

From: [Harriet Arnoldi](#)
To: [Lisa Coedy](#); [Regional Policy Plan Update](#); [Lilli Green](#); [Wellfleet Representative](#)
Cc: [Jill Talladay](#); [Alexandra Grabbe](#); [Bethia Brehmer](#); [Lydia Vivante](#); [Chris Powicki](#); [Elspeth Hay](#); [Robert Shapiro](#); [Tracey Hunt](#); [marcus springer](#); [Helen Miranda Wilson](#); [Kathleen Bacon](#)
Subject: Re: Cape Cod Commission Public Hearings
Date: Tuesday, October 9, 2018 4:57:28 PM

(PLEASE READ LISA COEDY'S LETTER BELOW and PLEASE RESPOND if you can...)

I appreciate all the thought and hard work that has gone into the Commission RPP and the response by Lisa Coedy. Though I may unfortunately be off-Cape when nearby hearings are held, I am happy to share and pass along some of my thoughts and opinions, focusing on climate and energy (though I understand that jobs and affordable housing are a key part of any real future for the Cape) that have evolved since long before the grassroots Wellfleet climate project capecool.org was founded in 2006. (we now do most of our communication via facebook.com/capecool). I hope that some of this will be relevant to the discussion:

I am a long-time Cape resident and have lived year-round in Wellfleet since the early nineteen-eighties. My concern about environment and climate is not only rooted in my love of nature in general and the Cape in particular, but in my deep love for the children in my biological and extended family. My daughter is an artist/ naturalist who works seasonally with the National Seashore and has done much to educate me about the incredibly diverse, complex and fragile ecosystems that are embedded in this narrow land, in these endangered waters and in our lives here. I am god-mother to three children who grew up on the Outer Cape and friend to many more. The generational injustice intrinsic to the climate crisis is the main reason I have been active in the climate justice movement.

Though I consider myself to be a fairly concerned citizen, and though I'm grateful for so many local projects including Solarize Wellfleet, I am not alone in wishing for wider community engagement—and for more guidance in cleaning up my own carbon footprint. A tiny fraction of Cape Codders will read this RPP and responses to it; the majority who will not, and I believe that those of us who for a variety of reasons attend few if any public meetings need to somehow be engaged in this conversation—or at least made aware of the conclusions—through a variety of media (local video broadcasts help) and more accessible language (more accessible than the kind I'm now using for sure!)

The UN climate report released this week calls for the equivalent of a Marshall plan ie declaring war on the root causes of climate change. Responding to this challenge will take all of us using all of our creative, strategic and collaborative skills to include all of us, or as many of us as possible.

1. Many effective proposals for prevention and mitigation of extreme climate change are also relevant to resilience (which the RPP references). All sustainable options including solar, tidal, geothermal and wind generation must be considered. Meanwhile, **energy conservation costs little or nothing**; even in the short term it can save money and inspire others to do likewise. Wasteful practices and wasted energy (including non-solar and/or non-motion-sensitive LED lights, inadequate insulation, preponderance of single-occupant vehicles, unnecessary vehicle idling, etc) not only pollute the atmosphere but send negative messages to everyone, including young people. **RIGHT NOW** every household, business and organization on the Cape can be encouraged to monitor and alter wasteful systems and practices, *and should be encouraged and rewarded for doing so. Our county and our towns could collaborate with the wealth of*

environmental groups on the Cape to 1. organize and promote green-house tours and 2. give folks the opportunity to organize age, affinity or community-based teams focused on tool sharing, community building, energy conservation and sustainability.

2. Though there has not yet been conclusive research, (see Lisa's question **Why is there not a goal for inventorying our greenhouse gas emissions on Cape Cod and recommending ways to reduce our fossil footprint? How we can reduce our emissions if we don't know where they stand now?**) knowledgeable experts have hypothesized that **the bulk of the Cape's carbon footprint is generated by inefficient** (and often gridlocked) **fossil-fueled TRANSPORTATION**. Again, transportation strategies and infrastructure are relevant both for reduction of emissions and for resilience to changes including rising tides and increasingly severe storms. (They are also a key education opportunity: even those who are ignorant or apathetic about climate change acknowledge the dangers and failures of Route 6 and would welcome positive change)

While I have little understanding of the commercial trucking piece of the puzzle, many of us can see and feel the need for expanded **safe pedestrian and bike paths and bridges** and **improved and skillfully-advertised public transportation**. Though this would take serious investment, **RIGHT NOW FOR FREE** we can encourage ALL employers to do *much* more to **reward and encourage employees (and clients) who use alternative transportation**. **RIGHT NOW** we can request that civic, community and cultural programmers factor bus and ferry schedules into their event-planning and include links to schedules and to apps like <http://groupcarpool.com> in their publicity. As the population ages, **there is and will be increasing need for public transport, ride-sharing, car-pooling and shuttles** (as well as non-polluting alternative vehicles).

3. The best ideas are useless if people are wrapped too tightly in denial, distraction or emotional numbness to hear them. I propose that an existing or new consortium of climate-and-energy-concerned environmental groups, experts, advocates, educators, parents, activists **organize a virtual or real-time conference on the psychology of climate** ie how and why humans (for whom this is uncharted territory) do or do not do the "right thing" when it comes to climate awareness, energy conservation and other sustainable practices— We have no shortage of educators, psychologists (and shrinks!) who could help us explore how to discuss climate issues with young people, and how all of us can motivate and mobilize our communities to bridge differences, overcome obstacles and become effective parts of the solution.

4. **VOTE**. At this point we desperately need to update our standards and initiate systemic broad-based changes. The importance of educating candidates and empowering the electorate to vote for responsible leaders cannot be over-emphasized (especially as mid-term elections rapidly approach.) **We need to let our town, county, state and federal public servants and political parties know that we care about the planet's future** and the future of our children and future generations; we have to **move climate and environmental issues off the bottom of the list** of voters' concerns. We need to support responsible, effective legislators and representatives at all levels who are climate-savvy, concerned and committed to positive change.

5. **ENGAGE CAPE COD TEACHERS AND STUDENTS**. Since 1992 our S.E.A. (swapshop ecology action) Prize Fund has awarded tens of thousands of dollars in scholarships to local graduating high school seniors who have actively demonstrated their concern for the environment. One of our first winners was Ruthanna Gordon of Eastham who

went on to write her PhD thesis on the psychology of sustainability and serve as a consultant to the EPA during the Obama administration; she is the inspiration for my thoughts about a cape-wide conference (see #3). The alliances we've forged with students, alumni & teachers has been invaluable in helping us to understand how important it is to **INVEST IN KIDS WHO CARE**. We accept tax deductible donations via the Provincetown Compact/capecool. Our principal fundraiser is in the Spring, at the Swap Shop at the Wellfleet Recycling and Transfer Station. This year we awarded two \$1000 scholarships and six \$100 prizes to amazing young people from Dennis to Provincetown. **CAPE COOL WOULD LOVE TO COLLABORATE** with other individuals and groups and expand this project Cape-wide and beyond.

THANKS FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT AND OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE THESE THOUGHTS

Harriet Jerusha Korim
Wellfleet, MA 02667

On Oct 9, 2018, at 1:42 PM, Lisa Coedy <lisacoedy@gmail.com> wrote:

Hi Harriet,

I hope this email finds you well.

I'm reaching out today because the Cape Cod Commission released a draft of the [Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan](#) (RPP) for a 60-day public review and comment period. The draft, prepared by Commission staff, presents a set of regional planning policies and objectives to guide development and to protect the region's resources.

Given our region's vulnerability to devastating climate change impacts, our RPP must emphasize climate mitigation, adaptation and resiliency. While this draft does provide some guidance on adaptation and resiliency, there is no plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It is not possible for Cape Cod to avoid the worst impacts of climate change if Cape Cod does not have ambitious goals and detailed plans, policies and guidelines for climate mitigation.

Steve Curwind said at the APCC meeting on Sept. 17th, 2018, the problem of climate change is our number one problem we as a civilization have to solve. **We can solve any number of other problems, but they will be meaningless if we do not assume responsibility and drastically reduce our emissions of greenhouse gases.** In the [IPCC's latest report](#), the world's leading scientists say we have only have [12 years](#) to limit our emissions to avoid climate change catastrophe so we need all governing bodies to step up and take real action.

We need you to let the Cape Cod Commission – especially the Commission member representing your town – know that this RPP is not acceptable, given the enormity of climate risks we face.

The Commission will be holding 3 public hearings to comment on the draft, on the following dates:

- **October 11, 4:00-6:00 p.m., Sandwich Town Hall**
- **October 17, 1:00-3:00 p.m., Truro Public Library**
- **October 24, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Cape Cod and Islands Association of Realtors, West Yarmouth**

We strongly urge you to attend at least one of the public comment periods. Below you will find some information about what to look for in the RPP, as well as some questions to consider. You can also just tell them that you are really concerned about climate change and that this plan does not adequately address the risk. Be sure to make it personal and don't be afraid to tell them why you personally are so concerned about climate change.

In addition, if **you could submit written comments by November 19th.** Please send them by email to rpp2018@capecodcommission.org and send your comments to your [Town Appointed Commissioners](#). To reach any of these folks, their email is yourtown@capecodcommission.org. For example for Yarmouth, it is yarmouth@capecodcommission.org.

I'm wondering if you would be willing to share this message with other climate change minded folks. Also, if anyone is interested in submitting a comment but is looking for more information, I've pasted some suggestions below.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Kind regards,
Lisa.

Here are some suggestions for what to look at in the Draft RPP. Potential questions to consider are listed in **bold**.

In the **Recommended Actions**, the plan states we should work together and design “regional policies and implementation plans to address our greatest challenges.” And in **Introduction**, it states “we must collaborate as a region to keep Cape Cod a special place for decades to come.” **How can we keep Cape Cod special if we are fighting against the worst impacts of climate change?**

The RPP needs to recognize that climate change is a serious problem that needs leadership from all levels including the state of MA, counties and towns. **Given that climate change is our greatest challenge, how will this RPP address it?**

The RPP states that a responsibility of the Cape Cod Commission is to, “implement a balanced and sustainable economic development strategy for Cape Cod.” **What will a sustainable economy look like if the temperature goes above 2 degrees C? What will it look like if we stay below 2 degrees C?**

Chapter 5: Key Challenges Facing The Region

Climate Change: The RPP does a thorough job of planning for climate change adaptation and resiliency, but it does little to address the root problem. The only way to address the root of the problem is by drastically reducing our carbon emissions. **How will the Commission ensure that we address the root of the problem?**

The RPP recognizes climate change as one of the "Key Challenges Facing The Region" but does not acknowledge the full range of threats to our natural, built, and human systems. It does not identify reducing greenhouse gas emissions as a critical response, nor opportunities to protect and enhance natural carbon sequestration mechanisms. **How will the Cape Cod Commission address these significant threats?**

Chapter 6: Goals and Objectives

The RPP's "Goals and Objectives" do not emphasize or prioritize emission reduction, most notably in the areas of energy, transportation, solid waste management, and housing.

The RPP's "Energy" goal, for example, calls for "an adequate, reliable, and diverse supply." This goal and its underlying objectives are not sufficient to ensure that future growth and development on Cape Cod are consistent with the state's legally mandated goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020 and 80% by 2050, relative to 1990 levels. The RPP should at minimum include energy-related goals and objectives meeting emission reduction targets under the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2008.

Why is there not a goal for inventorying our greenhouse gas emissions on Cape Cod and recommending ways to reduce our fossil footprint? How we can reduce our emissions if we don't know where they stand now?

Chapter 7: Coordinated Regional and Local Planning

Renewable Energy Planning and Development: The Massachusetts Global Warming Solutions Act GWSA set a goal of 25% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions before 2020 and an 80% reduction by 2050. **How are we on the Cape going to track our progress towards these goals? Given we are a frontline community of climate change, shouldn't we be aiming even higher?**

There will soon be goals set for 2030 and 2040. New infrastructure projects should consider how each will reach 80% reductions in energy use by 2050. The County has an opportunity to provide some coordination between all agencies working on this. The Commission could do more to coordinate: solid waste efforts; transportation moving to electric vehicles; evaluating fossil fuel infrastructure; and encouraging renewable energy in all sectors of the economy. **How will the Commission ensure that we are meeting our carbon emission goals in these areas?**

Green Communities: **What has the Commission done to promote the adoption of the Green Communities Program? This program only covers about 2% of each town's energy use, what about sectors other than the municipal?**

Chapter 10: Regional Performance Measures

An energy/emissions audit would be a performance standard which would provide a baseline upon which we could track our progress.

Other Notable Points

The Commission had a staff person working half time on energy. That person was not replaced. Most towns have someone who is in charge of energy, or renewable energy, plus most towns have energy committees. The County efforts as a leader would be enhanced by a full time Energy coordinator.

How about a regional NET-ZERO housing plan? How come more houses are not built as tightly as Habitat for Humanity houses?

The Commission's focus on creating central business/residential areas will help reduce transportation energy use, but **how else can we all get people out of their cars?** We will need to electrify all sectors quickly so **why are EV stations not required and incentivised?**