

## **AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE TOWN OF FALMOUTH ENERGY COMMITTEE**

**WHEREAS**, the town of Falmouth has signed the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement (USMCPA) committing to reductions of carbon dioxide emissions to 7% below 1990 levels by 2012: and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Falmouth desires to meet—and exceed—the USMCPA's targets; reduce our use of fossil fuels; improve our local economy and quality of life; and advance the preservation of Falmouth and our natural world, its beauty, and its bounty for ourselves, our children, and all that follow: and

**WHEREAS**, the continued production of carbon dioxide from fossil fuel combustion is causing an accelerating series of climate changes with substantial and costly impacts and, if unchecked, will soon have significant impacts on Falmouth, our children, and human civilization: and

**WHEREAS**, sound investments in improved energy performance and renewable energy supply provide significant benefits to our environment and quality of life, our local economy, and our energy security; offer a sustainable and prosperous future for us and our descendants; and are the fastest, cleanest, and most profitable way to reduce fossil fuel use and emissions of carbon dioxide: and

**WHEREAS**, we have an immediate, and limited time, opportunity to realize these objectives; and the Town of Falmouth desires to take a leadership position in these regards: and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Falmouth will realize these goals if a well researched, integrated, broadly supported, plan is developed drawing on the wide range of interests and expertise in the town and is implemented by the Town Council.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, we, the Town Council of Falmouth, Maine, hereby amend the Falmouth Code of Ordinances as follows:

1. **Create a Committee.** An "Energy Committee" shall be created.
2. **Purpose and Duties of the Committee.** The Committee shall develop a plan containing goals, strategies, recommendations, and reports; and specifically:
  - 2.1. shall be guided by the intent to substantially, rapidly, and profitably reduce Falmouth's fossil fuel use and carbon dioxide emissions, and increase our energy performance and security;
  - 2.2. shall assess and report on the Town's energy sources, uses, costs, and emissions;

- 2.3. shall research and develop goals and an optimized set of strategies and recommendations for action to realize the goals, encompassing the full range of energy activities in Falmouth including, but not limited to, buildings, vehicles, schools, municipal buildings and operations, land use, waste, developments, and businesses;
  - 2.4. shall evaluate and report on our progress towards the goals and update the Plan accordingly;
  - 2.5. shall prepare an annual Work Plan for the Energy Committee to be submitted to the Town Council.
3. **Membership of the Committee.** The membership of the Committee shall consist of up to ten residents of the town of Falmouth approved by the Town Council and,
- 3.1. shall be identified on the basis of their expertise, motivation, abilities, and representativeness;
  - 3.2. shall be individuals who represent the main interests in the town such as business leaders, developers, school administrators, facility managers, faith communities, community organizations, energy suppliers, and energy performance/renewable energy experts;
  - 3.3. shall serve a three year term;
  - 3.4. shall have a Chair elected by majority vote of the Committee with the Chair of the Town Council casting a tie breaking vote if necessary;
  - 3.5. in consultation with the Committee, the Chair will schedule, set the agenda for, and preside over Committee meetings;
  - 3.6. the chair, or his or her designee, shall be the official representative of the Committee to the Town Council and first author of the Plan;
4. **Support & Collaboration.**
- 4.1. The Committee shall collaborate with such organizations that can provide material support in achieving the goals of the Plan, for example: ICLEI, NRCM, Efficiency Maine, Sierra Club, The Chamber of Commerce, The Falmouth Economic Development Commission; Cool Falmouth, The Town Planning Board and other municipal bodies, and The Falmouth Conservation Commission;
  - 4.2. the Committee shall seek, and hire when appropriate, expert advice from leading organizations in making its evaluations, analyses, and recommendations;
  - 4.3. the Committee shall be given access to appropriate Town records, personnel, and resources including appropriate funding;
  - 4.4. the Town Council shall promptly evaluate recommendations made in the Plan, provide responses to guide its further development, and act rapidly to implement approved recommendations and budget and staffing requests.