

**Petition to Focus the *Cape Cod Regional Policy Plan (RPP)* on Addressing Climate Change  
Proposed Amendments by 2019 RPP Section/Element, With Page References**

Key to Different Versions of Final 2019 RPP

- **Approved:** text approved by Cape Cod Commission and by Barnstable County Assembly, referenced in the Petition
- **Effective:** text reformatted, executive summary added, and document posted at [https://capecodcommission.org/resource-library/file/?url=/dept/commission/team/Website\\_Resources/RPP/Cape\\_Cod\\_Regional\\_Policy\\_Plan\\_Effective\\_02-22-2019.pdf](https://capecodcommission.org/resource-library/file/?url=/dept/commission/team/Website_Resources/RPP/Cape_Cod_Regional_Policy_Plan_Effective_02-22-2019.pdf)
- **Published:** text reformatted with summary, graphics, etc., and published at [https://www.capecodcommission.org/resource-library/file/?url=/dept/commission/team/Website\\_Resources/RPP/2018\\_Cape\\_Cod\\_Regional\\_Policy\\_Plan\\_for\\_web.pdf](https://www.capecodcommission.org/resource-library/file/?url=/dept/commission/team/Website_Resources/RPP/2018_Cape_Cod_Regional_Policy_Plan_for_web.pdf)

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<p><b>Growth Policy for Barnstable County</b> <i>Approved:</i> p14 <i>Effective:</i> p26 <i>Published:</i> p24</p>	<p>Growth should be focused in centers of activity and areas supported by adequate infrastructure and guided away from areas that must be protected for ecological, historical or other reasons. Development should be responsive to context allowing for the restoration, preservation and protection of the Cape’s unique resources while promoting economic and community resiliency.</p>	<p>Growth should be focused in centers of activity and areas supported by adequate infrastructure and guided away from areas that must be protected for ecological, historical or other reasons. Development should be responsive to context allowing for the restoration, preservation and protection of the Cape’s unique resources while promoting economic and community resiliency. <b>Given the threats posed to Cape Cod by climate change, growth and development should be consistent with reducing regional greenhouse gas emissions and increasing natural carbon sequestration on a scale and time frame aligning with targets and limits set under present and future state laws, policies, and regulations.</b></p>
<p><b>Community Design: Objectives</b> <i>Approved:</i> p40, 68 <i>Effective:</i> p56, 88 <i>Published:</i> p62, 97</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote context sensitive building and site design</li> <li>• Minimize the amount of newly disturbed land and impervious surfaces</li> <li>• Avoid adverse visual impacts from infrastructure to scenic resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote context sensitive building and site design</li> <li>• <b>Minimize the amount of newly disturbed land, vegetation clearing, and impervious surfaces and promote tree planting and other restorative practices</b></li> <li>• Avoid adverse visual impacts from infrastructure to scenic resources</li> </ul>

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<b>Capital Facilities and Infrastructure: Goal</b> <i>Approved: p40, 68</i> <i>Effective: p56, 89</i> <i>Published: p62, 97</i>	To guide the development of capital facilities and infrastructure necessary to meet the region’s needs while protecting regional resources.	To guide the development of capital facilities and infrastructure necessary to meet the region’s needs while protecting regional resources <b>and minimizing greenhouse gas emissions.</b>
<b>Transportation: Goal</b> <i>Approved: p40, 68</i> <i>Effective: p57, 89</i> <i>Published: p62, 97</i>	To provide and promote a safe, reliable, and multi-modal transportation system.	To provide and promote a safe, reliable, and multi-modal transportation system <b>that minimizes greenhouse gas emissions and accelerates electrification.</b>
<b>Energy: Goal</b> <i>Approved: p41, 68</i> <i>Effective: p57, 89</i> <i>Published: p62, 97</i>	To provide an adequate, reliable, and diverse supply of energy to serve the communities and economies of Cape Cod.	<b>To accelerate the transition to 100% renewable energy, minimize greenhouse gas emissions, and provide a secure, adequate, affordable, and reliable</b> supply of energy to serve the communities and economies of Cape Cod.
<b>Energy: Objectives</b> <i>Approved: p41, 69</i> <i>Effective: p57, 90</i> <i>Published: p62, 97</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support renewable energy development that is context-sensitive</li> <li>• Increase resiliency of energy generation and delivery</li> <li>• Minimize energy consumption through planning and design (energy efficiency and conservation measures)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support renewable energy development that is context-sensitive</li> <li>• Increase resiliency of energy generation and delivery</li> <li>• <b>Promote electrification of heating and transportation systems</b></li> <li>• <b>Promote net-zero construction through planning and design, conservation and efficiency measures, and onsite renewable energy</b></li> </ul>
<b>Housing: Objectives</b> <i>Approved: p42, 70</i> <i>Effective: p58, 91</i> <i>Published: p63, 97</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote an increase in housing diversity and choice</li> <li>• Promote an increase in year-round housing supply</li> <li>• Protect and improve existing housing stock</li> <li>• Increase housing affordability</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote an increase in housing diversity and choice</li> <li>• Promote an increase in year-round housing supply</li> <li>• Protect and improve existing housing stock</li> <li>• Increase housing affordability</li> <li>• <b>Promote net-zero construction to reduce energy bills and increase affordability</b></li> </ul>

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<p><b>Renewable Energy Planning and Development: Technical Bulletin Elements</b>  <i>Approved: p50</i>  <i>Effective: p68</i>  <i>Published: p73</i></p>	<p>...To assist in the planning, siting, and design of on-site renewable energy facilities, the Commission will develop a technical bulletin for Developments of Regional Impact and/or use by municipal officials in local review including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• siting and building design consideration to accommodate future solar installations;</li> <li>• identification of potential grayfield sites such as parking lots that would be suitable for installation of solar photovoltaic panels;</li> <li>• siting and design considerations for public electric vehicle charging stations and energy storage.</li> </ul>	<p>...To assist in the planning, siting, and design of on-site renewable energy facilities, the Commission will develop a technical bulletin for Developments of Regional Impact and/or use by municipal officials in local review including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>siting, design, and construction considerations to encourage zero-net buildings and require solar readiness;</b></li> <li>• identification of potential grayfield sites such as parking lots that would be suitable for installation of solar photovoltaic panels;</li> <li>• siting and design considerations for public electric vehicle charging stations and energy storage.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Regional Capital Planning</b>  <i>Approved: pp52-53</i>  <i>Effective: pp70-71</i>  <i>Published: p75</i></p>	<p>...The Regional Capital Plan will consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-Term Sustainability: Locate Infrastructure to effectively protect natural resources, strengthen Activity Centers and villages, discourage low density sprawling development, reduce disaster vulnerability, and preserve historic structures and pre-1950s development patterns.</li> <li>• Existing Needs First: Build infrastructure to serve existing needs and mitigate impacts of current development as well as re-development and new development within identified Activity Centers.</li> <li>• Safety, Access, Equity &amp; Quality: Provide safe, accessible, high quality services, facilities, and infrastructure that meet the needs of all residents and property owners</li> <li>• Efficiency &amp; Affordability: Invest in, locate and use Infrastructure efficiently to limit over building, reduce long-term costs, promote community</li> </ul>	<p>...The Regional Capital Plan will consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long-Term Sustainability: Locate Infrastructure to effectively protect natural resources, strengthen Activity Centers and villages, discourage low density sprawling development, reduce disaster vulnerability, and preserve historic structures and pre-1950s development patterns.</li> <li>• Existing Needs First: Build infrastructure to serve existing needs and mitigate impacts of current development as well as re-development and new development within identified Activity Centers.</li> <li>• Safety, Access, Equity &amp; Quality: Provide safe, accessible, high quality services, facilities, and infrastructure that meet the needs of all residents and property owners</li> <li>• Efficiency &amp; Affordability: Invest in, locate and use Infrastructure efficiently to limit over building, reduce long-term costs, promote community</li> </ul>

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	<p>interaction, and direct growth into Activity Centers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resilience: Incorporate changing conditions and risks posed by deliberate attacks, accidents, or naturally occurring threats or incidents, into infrastructure planning and investments to reduce current and future loss of life, and the other costs of recovery, and to promote economic stability.</li> </ul>	<p>interaction, and direct growth into Activity Centers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resilience: Incorporate changing conditions and risks posed by deliberate attacks, accidents, or naturally occurring threats or incidents, into infrastructure planning and investments to reduce current and future loss of life, and the other costs of recovery, and to promote economic stability.</li> <li><b>Decarbonization: Support and invest in electricity, communications, transportation, and other infrastructure that reduces the Cape’s reliance on fossil fuels, increases energy efficiency, and accelerates progress toward 100% renewable energy.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Regional Performance Measures</b>  <i>Approved: p71-72</i>  <i>Effective: p92-93</i>  <i>Published: p100-101</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of acres of protected BioMap2 Core habitat: Preserving the natural environment and habitats is essential to the region’s environmental and economic resilience. An increase in the number of acres of protected BioMap2 Core habitat will show progress towards safeguarding the Cape’s valuable natural environment.</li> <li>Nitrogen concentration in public drinking water wells: Clean drinking water is critical to any population’s quality of life and well-being. Nitrogen is often used as an indicator of drinking water quality. The Commission’s established nitrogen loading concentration of 5 parts per million is below the established federal maximum contaminant level of 10 parts per million to ensure the region’s high-quality drinking water is maintained. A decrease in the concentration of nitrogen in public supply wells</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of acres of protected BioMap2 Core habitat: Preserving the natural environment and habitats is essential to the region’s environmental and economic resilience. An increase in the number of acres of protected BioMap2 Core habitat will show progress towards safeguarding the Cape’s valuable natural environment.</li> <li>Nitrogen concentration in public drinking water wells: Clean drinking water is critical to any population’s quality of life and well-being. Nitrogen is often used as an indicator of drinking water quality. The Commission’s established nitrogen loading concentration of 5 parts per million is below the established federal maximum contaminant level of 10 parts per million to ensure the region’s high-quality drinking water is maintained. A decrease in the concentration of</li> </ul>

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	<p>will show progress toward increasing protection of public health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parcels connected to the sidewalk network: In order to achieve the vision of a region defined by vibrant and healthy communities, residents and visitors must be able to move through the area safely and efficiently and not solely using vehicles. Increasing the number of parcels connected to the sidewalk network, where appropriate, will indicate an increased ability for more people to travel around the region without getting in their cars, and getting people outside and walking around is also a key contributing factor to creating a vibrant community.</li> <li>• Nitrogen concentrations in embayments: The health of marine water ecosystems depends on the quality of coastal waters; the Cape’s economy is tied to its quality of life, and thus, to the quality of its coastal and other natural resources. Nitrogen travels through groundwater to coastal embayments and, in excess, results in degraded water quality. Decreased concentrations of nitrogen at monitoring stations in each of the region’s coastal embayments is indicative of water quality improvement.</li> <li>• Number of additional or updated historic structure inventory forms: The historic character of the Cape plays a huge role in attracting visitors and residents to the region, however many of these critical historic resources are unprotected. The first step towards protecting these historic resources is inventorying them, either for the first time or conducting more detailed inventories of previously</li> </ul>	<p>nitrogen in public supply wells will show progress toward increasing protection of public health.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parcels connected to the sidewalk network: In order to achieve the vision of a region defined by vibrant and healthy communities, residents and visitors must be able to move through the area safely and efficiently and not solely using vehicles. Increasing the number of parcels connected to the sidewalk network, where appropriate, will indicate an increased ability for more people to travel around the region without getting in their cars, and getting people outside and walking around is also a key c contributing factor to creating a vibrant community.</li> <li>• Nitrogen concentrations in embayments: The health of marine water ecosystems depends on the quality of coastal waters; the Cape’s economy is tied to its quality of life, and thus, to the quality of its coastal and other natural resources. Nitrogen travels through groundwater to coastal embayments and, in excess, results in degraded water quality. Decreased concentrations of nitrogen at monitoring stations in each of the region’s coastal embayments is indicative of water quality improvement.</li> <li>• Number of additional or updated historic structure inventory forms: The historic character of the Cape plays a huge role in attracting visitors and residents to the region, however many of these critical historic resources are unprotected. The first step towards protecting these historic resources is</li> </ul>

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	<p>inventoried structures. An increase in the number of historic resource inventories will show progress toward greater protection of these unique structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity center evolution: The 2018 RPP utilized GIS analysis to identify existing centers of activity across the region. The Commission will review changes in the health, wealth, and economic resilience of existing centers of activity over time.</li> <li>• Share of employment within high-wage industries: Year-round employment opportunities with good wages can be difficult to find on the Cape. This measure shows how many Cape Cod jobs are in high-wage industries. An increase in the employment opportunities in high-wage industries will show a shift away from an economy primarily focused on the tourism industry, with low-paying, seasonal jobs, and towards an economy that can support a more robust year-round population. An increase in the share of employment within high-wage industries will also reflect changes in the physical infrastructure and regulations necessary to support these companies.</li> <li>• Housing diversity: Housing affordability is a large challenge to the year-round population and is compounded by the fact that over 80% of the Cape’s housing stock is detached single-family homes. An increase in housing diversity in terms of housing type, size, and rental vs. ownership units, will show that there are more opportunities for people of different ages and economic backgrounds</li> </ul>	<p>inventorying them, either for the first time or conducting more detailed inventories of previously inventoried structures. An increase in the number of historic resource inventories will show progress toward greater protection of these unique structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity center evolution: The 2018 RPP utilized GIS analysis to identify existing centers of activity across the region. The Commission will review changes in the health, wealth, and economic resilience of existing centers of activity over time.</li> <li>• Share of employment within high-wage industries: Year-round employment opportunities with good wages can be difficult to find on the Cape. This measure shows how many Cape Cod jobs are in high-wage industries. An increase in the employment opportunities in high-wage industries will show a shift away from an economy primarily focused on the tourism industry, with low-paying, seasonal jobs, and towards an economy that can support a more robust year-round population. An increase in the share of employment within high-wage industries will also reflect changes in the physical infrastructure and regulations necessary to support these companies.</li> <li>• Housing diversity: Housing affordability is a large challenge to the year-round population and is compounded by the fact that over 80% of the Cape’s housing stock is detached single-family homes. An increase in housing diversity in terms of housing type, size, and rental vs. ownership units,</li> </ul>

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	<p>to live on the Cape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes in floodplain development: Climate change and sea level rise are threats posing a significant challenge for the Cape. A decrease in development within the floodplain, adapting development through new codes or regulations, or additional protected lands in strategic areas will help protect the environment and the population of the region and ensure its viability and sustainability for the next several decades.</li> </ul>	<p>will show that there are more opportunities for people of different ages and economic backgrounds to live on the Cape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Changes in floodplain development: Climate change and sea level rise are threats posing a significant challenge for the Cape. A decrease in development within the floodplain, adapting development through new codes or regulations, or additional protected lands in strategic areas will help protect the environment and the population of the region and ensure its viability and sustainability for the next several decades.</li> <li><b>Greenhouse gas emissions: Rapid and substantial emission reductions at all levels are necessary to prevent the worst effects of climate change. Increases or decreases in regional emissions over time will show whether Cape Cod is doing its part.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Climate Change Response, Readiness, and Mitigation: Regional Planning Actions</b>  <i>Approved: p73</i>  <i>Effective: pp96-97</i>  <i>Published: p105</i></p>	<p>Encourage and engage communities to better understand regional greenhouse gas emissions and identify opportunities for mitigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop an estimated baseline of greenhouse gas emissions for the region using available models and data.</li> <li>Encourage more communities to seek Green Communities designation, which would facilitate greater funding opportunities for municipal energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives and participation in the Community Rating System to reduce insurance costs.</li> <li>Conduct GIS screening analysis of potential electric vehicle charging station locations.</li> </ul>	<p>Encourage and engage communities to better understand regional greenhouse gas emissions and identify opportunities for mitigation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Develop an inventory of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and estimate natural carbon fluxes for the region using available models and data, benchmark results against the state’s annual inventory and its emission reduction targets, identify priority emission reduction and carbon sequestration strategies and measures, and take a leadership role in advancing comprehensive energy-climate planning, policy, and regulation for Cape Cod.</b></li> <li>Encourage more communities to seek Green</li> </ul>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct a GIS analysis to identify appropriate potential sites for development of utility scale solar photovoltaic arrays or energy storage facilities (with an emphasis on “grayfield” sites outside of densely populated areas) to encourage development of on-site renewable energy to offset line losses associated with electricity supplied from the utility grid.</li> </ul>	<p>Communities designation, which would facilitate greater funding opportunities for municipal energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives and participation in the Community Rating System to reduce insurance costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct GIS screening analysis of potential electric vehicle charging station locations.</li> <li>Conduct a GIS analysis to identify appropriate potential sites for development of utility scale solar photovoltaic arrays or energy storage facilities (with an emphasis on “grayfield” sites outside of densely populated areas) to encourage development of on-site renewable energy to offset line losses associated with electricity supplied from the utility grid.</li> </ul>