

From: [Susan Starkey](#)
To: [Regional Policy Plan Update](#)
Subject: Cape Cod Commission Hearing on Regional Policy Plan
Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2018 4:11:29 PM

Dear CCC,

I spoke at the recent hearing you had on the Mid-Cape and wanted to send in some written comments as well.

I appreciate your Vision to keep a special place special and I urge the Commission to take a new look at what that means on Cape Cod, given the impact the climate crisis is already having across the country, and right here on Cape Cod. You are in a prime position to name a vision to urgently reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It will not be possible for Cape Cod to avoid the worst impacts of climate change if we do not have ambitious goals and guidelines for climate mitigation. Adaptation measures alone are NOT enough.

As the Co-Chair of the 5Cs Faith Communities Environmental Network (FCEN) and a member of the Yarmouth Energy Committee I appreciate all the issues that your Report and RPP put on the table. Now, what's needed is a set of Goals and Plans to address them. The Commission is uniquely positioned to do this, and yet you may need help from the Community to ramp up in this new way as quickly as is needed. Let me know if I can help spread the word in any way in the Faith communities on Cape Cod and the Islands (we have 20 members so far and can tap into the Council of Churches as well).

Here are just some of the efforts that you can consider setting bold goals around:

1. Net Zero: reduce GHG and set goals that are at least as strong as the State, but even better, goals in line with the Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative's Net Zero Goals (my reading of the RPP did not find mention of regulations to mitigate CO2 emissions, you need to lead the way forward on reduction)
2. Building Development: should be carbon neutral by 2030; may be wise to halt all new development
3. Green Community Regulations: could be much more ambitious
4. Energy: need a strong set of regulations that will guide us toward Renewables and away from Fossil Fuels (including gas)
5. Address Air Pollution
6. Address Water Quality and Wastewater Mgmt more boldly
7. Is Zero Waste even mentioned? It is key, especially as China has stopped taking Recycling and we need to face that most plastics aren't recyclable, even in the best of times
8. Carbon Sequestration: you could REQUIRE tree planting in many situations
9. Energy: demonstrate strong support for Offshore Wind and Vineyard Wind (and yet hold them accountable to protect our waters and our aquifer as they build wind farms)

I would think you can collaborate (and receive guidance and/or paid consultation) from the 5Cs by reaching out to Mon Cochran as well as the Cape Light Compact.

Please do all you can, and even more than you previously imagined, to keep this special place special. I'm behind you all the way!

Sincerely,
Susan Starkey

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Susan Starkey

"Serve life not because it is broken but because it is holy."- Mother Theresa