

Ashfield News / Energy Committee

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Energy Committee Corner

Did you know the Massachusetts Climate Roadmap bill, signed into law last year by Governor Baker, commits Massachusetts to becoming net zero in terms of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 and to cut GHG emissions in half by 2030? This has been deemed necessary to prevent the most catastrophic effects of climate change and it will require all of us to make significant changes in how we heat our homes, how we get around, and what we buy.

The good news is that many of these changes will not just benefit the planet but will also save us money.

Each month the Ashfield Energy Committee will be submitting a short article to the Ashfield News regarding our efforts to help reduce energy use in town and ways you can help. As always, we welcome your questions, suggestions, or volunteer energy. Contact us anytime at energy@ashfield.org.

Think about your energy use: How do you heat your home? How much electricity do you use for lights, electronics, clothes dryers, water pumps, hot water, air conditioning? Do you have a car/s? How many miles per gallon do you get? How many miles do you drive in a year?

It is easy to feel overwhelmed and depressed by Climate Change. It is a big problem and what we can do may feel like a drop in the bucket. **However, every change makes a difference.** If you look at your energy use think about what kinds of changes you could make. Some may take no financial investment but just a little more time, like hanging your laundry instead of using the dryer ((dryers can account for 12% of your home's energy)or organizing to carpool with a friend into Greenfield for grocery shopping instead of both driving. Other changes may take some financial investment like installing air source heat pumps (ASHP) for heating/cooling in your home. You might be surprised at the rebates, tax credits, zero percent loans and other incentives that make adopting energy efficiency measures very affordable.

Another piece of good news is that there are many people in Ashfield who have already adopted these measures and who are available to help advise and mentor others to make the transition to cleaner energy.

Each month the Energy Committee Column will focus on one approach (I air source heat pumps , Electric Vehicles, Solar, etc) and will profile Ashfield residents who have already made the switch and provide resources for you to be able to learn more about these technologies and find a way you can make a difference.