

Non-binding resolution passed by Special Town Meeting, November 16, 2009

ARTICLE 6: Climate Action Plan Resolution

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following resolution, or take any action thereon:

“WHEREAS, it is acknowledged that there is concern for the productivity and the stability of the Earth’s environment, human health, and the global economy related to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of the use of fossil fuels through conservation and improved efficiency can save money for the Town of Belmont, our community businesses, institutions, and residents; and

WHEREAS, the increased development of renewable energy sources can lessen our nation’s dependence on foreign oil, improve our national security, and spur domestic job creation; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts passed in 2008 the Global Warming Solutions Act committing the state to eighty percent (80%) reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and aggressive interim reductions; and

WHEREAS, Sustainable Belmont, on behalf of the Town, has developed a Climate Action Plan for the Town that shows the annual carbon dioxide emissions attributable to Belmont’s residents, businesses, institutions, and Town government in 2007 were 277,036 tons of carbon dioxide emissions; and

WHEREAS, the Belmont Climate Action Plan is a working blueprint for the community that addresses the shared responsibility of reducing our carbon dioxide emissions eighty percent (80%) by 2050, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Town of Belmont:

ACKNOWLEDGES the concern for the Earth’s environment, human health, and the global economy related to climate change;

SUPPORTS the decision of the Board of Selectmen to constitute and appoint an Energy Committee for the Town to review the Belmont Climate Action Plan as a reference document toward the goal of reducing the community’s carbon dioxide emissions eighty percent (80%) by 2050 based on 2007 emissions, and for said Committee to provide an annual assessment to the Town through the Board of Selectmen on our community’s progress toward achieving said goal; and

ENDORSES the goals of

1) maximizing efficiency within Town operations, purchasing decisions, construction of capital assets, and community planning, through appropriate recognition of energy conservation,

2) promoting efficiency for Town residents, businesses, and institutions, and

3) exploring possibilities for implementing renewable energy use within the Town.”

This article would adopt a resolution endorsing the goals of the Climate Action Plan to increase energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions in Belmont, and the Selectmen’s appointment of an Energy Committee to pursue those goals.