

Becoming Carbon Neutral is living into our Mission “to care for our living Earth.”

A Proposal from the Climate Action and Buildings and Grounds Committees

Executive Summary:

Our Mission is “to care for our living earth”. The purpose of becoming carbon neutral at First Parish is to live into our mission which is urgent in this Climate Crisis. The desired outcome is that First Parish in Brookline will:

1. By 2040 achieve carbon neutrality through reducing or eliminating the use of fossil fuels in our physical space
2. Complement this with education and outreach within and outside our congregation so that all our actions demonstrate care for our living earth.

Phase One FY22 Goals: Information gathering and planning to answer

1. **Where** are we now? (fuel use, cost, and behaviors impacting our carbon footprint)
2. **How** are other congregations working to achieve carbon neutrality in buildings and behavior?
3. **What** will it take for our building to become carbon neutral and how much will it cost to get there? What does “to care for the living earth” mean to our congregation?

Phase One FY22 Actions:

1. **Create** a project team and adopt a covenant and decision-making process
2. **Document** current conditions and patterns of use of the building
3. **Research** with Mass Interfaith Power and Light (MIPL) and other congregations strategies and experiences for building neutrality and congregational education.
4. **Hire consultant(s)** to audit and develop recommendations and costs for achieving carbon neutrality in our building
5. **Hold conversations** at church to hear and learn from each other what “to care for the living earth” means to us.
6. **Review** recommendations and draft a proposal for Becoming Carbon Neutral for the First Parish building that includes timeline, cost estimates, and a capital raise plan.
7. **Inform** the congregation on the learnings from the Phase One information gathering, the draft Becoming Carbon Neutral plan, and the plan for Phase Two
8. **Adopt** a resolution with commitments at the 2022 annual meeting for First Parish to live into our mission “to care for our living earth”.

Phase Two FY23 Goals: Commitment

1. Develop the proposal and commitment into a plan for achieving carbon neutrality in our building including a time table for implementation, cost estimates, and a capital raise plan
2. Continue to teach and learn as a congregation to act “to care for our living earth”
3. Commit to a carbon neutrality capital plan at annual meeting

Phase Three FY24-40: Implementation