



# Programs & Services Committee Report

## City of Newton In City Council

**Wednesday, February 22, 2017**

Present: Councilors Rice (Chair), Leary, Hess-Mahan and Auchincloss

Absent: Councilors Baker, Sangiolo, Kalis and Schwartz

Also Present: Councilor Norton

City Staff Present: David Olson (City Clerk), Bob DeRubeis (Commissioner, Parks & Recreation), Barney Heath (Director, Planning Dept.), Alice Ingerson (CPA Program Manager), Karyn Dean (Committee Clerk)

**#24-17      Recommendation to approve 2017 Preliminary Election date**

THE NEWTON ELECTION COMMISSIONERS recommending the City Council approve the date of Tuesday, September 12, 2017 as the date for the 2017 Preliminary Election, if needed. [01/30/17 @ 1:28PM]

**Action:      Programs & Services Approved 4-0**

**Note:** David Olson, City Clerk joined the Committee. He explained that the Election Commission is recommending Tuesday, September 12, 2017 as a preliminary election date, should it be necessary for municipal elections this fall.

Mr. Olson noted that September is a busy month with Labor Day on September 4<sup>th</sup>; students start school on September 5<sup>th</sup>; Rosh Hashanah starts on September 21<sup>st</sup>; and Yom Kippur starts on September 30<sup>th</sup>. A Preliminary Election on September 12<sup>th</sup> would allow enough time before the November election to make preparations and get ballots printed.

Councilor Rice asked about area council elections and Mr. Olson said that those discussions will not start until the summer.

Councilor Hess-Mahan moved approval and the Committee voted in favor.

### **Referred to Programs & Services, Land Use and Finance Committees**

**#35-17      Appropriation of CPA funds for design of the Crescent Street Project**

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending the appropriation of two hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$260,000) from the Community Preservation Fund to the Public Buildings Department for feasibility and design work on affordable housing and playground expansion and improvements at 70 Crescent Street, as envisioned by Council Order #384-11(4) and as described in the December 2016 proposal to the Community Preservation Committee and the Community

Preservation Committee's detailed funding recommendation. [01/23/17 @ 5:19 PM]

**Action: Programs & Services Approved 2-0-2 (Councilors Hess-Mahan and Leary abstaining)**

**Note:** Jane Sender, Chair of the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and Jonathan Yeo, Vice Chair, joined the Committee. They reported that the CPC is recommending \$260K for the design phase of 70 Crescent Street. The project currently being considered includes 8 units of housing, 4 affordable and 4 market rate, and a 20K square foot park expansion.

Councilor Rice reminded the Committee that the Programs & Services Committee's responsibility in this docket item is relative to the park expansion. The Land Use Committee will be taking up the affordable housing component.

### Housing

There was serious concern by several Committee members that the per-unit costs for the housing portion of the project were exceedingly high especially considering that the property is already owned by the City. There should also be a set of efficiencies built into the project because the City is undertaking it, as well. On projects presented by non-profit organizations in the past, the Councilors have heard from the Planning Department that \$450K and \$500K per unit is too much to spend of CDBG funds on projects which were 100% affordable and also included the purchase price, so this is puzzling.

Ms. Sender agreed that the costs were too high and said the CPC has asked the City to look at other options for this site and to make all the units affordable. The City has expressed that they want to work hard to try and make that happen. The design money can only go into the affordable units and they are not blessing the current proposal but did not want to hold back the project, particularly the park portion. Mr. Yeo added that one of the issues they struggled with was the number of units, but the number was already decided upon at the local level and the project was brought to them with 8 units. This set number harms the ability to drive down the per-unit cost. Most of the housing experts on the CPC really questioned that as well.

Barney Heath, Director of Planning, noted that the project is in its earliest stages right now and an Owner's Project Manager has just been hired. Part of that firm's job is to keep an eye on the costs and keep the price as low as possible. The design process has not yet begun and there is no architect hired yet to see what is feasible. The City worked off of a pro-forma that was done on a mythical 8-unit development with some numbers plugged in, which were perhaps a bit generous, when building this proposal. They have since gone back to the numbers after meeting with the CPC and have brought the per-unit costs down a bit. They will try to bring costs in as low as possible recognizing that this will be a City-owned asset and they want it done right. It is hard to work on a budget without a design and that is what this request is for. The City is new at this and felt they did not want to come in too low, but again, they are just beginning the project and having a design and an architect will help enormously with working on the numbers.

### Park

Mr. Yeo said the CPC is excited about the park expansion and making it accessible for the neighborhood. It is fairly difficult getting in and out of some portions of the park currently.

Commissioner DeRubeis explained that the proposal would be adding an additional 20K square feet to the existing 38K square-foot park. He has heard from the neighborhood that the park should be maintained for passive recreation and the thought is to add pathways and new play structures for both school-age children and tots. The greater costs will be in adding ways in and out of the park as it is currently land-locked with access only through the Myrtle Baptist Church parking lot. The City is also working with Eversource for a potential pathway through their site as well.

The Committee was pleased with the park expansion project.

Councilor Rice reminded the Committee that this money is for the design work on the project and will be going to Land Use as well as Finance. Any further questions about the housing portion of the project may be addressed further in either or both of those Committees.

Councilor Auchincloss moved approval and the Committee voted in favor with Councilors Hess-Mahan and Leary abstaining due to questions about the housing costs.

### **#37-16      Resolution to state officials requesting a carbon fee**

COUNCILOR NORTON requesting a Resolution to state officials calling for a fee on carbon to curb climate change. [01/22/16 @ 10:34 AM]

**Acton:      Programs & Services Approved 3-0-1 (Councilor Auchincloss abstaining)**

**Note:** Councilor Norton provided some updated information on the elected officials named in the Resolutions as some have changed since the item was docketed.

Councilor Norton explained that the Board of Aldermen had previously approved and sent a Resolution on carbon fees on to federal officials but this Resolution is geared towards the state level. She noted that the Welcoming City ordinance was passed last night and has made undocumented residents feel safer. Climate change risks vulnerable populations all over the world and has killed vulnerable populations all over the world due to sea rise and there is an argument that the Syrian conflict stemmed from climate change. She hoped that at least as much passion and energy that went into the Welcoming City ordinance should be directed towards this effort.

These resolutions can set the stage more action to be taken, which will be necessary considering the Trump administration's attack on environmental protections. Environmental action and leadership on the local and state level will be essential. Councilor Norton provided a handout, attached, which demonstrates the rise in CO2 emissions over the past 800,000 years. The earth has never had this amount of greenhouse gases in the air while humans have been on the planet. Humans are living in a chemistry experiment right now. The City Council voted against solar

carports at the library recently because they were ugly which disturbed her and made her realize that this issue is not being given the level of urgency it deserves.

Councilor Norton also handed out a packet of articles relative to both carbon fees and fossil fuel divestment, which are attached.

#### Committee Questions/Comments

A Committee member noted that there is legislation at the state level to put a fee on carbon, so wondered why this would be useful at the municipal level. Councilor Norton explained that Newton's delegation is in support of that legislation so these Resolutions are meant to provide support to them and to help them start a domino effect of support from other communities for the state bill.

On March 8<sup>th</sup>, there will be a Committee discussion about municipal aggregation, which Councilor Norton believes the City should take part in. This is a contract that could include the City, but all the residents and businesses that have regular service with Eversource, are automatically opted in to the contract. The contract provides a bulk purchase deal which is less expensive and the exciting part of climate change is the City could require more renewable energy than is required under state law. Melrose, Dedham are involved in this and 7 other communities are in the process of doing this.

Councilor Auchincloss felt the Resolutions are rhetorical measures and since the Newton delegation is already in support, they feel unnecessary. Councilor Norton explained that it is helpful to say, when at the state house, that 150 of 351 cities and towns have taken this step. If the Newton delegation doesn't have the support from Newton, it is harder for them to argue for this. Newton is a leading community and it would be extremely odd to not be on the list of other leading communities who support these issues. If leading communities are not doing the lightest lift possible, how can anyone be expected to take on more difficult measures. A Resolution is not as exciting as municipal aggregation or some other material step, but it is much better than doing nothing and it does have an effect.

Councilor Auchincloss said he did not understand why some state Representative from Taunton would care what Newton is doing since Newton residents don't vote for him/her. He would rather do something more tangible than a gesture. Councilor Leary explained that there are many other communities who are not receptive to taking a role in combatting climate change. The groundswell of support from communities such as Newton encourages those communities to take a look at the importance of action.

Councilor Leary argued that the Welcoming City ordinance was a gesture as well but it was very important, nonetheless. While it did codify in an ordinance the policies and procedures of community policing in regard to undocumented citizens, it did not change what has actually been going on on the ground for a long time. It was important, however, to make a statement to let everyone know that those practices were supported. In addition, she believed that Newton

residents are interested in supporting these Resolutions and felt it is important to raise their voices through the City Council. Councilor Norton said this Resolution could also lead to supporting a local gas tax and could set the stage for that, which would be a very tangible measure. Councilor Auchincloss maintained that he could support a law that affects Newton but does not find value in these kinds of symbols.

**#36-16 Resolution to state officials supporting fossil fuel divestment**

COUNCILOR NORTON requesting a Resolution to state officials supporting fossil fuel divestment. [01/22/16 @ 10:34 AM]

**Action: Programs & Services Approved 3-0-1 (Councilor Auchincloss abstaining)**

**Note:** Councilor Norton noted that UMass voted to divest from fossil fuel investments. She referred to the articles that are attached. She stated that the divestment campaign against South Africa was very effective and there were those, including the then-President of Harvard University, Drew Faust, who unfortunately argued that it was just symbolic and would have no effect. But it clearly did. If Newton cares about where its dollars are being invested, then Newton should care about this. There is a bill in the legislature to divest at the state level in the pension funds, so it would be important to support that for all the same reasons mentioned in the carbon fee discussion. Newton does invest in the state retirement system.

Councilor Auchincloss said he hopes that the state divests but for the reasons stated in the carbon fee discussion, he does not support this resolution.

Public Comment

*Robert Ryan, 29 Davis Avenue* said he could understand Councilor Auchincloss' opinion and he would also prefer some more material action, however, to see these resolutions as a part of a process is useful. Every action that can be taken to try to change the catastrophic effects of climate is helpful, even a symbolic action. He felt Councilor Auchincloss may be too set in his understanding of this and that there is no downside to supporting these resolutions.

*Ellie Goldberg, 79 Elmore Street* said given the urgency of the situation and that climate change does not stop at City border's the need to go on record to say "Not on our Watch" is important. There is a need to get the ball rolling and get that cultural standard set for everyone to get the language and principal right and show a cohesion in our local ability to get whatever the social capital is when people understand the urgency of climate change and be on record as a community that will fight this. The more people that speak up, the more it frees people from a bystander attitude to an upstander attitude and that is a powerful political force than can have powerful impact. There are 5,000 bills in the legislature. This has to be a priority.

*Mel Schnell 16 Charlotte Road* said he has never come to a City Council meeting before and he is there to say that he is there to speak in favor of symbolism. To not vote for the symbolism is to say that the movement across the country of hundreds of thousands of people standing in streets and shouting at their congress members are somehow ineffective. All of this is words and all of this is

symbol and they have an effect. It is the same as voting and asking why one vote makes a difference – every vote makes a difference.

*Eileen Krakowski, Derby Street* this is about dealing with clean air, water for all people and animals on the planet. There is a dire need to influence action as much as we can and in whatever ways we can. Speaker DeLeo has blocked this sort of thing from being talked about in the state house. You can't that when people are banging on your doors and the numbers are there. There are a lot of people in Massachusetts and we are representing a lot of people that will make a difference in the House. They like numbers and if the numbers are there they will listen and act. The principle is there and it is symbolic but it matters very much as it has inherent good.

*Margaret Zaleski, 11 Marshfield Rd.* sent a letter to the Committee today but added that we are in a period of crisis and anything we can do to help people see that climate change is a real concern would be helpful. I am a citizen of the Commonwealth but also a citizen of Newton and want Newton's voice heard. She was in a Representative's office lobbying him about climate change bills. He endorsed the bills I was interested in and he asked me where I was from and it didn't matter that I was from Newton. She would have loved to be able to say she was from a City that supported fossil fuel divestment and carbon fees via Resolutions. She hopes to be able to say that the next time she visits the Representative.

*Steve, 20 Clarendon Street* said he feels that it is not just about passing legislation but it is also a public relations campaign. Too many are not convinced that climate change is important and by supporting even symbolic statements, Newton is saying it is real and true and something needs to be done. We are in a public relations war to defend the truth and the science. If we don't speak up we will lose that war and things will get much worse. Whatever we can do, we should as part of this effort.

*Jim Purdy, 943 Chestnut Street* said we are trying to influence people particularly in the House and we would like them to talk to other legislators to support this bill. If I were a representative from somewhere else and Cindy Creem asked me to support this but her own City did not, I would question that. This is a serious situation and if we can cite other supporters of the legislation, such as these resolutions, that would help.

Councilor Auchincloss provided his website: [jakefornewton.com](http://jakefornewton.com). He said he will docket an ordinance that he thinks Newton could enforce within the City that would make a difference in climate change. He stated that he would vote for municipal aggregation and he appreciates the comments but does not understand or support the value of a symbolic gesture when the scope of authority rests with the state and federal government on this. He also said he is a big supporter and donor of the Environmental Voter Project, which is a Massachusetts based organization that works to mobilize voters in favor of environmentally minded politicians. That is a fabulous way for voters to support climate change action in Massachusetts.

Councilor Leary moved approval of both items and the Committee voted in favor with Councilor Auchincloss abstaining.

Meeting adjourned.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**John B. Rice, Chair**



# Carbon Dioxide

**LATEST MEASUREMENT: January 2017**

# 405.92 ppm

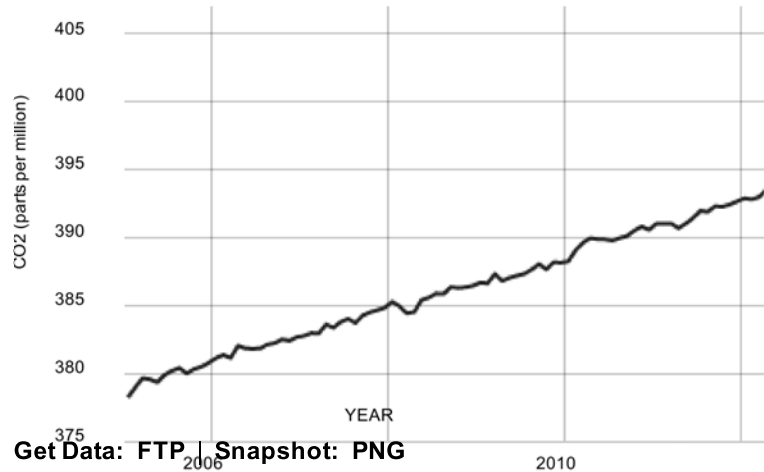
[DOWNLOAD DATA](#)

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is an important heat-trapping (greenhouse) gas, which is released through human activities such as deforestation and burning fossil fuels, as well as natural processes such as respiration and volcanic eruptions. The first chart shows atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> levels in recent years, with average seasonal cycle removed. The second chart shows CO<sub>2</sub> levels during the last three glacial cycles, as reconstructed from ice cores.

The time series below shows global distribution and variation of the concentration of mid-tropospheric carbon dioxide in parts per million (ppm). The overall color of the map shifts toward the red with advancing time due to the annual increase of CO<sub>2</sub>.

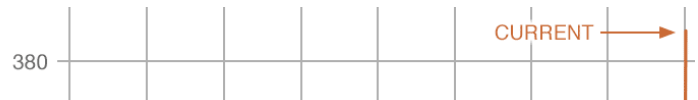
## DIRECT MEASUREMENTS: 2005-PRESENT

Data source: Monthly measurements (average seasonal cycle removed).  
Credit: [NOAA](#)



## PROXY (INDIRECT) MEASUREMENTS

Data source: Reconstruction from ice cores.  
Credit: NOAA



This website is produced by the Earth Science Communications Team at

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**The New York Times** | <https://nyti.ms/2kBy8kM>

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The Opinion Pages | EDITORIAL

# A Rare Republican Call to Climate Action

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD FEB. 13, 2017

The most important thing about a carbon tax plan proposed last week may be the people behind it: prominent Republicans like James Baker III, George Shultz and Henry Paulson Jr. Their endorsement of the idea, variations of which have been suggested before, may be a breakthrough for a party that has closed its eyes to the perils of man-made climate change and done everything in its power to thwart efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

This gang of Republican elder statesmen — they call themselves the Climate Leadership Council — is not made up of the usual environmentalists, which is why their proposal might gain traction, though probably not right away.

Their proposal would tax carbon emissions at \$40 a ton to start and would be paid by oil refineries and other fossil fuel companies that would pass costs on to consumers with higher gas and electricity prices. The money raised would be returned to Americans through dividend checks; a family of four would get about \$2,000 a year to start. This would help people adjust to higher energy prices and give them an incentive to reduce consumption or switch to renewable sources of energy. Most lower-income and middle-class families would get back more than they pay in taxes. To avoid placing American industry at a disadvantage, imports from countries that do not impose a comparable tax would be subject to a per-ton tax on

the carbon emitted in the production of their products, while exports to those nations would not be.

Scientists and economists have long argued that putting a price on carbon would encourage conservation and investment in renewable energy. Ireland, Sweden and British Columbia already have carbon taxes. The European Union, Quebec, California and Northeastern states like New York and Massachusetts have adopted cap-and-trade systems that use emission permits to lower emissions over time.

The last serious effort to impose a national price on carbon came in 2009 with cap-and-trade legislation by Edward Markey and Henry Waxman, both then Democratic House members. The bill passed the House, but never received a vote in the Senate. Since then, Republican control of one or both houses of Congress has thwarted ambitious climate legislation. As a result, President Obama turned to administrative actions to reduce emissions, including the Clean Power Plan and higher fuel-economy standards for cars and trucks. Those regulations and standards are now on the chopping block under the Trump administration.

The new Climate Leadership Council argues that conservatives should support a carbon tax because it is a more market-friendly approach than Mr. Obama's regulations. And after a carbon tax is put in place, the council says, the government should eliminate most of those rules, since they won't be needed. But there are legitimate fears that the tax alone might not achieve emission reductions on the scale needed to save the planet from out-of-control warming, and that regulations and other policies like public investments in renewable energy will be needed, too.

Neither President Trump nor Republicans in Congress have embraced the proposal. Many conservatives believe they'll be able to dismantle Mr. Obama's regulations through administrative, legal or legislative maneuvers, without compromising. Plus, many are philosophically opposed to, and politically fearful of, any new taxes.

Their dismissal of the council's proposal is myopic and puts their party out of step with the country. A large majority of Americans want the government to address climate change — 78 percent of registered voters support taxing emissions, regulating them or doing both, according to a Yale survey conducted after the

election. The Republican elders are offering their party an opening to change the conversation. It should take the cue.

*Follow The New York Times Opinion section on Facebook and Twitter (@NYTopinion), and sign up for the Opinion Today newsletter.*

A version of this editorial appears in print on February 13, 2017, on Page A22 of the New York edition with the headline: A Republican Call to Climate Action.

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February 22, 2017



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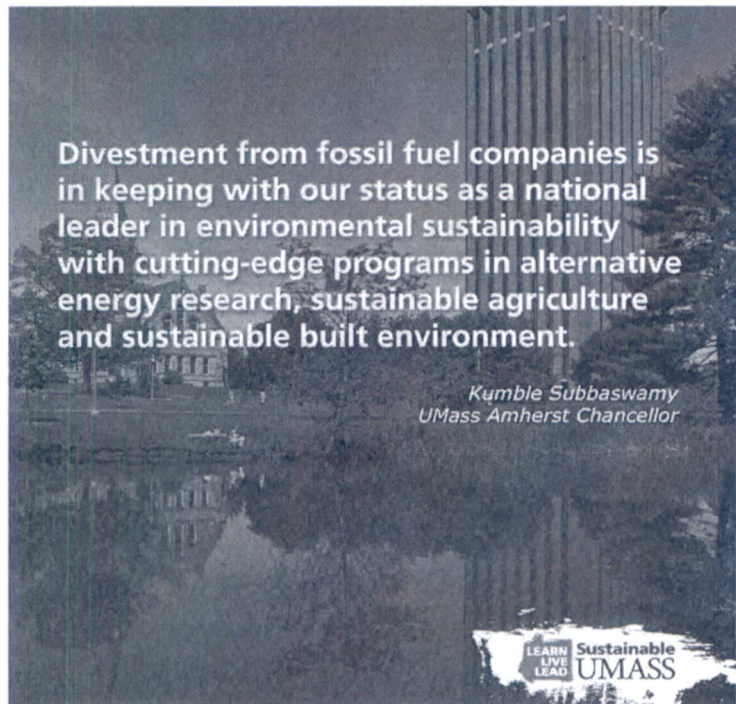
# UMass Becomes First Major Public University to Divest from Direct Fossil Fuel Holdings

May 25, 2016

Contact: Robert P. Connolly 617/287-7073

BOSTON – The University of Massachusetts today became the first major public university to divest its endowment from direct holdings in fossil fuels. The decision was made by a unanimous vote of the Board of Directors of the UMass Foundation, a separate not-for-profit corporation that oversees an endowment whose value was \$770 million at the end of the last fiscal year.

The decision followed a series of developments that signaled the University community’s desire to fight climate change. Last year, the Foundation voted to divest from direct holdings in coal companies in response to a petition from the UMass Fossil Fuel Divestment Campaign, a student group. The UMass Board of Trustees later endorsed the Foundation’s decision and described climate change as “a serious threat to the planet.” Last month, the Campaign staged a series of demonstrations at UMass Amherst to call for divestment from all fossil fuels.



“This action is consistent with the principals that have guided our university since its Land Grant inception and reflects our commitment to take on the environmental challenges that confront us all,” said UMass President Marty Meehan. “Important societal change often begins on college campuses and it often begins with students. I’m proud of the students and the entire University community for putting UMass at the forefront of a vital movement, one that has been important to me throughout my professional life.”

Submitted by Councilor Norton #3617 and #3717  
During last month's protest at UMass Amherst, UMass Foundation Representative Sarah Jacqz and Kristie Herman. After that meeting, he said he was prepared to recommend that UMass build on its coal divestment by removing from its endowment direct investments in fossil fuel companies and making additional investments in clean/sustainable energy.

To accomplish the latter, Meehan also announced today that he planned to tap the President's Science and Technology Initiative Fund, which last year provided more than \$900,000 in grants to UMass faculty researchers, to ensure future funding for sustainability/green technology projects. He said that UMass is also set to boost its academic and financial involvement in offshore wind energy.

"The Foundation's action today makes a powerful statement about UMass's commitment to combatting climate change and protecting our environment," said UMass Amherst Chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy. "It also speaks volumes about our students' passionate commitment to social justice and the environment. It is largely due to their advocacy that that this important issue has received the attention that it deserves."

UMass Board of Trustees Chairman Victor Woolridge said he would ask the Board to endorse the Foundation's decision when it meets on June 15.

"With this vote, the UMass Foundation adopts a divestment position that is among the most aggressive established for any major university—public or private—in the United States," said Woolridge. "We do so, in part, because members of the UMass community have urged us to consider divestment in moral terms. Since we acknowledge the moral imperative, we are willing to go beyond last year's action and take this additional step, but we're also mindful of our moral and fiduciary obligation to safeguard the University's endowment, which provides critical funding for faculty research and student scholarships, and must be protected against losses. We believe this conclusive action balances those two priorities."

"Divesting from investments in any particular sector is not done lightly and we have done so rarely," said Foundation Treasurer and Investment Committee Chairman Edward H. D'Alelio. "The Foundation's primary responsibility is a fiduciary one. Its primary mission is overseeing the endowment in an effort to maximize returns on funds donated for research, academic programs, financial aid and other purposes. That we took this step reflects not just our comfort as fiduciaries but the seriousness with which we see climate change."

In addition to its divestment moves, the Foundation has taken a series of other steps to promote socially responsible investing. These include:

- Becoming a founding member of the Intentional Endowment Network, which supports colleges, universities, and other mission-driven tax-exempt organizations in aligning their endowment investment practices with their mission, values, and sustainability goals without sacrificing financial returns.
- Formally incorporating into its investment policies Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria.
- Establishing a Social Choice Endowment option for donors.
- Becoming a signatory to the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), which provides a global system for organizations to measure, disclose, manage and share environmental information.

The Foundation's efforts are part of a broader University commitment to sustainability—grounded in its origins as a land-grant university and its original mission as an agricultural school—that is reflected in the following achievements and initiatives:

- UMass conducts more than \$20 million in environmental science research annually, and is recognized as a leader in areas including wind energy, climate science, marine science and biofuels.
- UMass Amherst ranked 21st in the 2015 edition of *The Princeton Review's Guide to 353 Green Colleges*.

Submitted by Councilor Norton #36-17 and #37-17

- UMass Boston launched the world's first doctoral program in Green Chemistry.
- At UMass Dartmouth, researchers are developing technology to generate power from ocean and tidal currents.
- UMass Lowell's National Science Foundation-supported research center brings together wind-energy industry and research experts to create next-generation thinking and technology.
- UMass Medical's Albert Sherman Center, a LEED Gold research and education center that opened in 2013, employed an energy-efficient design and advanced technologies that make it 25 percent more efficient than similar buildings.
- Since 2007, the UMass system has reduced greenhouse gas emissions by about 17 percent, with UMass Amherst reducing its emissions by 23 percent.
- The University has aggressively increased the use of renewable energy, entering into 15 separate solar contracts with 10 different solar developers, with the vast majority already operational. When all fully on line, they will generate 59 million kilowatt hours and help the state's electric grid avoid 28,500 metric tons of CO2. Over 20 years, UMass solar operations will allow the grid to avoid more than 544,000 metric tons of CO2.
- The University is a founding member of the Massachusetts Green High Performance Computing Center in Holyoke, a data center that supports the computing needs of the state's five most research-intensive universities. The facility is the first university data center in the U.S. to be LEED platinum certified.

### About the UMass Foundation

The UMass Foundation is a private, non-profit corporation founded in 1950 to foster and promote the growth, progress and general welfare of the University of Massachusetts, recently ranked as the No. 1 public university in New England in the World University Rankings. The Foundation provides a depository for charitable contributions to UMass, manages the University's endowment, promotes private support of public higher education, and supports the fundraising efforts of the five UMass campuses—UMass Amherst, UMass Boston, UMass Dartmouth, UMass Lowell and UMass Medical School.

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Sep 22, 2015 · 3 min read

## What Caused Massachusetts' Pension Fund To Lose Half A Billion Dollars Last Year?



As Massachusetts' pension fund takes losses on fossil fuel investments, analysts and climate advocates suggest that the fossil fuel industry's long-term health is waning. CREDIT: AP PHOTO/HASAN JAMALI, FILE

Massachusetts' public pension fund lost more than half a billion dollars due to fossil fuel investments during the fiscal year that ended in June, according to new data analysis released Monday from Trillium Group.

The Massachusetts Pension Reserves Investment Trust Fund's fossil fuel investments, including in coal, oil and gas, and production and exploration companies, lost 28 percent of their value—\$521 million—the analysts found, using public records. The pension fund has been under scrutiny for its investments recently, and there are companion bills in the Massachusetts Senate and state House that would force the public fund to divest from all fossil fuels.



*There are a lot of challenges for the [fossil fuel] industry, and big picture, they don't look like short-term challenges to me*

“I think sometimes divestment is assumed to be a financial mistake,” Will Lana, a partner at Trillium Asset Management, told ThinkProgress. “It’s important to stop for a moment and say, well, it hasn’t been a mistake [lately].”

Divestment has gained popularity among Massachusetts’ public sector unions. The Massachusetts Nurses Association, the Boston Teachers Union, and two other unions have come out in support of divestment. In addition, 14 Massachusetts towns and cities have passed resolutions supporting the move.

“The enthusiasm for fossil fuels is waning a bit,” Lana said. “There are a lot of challenges for the industry, and big picture, they don’t look like short-term challenges to me.”

And, in this case, investment in fossil fuels seems to run counter to the fund management’s fiduciary duty. “They have been warned over and over again, even by former Treasury Secretary Paulson,” Robert Massie, former executive director of Ceres and author of a book on the divestment movement’s success in addressing the South African apartheid, told ThinkProgress

There are essentially two key arguments for divestment, according to Massie. First, there is a political, moral argument to move away from fossil fuels that contribute to global warming and put the world’s health and well-being in jeopardy. But there is also a strict financial argument.

Fossil fuel industries are in what Massie argues is “structural decline.” In other words, the industry models are not sustainable. Several big coal companies have already declared bankruptcy, but other fossil fuel industries are also exposed to risk, as the world moves to a more and more sustainable future.

For instance, new U.S. guidelines require cars to get 40 miles per gallon by 2017, and 55 mpg by 2022, Massie said. “You can imagine

what's going to start to happen. You're going to see a permanent drop in oil."

The long-term prospects of fossil fuel—in a world where we already know we need to keep two-thirds of fuel reserves in the ground—are tenuous, Massie said. Fossil fuel companies spend "almost \$700 billion a year in looking for new resources at a moment when we already understand that we cannot burn what we already have," Massie told ThinkProgress.

This is not the first report of its kind intended to show lawmakers how important fossil fuel divestment is.

Trillium released a report earlier this year showing that California's two public pension plans lost \$5 billion due to their fossil fuel investments. The report may have helped spur support for a divestment bill in that state, which was approved by the state legislature earlier this month. Gov. Jerry Brown (D) is expected to sign the bill into law.

The Massachusetts report was requested by 350Mass, a state-based climate advocacy organization.



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# President\* Trump vs. His Environment

The Trump administration could be catastrophic for combatting climate change.



Getty

BY CHARLES P. PIERCE FEB 16, 2017

608



I wish there was something funny I could write about what's going to happen to the Environmental Protection Agency once the Senate approves the absurd nomination of Scott Pruitt to head an agency that he is at the moment suing on behalf of the state of Oklahoma. I wish I could muster up a dudgeon of a height appropriate to how little this country will do under this administration to combat the existential threat of climate change. I wish I could say I was surprised by any of it.

Submitted by Councilor Norton

#36-17 and #37-17

But, more than any other set of issues, I find the current state of environmental policy simply exhausting. The environment was nearly a non-issue in the presidential campaign. One of our two major political parties—the one that controls two of the three branches of the national government and a fat share of the state governments around the country—takes as an article of faith that the climate crisis is a vehicle for shrewd scientists to get over on the rest of us. The ocean, as we continue to remind people, doesn't much care who wins the debate on these topics. Meanwhile, Matt Gaetz, a freshman congressman from Florida, has introduced a bill to do away with the EPA entirely. That seems to be DOA even in this Congress, but putting an extraction industry marionette like Scott Pruitt in charge of the agency, while not killing the EPA, is more like putting it into suspended animation for the foreseeable future.



Getty + Pool

And now, according to multiple reports, the president\* is going to celebrate Pruitt's eventual confirmation by signing a series of executive orders that virtually will take the EPA out of the climate crisis business. To the logical mind, this is tantamount to issuing an order that the CDC should temper its study of communicable diseases, but the logical mind has taken something of a holiday and apparently has been drunk since the end of January. From *The Hill*:

**At that event, an administration source told Inside EPA that Trump will sign executive orders related to the agency's climate work and that they could "suck the air out of the room," according to the report. The official did not say how**

many orders Trump will sign or what they will address. But the planned event could be similar to one Trump held at the Pentagon after Defense Secretary James Mattis was sworn in. At that event, Trump signed an executive order cracking down on immigration from seven Muslim-majority countries for 90 days and halting the U.S. refugee program for 120, including indefinitely banning Syrian refugees. An administration official said a potential Trump visit to EPA headquarters has yet to be confirmed.

Trump has vowed to roll back Obama-era EPA actions, including major climate change regulations like the Clean Power Plan and a water jurisdiction rule opposed by many conservatives. One executive order, according to Inside EPA's report, could be aimed at the State Department, suggesting Trump will take a position on the United States's participation in the Paris climate deal. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson told the Senate last month that he hopes to stay in that climate pact.

Outside of those people who have organized against police violence and, more recently, the movement surrounding the January marches around the country, the environmental movement has been more active in more places than any other oppositional force in the country. It has put together a vast and diverse movement mobilized against everything from pipelines to fracking. It emboldened the previous administration's commitment to the Paris Accords and against the Keystone pipeline, which, in turn, emboldened people to take camp on the plains in North Dakota and made Standing Rock a symbol.

#### RELATED STORY

##### **A Polar Ice Chunk the Size of India Has Vanished**

All of that energy now runs up against, yes, a big, beautiful wall made of special interests and anti-scientific denial. The allies that the movement has in government can do little but slow-walk the march into the past for which the majorities are warming up at the moment. Nowhere is the modern reality further detached from the nostalgic past than in the case of coal mining. It is a dying industry, caught between the hammer of cleaner energy and the anvil of automation. Yet, there are people in the government, right up to the Oval Office, who have promised glibly to bring this industry back. This is a cruel and stupid charade played on

desperate people who have seen a way of life slowly withering for decades. And when the promises turn out to have been as empty as they obviously were, those same charlatans will point to environmentalists as the real villains of the piece.

We have an oilman for Secretary of State. We've seen the EPA commanded to delete climate material from its official website. Already, using an obscure procedural device, the Republicans in Congress, with help from a couple of Democrats, have opened things up for mountaintop removal mining and cut back on regulations designed to control mining waste that runs into rivers and streams. One can only imagine what gifts the administration plans to give to industry to celebrate putting one of the industry's puppets in charge of environmental regulation, but whatever those gifts are, this president will sign for them.



Getty + Ian Waldle

That's why this is so damned exhausting. There is an obvious crisis that everybody acknowledges one way or another. (Even the president\* is building seawalls to protect his golf courses against the gigantic hoax fashioned in China.) The military is taking precautions. The intelligence community sees the crisis as a decades-long threat to national security at almost innumerable levels, from population migrations to epidemic disease to countries full of desperate people looking for food and water. There are red lights flashing everywhere in the

Submitted by Councilor Norton

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government and the response of the current administration seems to be to turn as many of them off as they can get their hands on.

Environmentalism—what we called "ecology" when I was a kid—was one of the proudest achievements of 20<sup>th</sup> century American politics. It proceeded in fits and starts against the powerful economic and social forces arrayed against it, but from it, we got national parks, the Clean Water Act, a visible Los Angeles by daylight, and interstate highways that no longer looked like horizontal landfills stretching to the horizon. There was a bipartisan constituency supporting it.

#### RELATED STORY

#### Will This Climate Change Stat Wake People Up?

Now, with an environmental threat comparable in scale to the one that wiped out the dinosaurs, that constituency within the government is scattered and the forces arrayed against it powerfully concentrated. But wildfires do not yield to argument, nor does the winter heat offer to explain itself. (It was over 100 degrees in Oklahoma this week.) Go ahead. Pass a law against the sea. Call a cop when it laughs at you.

*Respond to this post on the Esquire Politics Facebook page.*

#### MORE FROM ESQUIRE:

# As seas rise, city mulls a massive sea barrier across Boston Harbor



LEE CELANO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES/FILE

**After Hurricane Katrina, the federal government built a 1.8-mile barrier along Lake Borgne, a lagoon of the Gulf of Mexico.**

**By [David Abel](#) | GLOBE STAFF FEBRUARY 18, 2017**

It would be a massive, highly controversial wall sure to cost billions of dollars. But this barrier would be much closer to home — and potentially more expensive — than the one President Trump has proposed along the Mexican border.



As rising sea levels pose a growing threat to Boston's future, city officials are exploring the feasibility of building a vast sea barrier from Hull to Deer Island, forming a protective arc around Boston Harbor.

Comments

Submitted by Councilor Norton

#36-17 and #37-17

The idea, raised in a recent city report on the local risks of climate change, sounds like a pipe dream, a project that could rival the Big Dig in complexity and cost. It's just one of several options, but the sea wall proposal is now under serious study by a team of some of the region's top scientists and engineers, who recently received a major grant to pursue their research.

With forecasts indicating that Boston could experience routine flooding in the coming decades, threatening some 90,000 residents and \$80 billion worth of real estate, city officials say it would be foolish not to consider aggressive action, no matter how daunting.

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"There's a sense of urgency about these issues," said Austin Blackmon, the city's environmental chief. "We need to evaluate the feasibility of options like this. If it's the best solution to protect Boston, we shouldn't hesitate."

Other ideas being studied as ways to protect coastal areas include building berms around city neighborhoods, diverting flood waters into canals or other designated holding areas, and requiring coastal buildings to withstand flooding.

The vast majority of climate scientists attribute rising seas to man-made greenhouse gases being pumped into the atmosphere, which they say traps heat, causing glaciers to melt and oceans to expand.

Comments Submitted by Councilor Norton #36-17 and #37-17  
A massive barrier that would extend across the 4 miles between Hull and Deer Island, and rise at least 20 feet above harbor waters at low tide, would rank among the largest of its kind, but wouldn't be unprecedented. Similar barriers already exist, or are being built, off the coasts of New Orleans; Venice; and Rotterdam.

Like those barriers, Boston's sea wall wouldn't be a dam. It would have openings large enough for ships to pass through, but with gates that would close before significant storms.

In the city's report, titled Climate Ready Boston, officials said a harborwide barrier would have two principal goals: holding back regular high tides and blunting the force of cresting waters during storms.

Narrowing the gaps between the harbor islands would reduce the amount of water that flows in and out of the harbor, effectively lowering high tides and increasing low tides. That, too, would reduce the impact of a storm surge, officials say.

At their seaside offices at the University of Massachusetts Boston, the professors who are spending the year studying the practicality of a barrier said they're considering costs, potential environmental damage, effects on commercial shipping and fishing, and possible locations. They will also be looking at how a barrier might affect the ecology of harbor waters and marshes, the potential threat to the quality of its expensively cleaned waters, and the possible side effects of changes to natural currents.

"It's a very complex project, with all kinds of economic, environmental, and social consequences," said Paul Kirshen, a civil engineer and professor at the university's School for the Environment.

Today, much of Boston's waterfront is now only about a foot above high tide, he said. Within 30 years, large sections of the city could experience regular sunny-day flooding, when high tides inundate coastal areas.

"If we're going to build it, we should have something in place by 2050," Kirshen

The report recommends that the city brace for sea levels to be at least 1½ feet higher by 2050 than they were in 2000, and 3 feet higher by 2070.

But a climate report released in January by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration found that East Coast cities are likely to experience even higher seas than had been predicted. Without drastic

reductions in greenhouse gases, the seas could rise as much as 8.2 feet by 2100, up from its previous estimate of 6.6 feet, researchers found.

“This definitely should motivate us to mitigate our emissions,” said Rebecca Herst, a senior project manager for UMass Boston’s Sustainable Solutions Lab.

The research team will also evaluate whether it makes more sense to build a significantly smaller barrier that would merely close off the inner harbor, from Castle Island to Logan Airport. That would be cheaper and easier to build but would leave much of South Boston, Dorchester, and Quincy vulnerable. They’re also considering a barrier that would loop around the Harbor Islands, ranging from Deer Island, around Long Island, to Moon Island, which juts into the harbor off Quincy.

Another option under consideration is an idea proposed by Bob Daylor, a private engineer in Boston, who has studied the issue and suggested an approach he calls the Sapphire Necklace, an homage to Frederick Law Olmsted’s ribbon of city parks called the Emerald Necklace. In his plan, the principal barrier would involve a series of dikes from Deer Island to Hull’s Telegraph Hill.

In a 2014 paper, he outlined how his barrier could be built in stages, allowing adjustments to changing conditions. The project might also provide perks, such as expanding Lovell Island, which he said would allow for additional campgrounds,

“  
If we’re going to build it, we  
should have something in  
place by 2050. That’s why we  
need to be considering this  
now.”

Paul Kirshen, UMass Boston professor, on  
potential of a sea wall being built in Boston  
Harbor

Comments Submitted by Councilor Norton #36-17 and #37-17  
Daylor estimated that a wall designed to seal the outer harbor during storms would cost in the “low billions of dollars” and would take about a decade to acquire all the necessary permits. His plan would in part involve dumping massive amounts of boulders into the harbor, which ranges from about 20 feet to 50 feet deep.

It would rely on submerged concrete walls and hydraulic gates that would open wide enough for shipping traffic to pass through most of the time. The wall would vary in size, depending on the depth of the water, but it would be built in a way that it could be made taller as sea levels rise.

He urged the city to take the idea seriously, noting that a 2013 World Bank report ranked Boston as the eighth most vulnerable major city in the world to property damage from rising seas, among 136 studied.

“Climate change is a big issue, and it will require big solutions,” said Daylor, a senior vice president and engineer at Tetra Tech, a California-based engineering company.

Estimating the cost of such a project is no easy feat, he and other engineers said. Hugh Roberts, an associate vice president at Arcadis, a Denver-based environmental consulting company, has worked on designing sea barriers in New Orleans and New York, and he estimated that a barrier along the outer harbor of Boston would cost in the “tens of billions of dollars, or more” and require federal as well as local funding.

“Each system requires unique infrastructure,” said Roberts, who is advising the team at UMass Boston. “It’s not like building a roadway.”

But the cost of not building a barrier could be even higher. If seas rise by 3 feet over 2000 levels, Boston would likely sustain an average of \$1.4 billion a year in flooding damage, he said.

Somewhat similar projects have had relatively reasonable costs, especially compared with the Big Dig, which is estimated to have cost about \$24 billion, with

Comments Submitted by Councilor Norton #36-17 and #37-17  
government spent about \$1.1 billion and took five years to build a 1.8-mile barrier along Lake Borgne, a lagoon of the Gulf of Mexico.

In Venice, Italians have already spent nearly \$5 billion — more than twice the original cost projections — to build a 1,200-foot barrier. The barrier is designed to remain submerged until it's needed before storms, when it can rise like a leviathan to protect the historic city from excessive flooding.

Such projects are extraordinarily complex and often controversial. The Venetian barrier was first proposed in the 1970s, but construction didn't begin until 2003. It is finally scheduled to be completed next year.

The higher costs were caused by delays in construction, rising costs of materials, and the complicated design of navigation locks, said Giovanni Cecconi, who has overseen the barrier's installation as director of the Venice Resilience Laboratory.

“The costs might be high in Boston, but this would be an opportunity to solve a long-term problem,” Cecconi said.

In the Netherlands, where about 20 percent of the land is below mean sea level, residents are well acquainted with the dangers of flooding. In 1953, nearly 2,000 people died during a major winter storm that sent a surge of water rushing in from the North Sea.

Since then, the country has fortified its coast with all kinds of barriers. In the 1990s, the country spent more than \$700 million to extend a 66-foot coastal barrier some 600 feet across the Nieuwe Waterweg waterway to protect Rotterdam, a metropolitan area where more than a million residents live.

“We haven't had any flooding since then,” said Martien Beek, a deputy program manager at the Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment. “This is a solution that has proven itself, and it could work for Boston as well. All major coastal cities that have big tidal movements should be considering this.”

At UMass Boston, which received a \$260,000 grant from the Barr Foundation to study the possibility of building a barrier, scientists and engineers said they recognize there are many risks of such a major project. The foundation, started by cable magnate Amos Hostetter, is one of the region's largest philanthropies and has funded a range of climate change studies.

"This is likely to be incredibly expensive and ecologically disruptive," said David Cash, dean of the university's McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies. "But if you look at the flood maps in 80 years, the danger is potentially catastrophic."

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# Walling off Boston

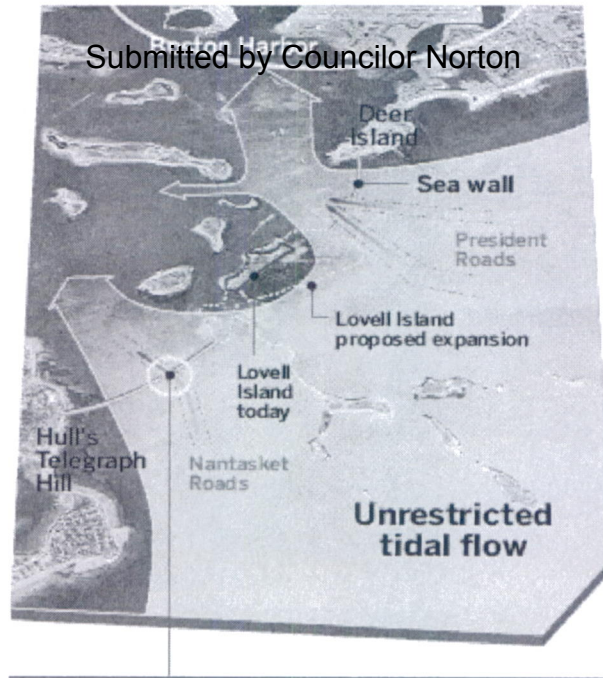
Several sea wall options are being studied to protect the city from rising sea levels.

## THE SAPPHIRE NECKLACE PLAN

Barriers would extend between the Harbor Islands to reduce the level of high tides and protect against increasingly powerful storm surges.

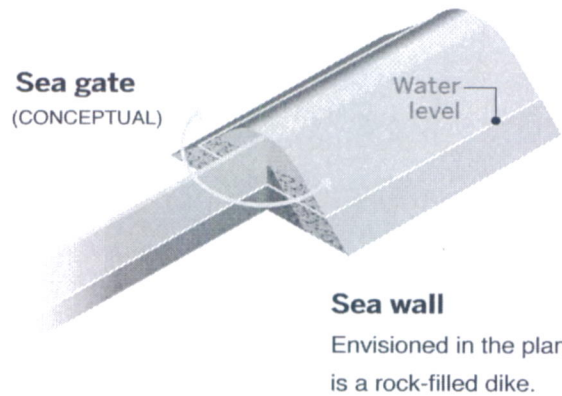
**Area with significant  
landfill vulnerable to  
flooding**



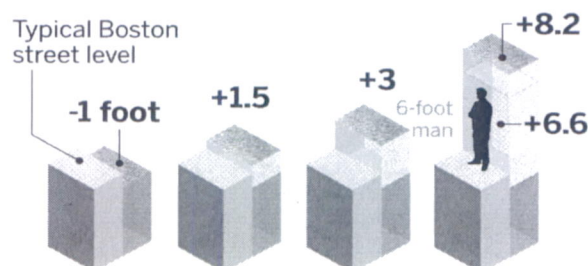


### Restricted tidal flow

The Sapphire Necklace proposal would require a 4-mile-long system of sea walls and mammoth gates to form a barrier that restricts the flow of water into Boston Harbor.



### Boston's sea level at high tide

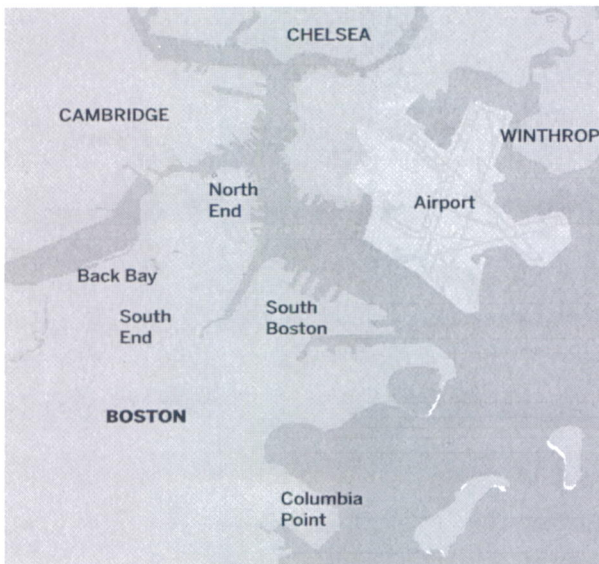


### Shoreline, city vulnerable to flooding

Much of Boston's urban core is located in filled tidelands with surface elevations just 1 foot or more above today's flood levels.

COLONIAL TIMES

LAND FILL



### Massachusetts Bay

The unique contours of the sea floor in Massachusetts Bay feed a considerable volume of water from President and Nantasket Roads, deep-water channels, to the major basins of Boston Harbor.

Officials say restricting the flows in and out of the harbor through the channels would effectively lower high tides and increase low tides while reducing the impact of a storm surge.







### BARRIER OPTIONS

A harbor-wide sea water protection system is being studied as a defense against rising seas anticipated as a result of global warming. The various barrier options being considered:



#### Inner harbor

An inner harbor barrier from Logan Airport to Castle Island.



#### Harbor Island

A barrier from Deer Island across Long

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 6, 2017

RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF FOSSIL FUEL DIVESTMENT

BE IT RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, the climate crisis is a serious threat to current and future generations here in the City of Newton and around the world; and

WHEREAS, on December 12, 2015, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) at the Conference of the Parties (COP21) announced a worldwide binding agreement reaffirming the goal of limiting global temperature increase well below 2 degrees Celsius, while urging efforts to limit the increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius; and

WHEREAS, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report found that global warming is already causing costly disruption of human and natural systems throughout the world including the melting of Arctic ice, the ocean's rise in acidity, flooding and drought; and

WHEREAS, almost every government in the world has agreed through the 2009 Copenhagen Accord that any warming above a 2 degree Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) rise would be unsafe, and that humans can only pour about 565 more gigatons of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere to maintain this limit; and

WHEREAS, the Paris Agreement of 2015 emphasizes with serious concern that national contributions to reducing greenhouse gas emissions fall far short of capping global warming below 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius, levels above which pose potentially irreversible threat to human societies; and

WHEREAS, for the purposes of his resolution, a "fossil fuel company" shall be defined as any of the two hundred publicly-traded companies with the largest coal, oil and gas reserves as measured by the gigatons of carbon dioxide that would be emitted if those reserves were extracted and burned, as listed in the Carbon Tracker Initiative's "Unburnable Carbon" report; and

WHEREAS, in its "Unburnable Carbon" report, the Carbon Tracker Initiative found that fossil fuel companies possess proven fossil fuel reserves that would release approximately 2,795

gigatons of carbon dioxide if they are burned, which is FIVE TIMES the amount that can be released without exceeding 2 degrees Celsius of warming; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newton has a responsibility to protect the lives and livelihoods of its inhabitants from the threat of climate change; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newton believes that its investments should support a future where all citizens can live healthy lives without the negative impacts of a warming environment; and

WHEREAS, students at more than two hundred colleges and universities in the United States have launched campaigns to have their institutions divest from fossil fuel companies; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the UMass Foundation voted unanimously in May, 2016 to divest its endowment from direct holdings in fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, Barack Obama, the former President of the United States called upon citizens to make climate change an urgent priority for action including investments in clean, renewable energy and divestment from dirty fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, on November 7, 2015, President Barack Obama rejected the Keystone Pipeline that would have moved the dirty tar sands oil through the United States; and

WHEREAS, investments in fossil fuel companies could prove highly risky and volatile given that 80% of their proven reserves could become “stranded” and unusable assets if governments act to protect a habitable climate; and

WHEREAS, divestment has proven to be an effective strategy for stigmatizing unethical industries and institutions throughout our state’s history, Massachusetts was the first state to divest from South Africa in 1982 and the first state to divest all state pension funds from tobacco companies in 1997; and

WHEREAS, at least eleven other Massachusetts cities and town, including Boston, Cambridge, Brookline, Somerville, Framingham, Sudbury, Concord, Amherst, Great Barrington, Lexington and Lowell have passed resolutions to divest from fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, a recent report by Aperio Group suggested that over the past ten years a carbon divest fund would have yielded higher returns than a non-divested portfolio; and

WHEREAS, Senator Creem and Representatives Khan and Balsler support divestment of the state pension funds from fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, the City of Newton's retirement and retiree health assets are invested by Pension Reserves Investment Management (PRIM) in the Pension Reserve Investment Trust (PRIT); and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the citizens of the City of Newton commit ourselves to meeting our individual and collective responsibility in the face of the increasing climate crisis by adopting energy efficiency and conservation practices; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council endorses and supports state legislation requiring divestment of statewide retirement funds, including funds managed by PRIM and invested in PRIT, from fossil fuel companies as soon as practicable and in any event no more than five years, and immediately precluding any such investments in the future; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Newton City Council shall send copies of this Resolution to Governor Charles Baker; State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg; Senator Stanley C. Rosenberg, Senate President; Representative Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker of the House; and all Newton legislators; Senator Cynthia S. Creem, Representatives Ruth B. Balser, Kay Khan, John J. Lawn, Jr; and Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey and Representative Joseph P. Kennedy, and to take any other action relative thereto.

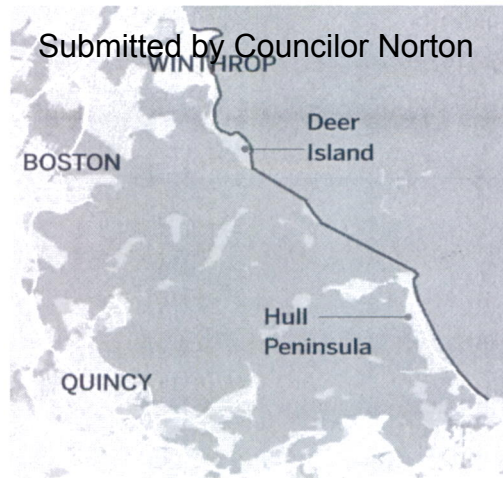
Under Suspension of Rules  
Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON  
City Clerk

Comments

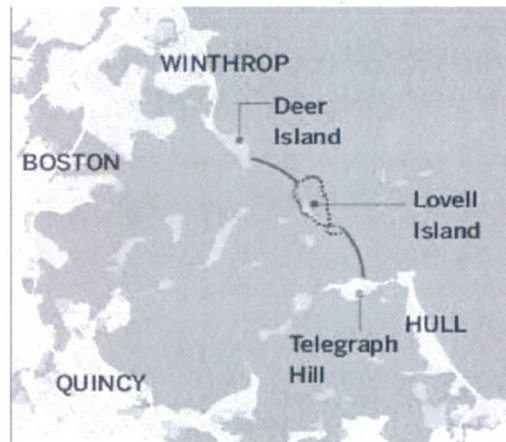
Submitted by Councilor Norton

#36-17 and #37-17



### Outer harbor

From Deer Island across the Harbor Islands (most likely Lovell Island) to the Hull Peninsula.



*David Abel can be reached at [dabel@globe.com](mailto:dabel@globe.com). Follow him on Twitter [@davabel](https://twitter.com/davabel).*

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CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 6, 2017

RESOLUTION

CALLING FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS LEGISLATURE TO PUT A FEE ON CARBON  
TO CURB CLIMATE CHANGE

BE IT RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, the scientific consensus is firmly established that catastrophic climate change is happening and the burning of fossil fuels is among the chief contributing factors; and

WHEREAS, the use of fossil fuels is pervasive throughout society and varies by region, lifestyle, income, and many other disparate factors; and

WHEREAS, the United States free market offers a fertile environment for creation of an equally diverse set of economical services and products in the areas of conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy to allow us to wean ourselves off fossil fuels; and

WHEREAS, free markets operate most efficiently when individuals and corporations are held accountable for the costs of their actions; and

WHEREAS, prices for fossil fuels do not reflect associated costs of health impacts, climate change, or other general environmental degradation; and

WHEREAS, leaders and organizations from around the country have advanced proposals for rectifying this price/cost disparity including James Hansen, Citizens Climate Lobby, Senators Boxer and Sanders, and Senator Whitehouse and Representative Henry Waxman; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy recently held a hearing on carbon pricing proposals, including S. 1747, An Act Combating Climate Change, and S. 1786, An Act to Protect our Environment and Reduce the Carbon Footprint of the Commonwealth, at which the testimony was strongly in favor of enacting a form of carbon pricing; and

WHEREAS, George P. Schultz, who served four different Republican presidents, called for a carbon tax in a Wall Street Journal editorial on April 7, 2013; and

WHEREAS, Greg Mankiw, Harvard economist, called for a carbon tax in a New York Times editorial in August 31, 2013; and

WHEREAS, British Columbia implemented a carbon tax in 2008 and according to an Economist report, the BC economy is as strong and arguably better than the rest of Canada; and

WHEREAS, on June 9, 2014, Citizens' Climate Lobby released a study from Regional Economic Models, Inc. (REMI) that examined the impact of a steadily rising fee on carbon-based fuels with revenue from that fee returned to households in equal shares with the fee starting at \$10 per ton of carbon dioxide and rising \$10 per ton each year and the major findings were:

- In 20 years, CO2 emissions would be reduced 50% below 1990 levels
- Because of the economic stimulus of recycling carbon fee revenue back to households, in 20 years, 2.8 million jobs would be added to the American economy
- Improved air quality would result in 230,000 premature deaths avoided over 20 years;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Newton City Council strongly urges the Massachusetts Legislature to pass legislation that puts a gradually increasing fee on carbon in fossil fuels to: make individuals and corporations accountable for the costs of their actions when they choose to use fossil fuels; level the economics playing field between fossil fuels and conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy sources; and ignites a free-market based clean energy revolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Newton City Council shall send copies of this Resolution to Governor Charles Baker; State Treasurer Deborah B. Goldberg; Senator Stanley C. Rosenberg, Senate President; Representative Robert A. DeLeo, Speaker of the House; Senator Michael Barrett, Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy; State Representative Thomas A. Golden, Jr., House Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy; Michael Brady, Senate Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy; Tackey Chan, House Vice Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy; and all members of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy: Senators Marc R. Pacheco, Anne M. Gobi, Joan B. Lovely, and Representatives James M. Cantwell, Caroly C. Dykema, Nick Collins, Josh S. Cutler, Adrian Madaro, Daniel Cahill and Joan Meschino; and all Newton legislators; Senator Cynthia S. Creem, Representatives Ruth B. Balsler, Kay Khan, John J. Lawn, Jr; and Senators Elizabeth Warren and Edward Markey and Representative Joseph P. Kennedy

Under Suspension of Rules  
Readings Waived and Approved  
yeas nays

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON  
City Clerk