



bedford twenty by 2020

Dear Fellow Citizen of the Town of Bedford,

We, the undersigned, are the town-appointed Energy Advisory Panel whose mandate is to draft an action plan that will help us reduce our ‘carbon footprint,’ 20% by 2020. For this effort to be meaningful and effective, a number of things are essential, including working with our neighbors, other towns, the County, etc., since there are no boundaries when it comes to climate change. Either we all collaborate or no one wins.

This applies most immediately to ourselves: that action plan we referred to has to be owned by all of us for it to be relevant and impactful. To help this happen we want to invite you to offer your recommendations: you know your town and you know what we can and must do to reduce our carbon emissions.

One specific focus here is transportation. What do you think we must do in this area which creates a large percentage of our carbon footprint? Perhaps you could think about this question in terms of alternate modes of transportation and alternate fuels. You might further divide your suggestions into short term and long term.

Another significant focus is our use of energy. It has been shown repeatedly that investments in energy efficiency carry positive cost benefits. Although these efficiencies often force us to think differently about our normal daily habits or take stock of our time and resources, the pay-offs are significant in both reductions in GHG emissions as well as daily expenses. In our homes it means using electricity and fuel more efficiently. In our businesses, it may mean introducing more efficient processes. For all of us, it will entail a different way of thinking about our use of energy.

Reducing waste and recycling have been basic tenets of conservation for decades. Ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle are familiar to many of Bedford’s residents. Some considerations are simple and some not. With the knowledge that using less creates less waste and requires less energy to produce, we’d enjoy hearing what you think about how we recycle and how we can streamline our efforts to reduce waste.

Already we have engaged many of you through town meetings, events, and summits to explore the different aspects of this challenge. Moreover, the month of April was proclaimed Earth Month by our Supervisor and the Town Board and many activities took place that reflect our intention and goals.

We all contribute to climate change every day. The green house gases we produce by driving our cars, leaving the lights on, by just normal living add up quickly and are rapidly transforming our world and the world we will pass on to the next generation. Calculate your personal impact and learn how you can take action to reduce or even eliminate your emissions of carbon dioxide by utilizing the resources on the Bedford town website’s Green Page <http://www.bedfordny.info/html/green.htm>, and taking the ‘The Pledge.’ In these ways you can do your part to contribute to our collective 20% reduction goal.

Email your thoughts and ideas to bedfordenergy@bedfordny.info . We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

The Bedford Energy Advisory Panel

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