



# CLIMATE ACTION TEAM

MAY 2022  
Annual Meeting Report



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## Congregational Commitment

- May 2021 Pledge:

“Given the urgency of the crisis we face, our Congregation commits to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions and to practicing total sustainability in all congregational activities by 2035.”

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## First Parish's Climate Journey

- 2008: Created Energy Committee to address utility costs
- 2010: Approved new covenant respecting the environment
- 2017: Reduced carbon emissions 40% by switching from oil to high-efficiency gas heating
- 2020: Approved unanimously installing solar panels
- 2021: **Voted to achieve carbon neutral status by 2035**

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## Climate Action Team Activities

- Team formed in 2021 – Chair-persons Mary Blanchette, Deb Larson-Venable, Tracey Robinson; Members Marie-Laure Brown, Henry MacLean, Richard Venable, Hale Smith
- Established the following goals for 2021 – 2023:
  1. Develop plan to dramatically reduce and eventually eliminate buildings' carbon emissions
  1. Increase carbon sequestration by enhancing campus greenspace and / or purchasing carbon offsets
  1. Engage Congregation in climate advocacy and personal climate actions

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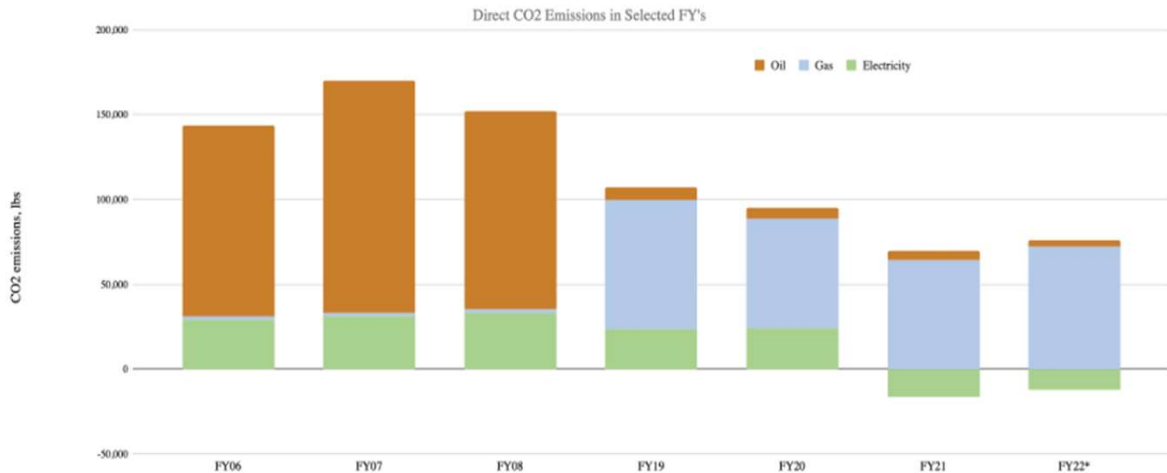
## Climate Action Team Activities (continued)

- Met with Mass Interfaith Power and Light to refresh our energy audit and get advice on climate related building priorities and costs
- Coordinated with B&G on strategies for a phased approach to building improvements
- Investigated climate action work being done at other churches, including Belmont, Stow/Acton, Concord
- Investigated ideas and landscaping options to increase carbon sequestration
- Developed a mechanism for measuring FPM's carbon footprint:

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## Climate Action Team Activities (continued)



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## Recommendations

- Establish three ad hoc planning groups to address:
  1. Facilities and building planning
  2. Landscape planning
  3. Education / advocacy program
- Partner with Mass Interfaith Power & Light (MassIPL) to assess and model campus buildings to better identify investment opportunities, priorities, and costs
- Identify and share specific responsibilities for achieving a net-zero carbon campus across congregational committees and church staff

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## Recommendations (continued)

- Engage Congregation in climate advocacy and personal climate actions by:
  1. Developing educational programs for all ages
  1. Incorporating climate action activities into committees' missions
  1. Encouraging adoption of personal / family climate action plans

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## Conclusions

**Climate change and climate solutions are complex. Knowledge about the causes and technological solutions to climate change are evolving. We know that the changes we must make are not simple. Getting to zero carbon emissions at First Parish Milton is one step we can take towards addressing the global issue of climate change; we must do what we can do - and more.**

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# Comments & Questions

