

## Martha's Vineyard Commission 2019 Climate Emergency Resolution

The continued burning of fossil fuels, resulting in the emission of greenhouse gases, and the consequences of unsustainable development and extraction of resources are having a detrimental impact on the environment and are threatening the livability of our planet and, more relevantly, our island. Specifically, these factors are contributing to rising sea levels; extreme climate disruption; ocean acidification; adverse health impacts; economic destabilization; increased pollution and, ultimately, human survivability.

Chapter 831 of the Massachusetts 1977 Acts and Resolves, as amended, vests in the Martha's Vineyard Commission authority to protect the Island's "unique natural, historical, ecological, scientific, cultural, and other values." Chapter 831 recognizes that "[t]hese values are being threatened and may be irreversibly damaged by uncoordinated or inappropriate uses of the land." Chapter 831 further states that such values are to be preserved "for the enjoyment of present and future generations." The Commission believes it is necessary and appropriate to exercise its authority to protect Island values in the face of the climate crisis.

Accordingly, the Commission RESOLVES to:

- ❖ **Develop** a framework to enable the Commission to factor into its review and consideration of Developments of Regional Impact and regional policy and planning initiatives the imperative to reduce the detrimental impacts of the climate crisis on the Island and to secure the benefits of policies designed to minimize those impacts - to the intent of protecting the Island values, its people, economy and environment.
- ❖ **Support** the non-binding resolution, to be presented by each Town's Energy Committee at the spring Annual Town Meetings, the goals of which are to eliminate the Island's reliance on fossil fuels by 2040 and ensure the Island's energy needs are met from renewable sources.
- ❖ **Draft** a Commission Master Energy Plan that is consistent with the goals set out in the non-binding resolution and that will assist the Island in meeting those goals.
- ❖ **Draft** a Commission Master Adaptation Plan that will facilitate both Town and regional planning and implementation initiatives designed to improve resiliency in the face of the climate crisis.