emergency is a critical first step toward the mass mobilization we need at this time. We believe that in telling the truth about the climate emergency, we can transform our response into personal and collective action. We can improve our focus, encourage creativity and collaboration, and take the steps necessary to confront the challenges before it is too late.

To sign on to the petition, please fill out this form by April 28, 2020. [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdY2iSNxF5nlsC-p5iN3I7BT30Elqs5omwNEQm7WzG33BmzpA/viewform?usp=pp\\_url](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdY2iSNxF5nlsC-p5iN3I7BT30Elqs5omwNEQm7WzG33BmzpA/viewform?usp=pp_url)

If you have any questions, please call any time.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]  
[Your Tel. No}

\* Or the Town Council, in Barnstable

\*\* More than 1,300 governments around the world have declared a Climate Emergency, including 78 U.S. municipalities and town councils like Amherst, Boston and Worcester, Massachusetts.

Here is the Falmouth Climate Emergency petition. Each town has modified this article to suit its constituency:

**ARTICLE 37:** To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution: Be it resolved that the Town of Falmouth recognizes that the climate emergency, driven by human activity including energy consumption and land use practices and leading to global warming, rising seas, deadly storms, dangerous heat waves, acidifying oceans, and melting ice sheets, poses a threat to the health, safety and economic security of the residents of the Town. The Town of Falmouth therefore adopts as its policy the objective of reducing net greenhouse gas emissions from human activity within and by the Town to zero at the earliest technically and economically feasible time, and requests the Board of Selectmen to direct all officers and departments of the Town to take such measures within the scope of their respective responsibilities and authority as may be necessary and prudent to facilitate such policy and objective. On petition of Rosemary Carey.