

# Housing, Sustainability and Climate Change

- **New types of housing** in Newton will help create more walkable, vibrant villages which reduce the burden on our environment.
- **Allowing more families**, the opportunity to live in Newton near transit compared with distant suburbs is critical for addressing climate change.


## Preserve Open Space

- **If homes cannot be built** here in Newton, more housing will be needed in distant suburbs.
- **Developments** with 50, 100 or more homes, usually single-family, are getting built all around the Boston Area in places such as Hopkinton, Wrentham, and Boxborough in order to accommodate the area's growing population.
- **These new homes cause more destruction** than any location in Newton as more trees are cut down, open space is paved over and new infrastructure such as roads, sewage, water and gas lines are built.


## Less Sprawl, Less Driving, Lower Carbon Emissions

- **As people live farther and farther** away from Boston, one needs a car for almost everything – to get to work, pick kids up from school, go shopping, see friends...
- **The average commute time** in the Boston area is getting longer as distances and traffic increases. (A [10% increase](#) between 2010 and 2020) More people have to drive through Newton to get to work on the Pike or Rt. 9 as well as on our local roads.
- **Living in Newton**, on the other hand, one has better access to transit, stores and schools. One can walk and bike places more easily and even if one does drive, the distances are a lot shorter.

**Multi-Family Homes in Newton  
Less Driving = Lower Carbon Emissions**



**Long Commutes  
Car Dependent  
(Distant Suburbs)**



**Access to Public Transit  
Fewer Cars  
(Newton)**

**Save Trees – Help Stop Sprawl**

<b>Before</b>			
<b>After</b>			
	<b>Hudson</b>	<b>Bellingham</b>	<b>Northbridge</b>

## Fewer Cars Saves Money & Lowers Carbon Emissions

- **A household living near transit** in a multifamily home in Newton is more likely to only have one car or no cars because they don't need to do as much driving. In a recent overnight parking study of multifamily buildings in Newton, generally one parking spot or less was used per unit in the building.
- **In contrast, in distant suburbs** with little if any transit such as Hopkinton or Southborough, a household has on average [2.3 cars](#).
- **Living in a location where a car is not needed** helps make that location more affordable as the expense of owning a car can be over [\\$10,000/year](#).
- **With fewer cars, people drive less** which is a critical step in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.



## Multifamily Homes, Lower Carbon Emissions

- **It is more energy efficient** to live in a multifamily home in Newton than in a single-family home built far from Boston.
- **Multifamily homes** tend to be smaller, reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions
- **Single-family homes** have more exterior walls and windows than a multifamily, so they need more energy to heat and cool. More building materials are needed per home creating more upfront carbon emissions (embodied carbon).

