

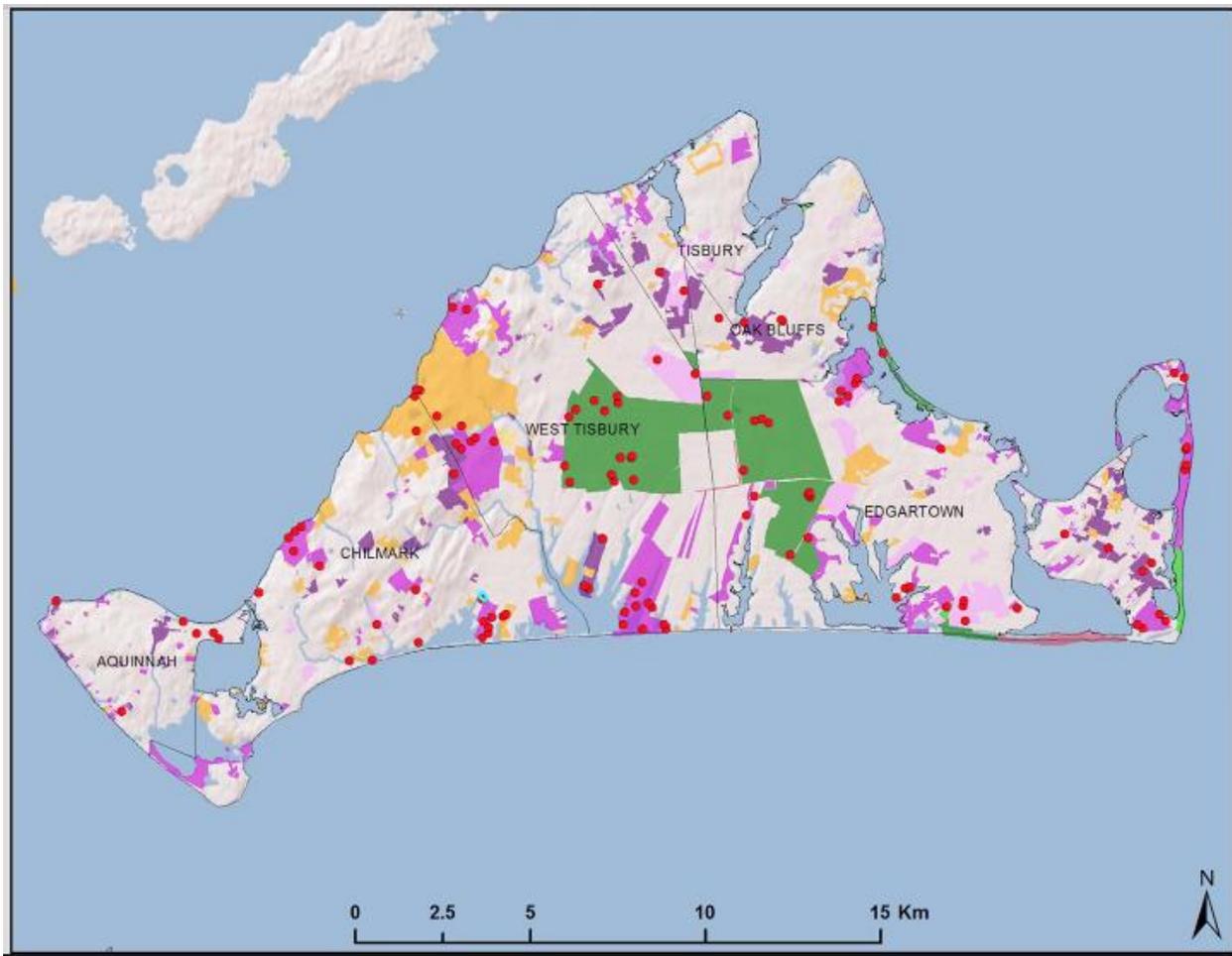
## MVC Climate Action Task Force

Friday, August 5, 2022

### Zoom

**CATF members present:** Ben Robinson (BR), Tristan Israel (TI), Kathy Newman (KN), Bob Johnston (BJ), Alan Strahler (AS), Cheryl Doble (CD), Tristan Israel (TI), Bill Straw (BS), Erik Peckar (EP), Norman Willard (NW), Kate Warner (KW), Richard Andre (RA), Richard Toole (RT), Beckie Finn (BF), Jonathan Harris, Stephen Kass, Dan Doyle (DD)

### Woodwell (WW) Study update



Map shows 140 spots where David Foster and his partner assessed conditions in the field a couple decades ago; this will augment the Woodwell work; partnering with Biodiversity Works re how to mow, what plant species to plant, WW will track what's happening in private yards/properties; and will be able to assess what's changed from 20 years ago.

**Aug 11<sup>th</sup>** – WW is sponsoring a film at the Film Center in VH at 7:30; BR will moderate a discussion; opening reception begins at 6 pm. Film is 53 minutes.

Earth Emergency film is focused on Global Tipping Points.

### **Upcoming State and federal climate legislation**

Aquinnah is central to this legislation; they could be eligible to become a community that prohibits fossil fuels in new construction; they filed to become one of these communities; eligibility is triggered once 10% of a town's housing inventory is Affordable in a town; AQ would be eligible to be one of ten pilot communities in MA to mandate all new construction or substantial improvements are all electric, minus cooking appliances.

There is more legislation coming up regarding how to site solar, along with the implications for farmers.

Biomass has also been removed from the list of eligible renewable fuels used for meeting state renewable targets.

### **MassSaves**

Vineyard Power has been working on Community Empowerment legislation; passed in Senate in 2016; since then it's been introduced in every subsequent House session; it just passed; it will allow any community choice aggregator to enter into long term contracts w/ offshore wind developers and will really open up the market; Cape Light Compact (CLC) is now in a position to contract at competitive prices with any offshore wind developer.

For us, we are in the mid 20% for renewable mix with them; this might propel them to 35-45%.

Next steps w/ CLC and Mass Clean Energy Center (CEC) have been added for managing an offshore energy Trust Fund; collectively Vineyard Power will approach offshore wind developers to form a pilot.

When the state puts out RFPs for these projects, developers start getting better at what they're doing; Vineyard Wind's 61 turbines produce 800 MW; the excess capacity can then be sold to communities on the front lines of climate change; initially the installation was slated for 103 turbines.

Moving from the state to the federal Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) bill, much of it is about incentives driven around EVs and purchasing EVs; there is very little in it for public transportation; it's unclear whether it will lower GHG emissions; mixed reviews, but if it does pass it opens the doors to future federal legislation, especially if Dems can maintain control.

If anyone's installed solar this year, they qualify for a 30% investment tax credit.

### **Upcoming Town Warrant Articles**

Brookline has a list of articles they are trying to pass;

They are going to try for 5 articles; first is a property tax surcharge modeled on the CPA model; the town would have a zero emissions advisory board to manage the revenue.

They also aim to disincentivize purchases of new and expensive luxury vehicles through an excise tax; money can be used to expand town EV purchases; the floor is vehicles over 30K; another relates to building code guidelines re density of EV chargers in a commercial project or multi family projects; finally, they also want to promote more solar.

### *Community Choice Aggregation*

Building Electrification Betterment; this is a way to access low interest financing in transition to 100% electric; a septic betterment already exists in Brookline

VSEC has sponsored all of MV's energy related warrant articles thus far; they are taking the lead and caution against CATF taking the mantle on any of these types in the future.

On article they are considering would address the fast proliferation of swimming pools being installed;

Could MVC help with inventory how many swimming pools exist today?

Could we create a roadmap w/ Nantucket and SSA indicating a trajectory along which only certain vehicles get a car rez?

Carbon excise tax – carbon footprint of certain assets can be calculated; revenues could go back into an enterprise fund that assists members of the communities who can't afford EVs.

Baker-Solito HR Amendment requires states start to purchase EVs for their equipment.

### **Strategies for behavioral change on the Vineyard, summer visitors and residents**

Jonathan Harris (JH) is a seasonal resident of OB; he completed a housing study for MVC many years ago; it included zoning and developable land; interested in engaging seasonal residents.

There is an economic interest in the form of property values and viability of infrastructure on the island for seasonal homeowners. We need to first intersect two spheres: local politics and seasonal residents.

Seasonal residents could become climate supporters through making monetary donations to a fund managed by a group, with periodic reports; CATF does already have an Adaptation Fund that Kathy Newman has helped coordinate.

An Adaptation Fund will need tremendous amounts of money; seasonal residents also have a moral interest in this, as well.

There is precedent in this magnitude of f/raising when the Aquinnah Lighthouse was moved.