

This proposal seeks funding to establish a part-time climate coordinator position in the Town of West Tisbury to support our transition to a clean energy future and to prepare our town for the impacts of climate change.

The Town passed the 100% Renewable by 2040 resolution in October. In addition, much work is needed to ensure we are as prepared as possible for extreme weather events, power failures and other challenges that climate change may present us with. To realize these goals, we need to greatly improve the energy performance and resilience of the Town's buildings and vehicles, transition to all-electric systems AND educate the townspeople as to how they can do the same.

A number of projects are underway that support the above-stated goals. Having a part-time position established to focus on the work that is needed will strengthen the possibility of our achieving these goals.

Resilience

The Town received the MA Clean Energy Center's CLEAR grant to study how to provide greater resilience for 6 of our town buildings during extreme weather events and prolonged power failures. This work is underway.

At 61,000 square feet, the School is our largest building and it would serve the Town to greatly reduce our energy use there. Work is underway to have the school join our Green Communities program and achieve the required 20% reduction in energy use. It is our designated town shelter but it is not yet ready to be certified and functional as such. At the very least, it needs hurricane-proof windows and one shower in the portion of the school that would be used as a shelter.

The Vineyard Transit Authority would like to have intermediary charging capability at the Town Hall bus hub. A battery at this site could provide for their needs as well as support the Town Hall's energy resilience in times of prolonged power failure. Analysis as to how to achieve this has just begun.

Greater Building Efficiency

Other town buildings have achieved the Green Communities goal of a 20% reduction in energy use but could benefit from further improvement of their energy performance and making the transition to all-electric. Developing a set of standards and a master plan for how to achieve this could be of use to the Capital Improvements Committee. Enlisting the help of the managers and their staff in each of these buildings in monitoring and reducing their energy use is another key strategy to meeting this end.

Education and Support for the Townspeople's Transition

The resolution asks us to transition from a fossil fuel-based Town to one that is all-electric, with the electricity coming from renewable sources by 2040. This is an ambitious goal and will require education and assistance to our townspeople if this is to be achieved. Knowledge of technologies, programs and rebates that are available is not widespread and is greatly needed to help make this possible.

The Energy Committee has prepared an introductory piece that outlines the kind of changes that will need to be made. It is being sent out with the Census in January and will also be on the Town website. Further preparation of specific information that supports our community's transition is necessary. Having someone on hand who can

answer questions and help people through the process would be helpful. Communicating our goals to those who are building in the town is also essential.

Job Description

This job would begin as a pilot project and be evaluated at the end of a year to determine its usefulness to the Town and what the parameters and responsibilities should be going forward.

The Climate Coordinator is a part-time consultant position, proposed to be approximately 8-10 hours per week, for the year 2021.

Tasks include:

- Participate in climate-related efforts
 - Town Climate Advisory and Energy Committees
 - Regional climate meetings
 - share our information and initiatives with the other towns and share other towns' work with our committees
 - Work with the Vineyard Transit Authority to find possible ways to achieve intermediary charging at the Town Hall
 - in concert with the ad hoc committee that has been formed
- Facilitate work to make key Town buildings more resilient to the impacts of climate change
 - Provide information and assistance to the CLEAR grant engineering team
 - Establish goals for greater efficiency in Town buildings and assist in the transition to all-electric
 - Set a standard for building improvements and establish a Master Plan, based on the CLEAR analysis and Cape Light Compact audits
 - for use by the Capital Improvements Committee
 - in coordination with Louis DeGeofroy and others
 - Work to establish a system for Town Building Managers to receive updates on their building's energy performance
 - In coordination with the Town Accountant and Energy Committee
 - Assist in the addition of the school to the Green Communities program and in next steps for the school to achieve greater efficiency and preparation to be our Town's shelter
 - In coordination with the Emergency Manager, School Principal and School Committee
 - Work with others on grant applications to fund this work where possible
- Support the townspeople in making the clean energy transition
 - Prepare and disseminate information about available technologies and rebates/ financial assistance
 - In coordination, in part, with the Building Department
 - Provide guidance about technologies, programs and assistance available
 - Stay abreast of upcoming technologies and opportunities

Proposed Salary \$10,000 (\$5000 from the Town, \$5000 from another entity)

Printing, scanning and postage expenses \$ 1,000 from the Town