



The Falmouth Focus

News & Updates from the Town of Falmouth

SPECIAL PRINT EDITION



FALMOUTH'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN, 2023



As we reach the end of another short winter, and our shoreline communities continue to recover from the January storms that caused coastal and inland flooding, it is no secret that climate change is affecting our Town. Falmouth has a long history of conservation; during the Vision & Values workshops residents agreed upon the importance of environmental

enhancement and protection. To address this priority, the Town Council unanimously passed a resolution in support of the Climate Action Plan (CAP) in the fall of 2023. Town staff, the Sustainability Committee, Falmouth residents, and the Climate Action Planning Committee worked with the Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) to create a plan which charts a course towards becoming more resilient to the effects of climate change while also taking action to reduce the Town's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. (See figure 1, page 2)

What is a CAP?

A CAP is a planning document for a municipality or region that guides decision making through strategies that address the mitigation of effects posed by climate change.

Creating the Plan

GPCOG conducted a Vulnerability Assessment to identify social and natural ecosystems and infrastructure at risk to the impacts of climate change and a Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventory to inform the data-based approach to the

continued on page 2



The impact of recent storms on Town Landing. From top to bottom: December 2022, January 2024, March 2024.

TOWN HALL HOURS

Monday: 7am-4:30pm

Tuesday: 8am-4:30pm

Wednesday: 8am-4:30pm

Thursday: 8am-4:30pm

Friday: Closed

ONLINE SERVICES

www.falmouthme.org/home/pages/online-services

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FALMOUTH'S CLIMATE ACTION PLAN (CONTINUED)

creation of the CAP. The Town and GPCOG launched a website, created a survey, and held workshops and community events to engage with Falmouth residents throughout the process.

What's in the Plan?

The CAP is categorized into five sectors that include strategies and correlating action items resulting in 39 initiatives. The sectors identified include Municipal Operations, Buildings and Energy Use, Transportation, and Land Use, Waste Reduction, and Social Resilience.

Implementing the Plan

The Sustainability Coordinator and the Sustainability Committee have voted to prioritize strategies in each sector. The Coordinator and Committee will begin the implementation of the CAP's action items with approval from the Council and provide regular

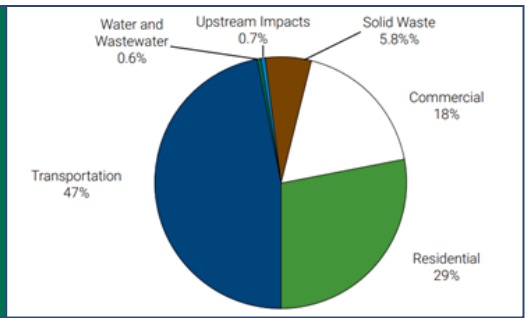
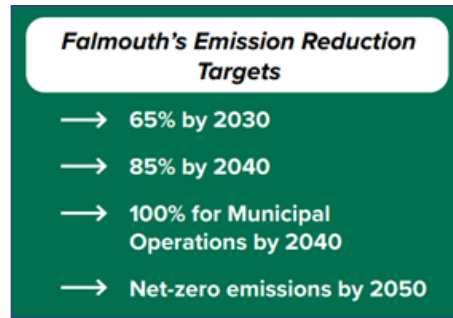


Figure 1 – Town of Falmouth GHG emissions by category & reduction goals

updates to the Council on its progress. Successful implementation will rely on collaborative efforts between many entities beyond the Town, including state and federal government, local organizations, businesses, and individual community members. Resident involvement will be crucial in advancing the initiatives of the CAP.

Learn More

Find the Climate Action Plan at: www.falmouthme.org/sustainability/pages/climate-action or scan the QR code at right with

your smartphone.

To learn more about how you can get involved, please contact:

Theresa Galvin, Sustainability Coordinator, tgalvin@falmouthme.org

Oona Molyneaux, AmeriCorps Resilience Corps Fellow, omolyneaux@gpcog.org



SCAN ME

Comprehensive Plan Update



SCAN ME

Falmouth's updated Comprehensive Planning process has built upon the work completed in early 2022 during the Vision & Values initiative. Like preceding plans, this Comprehensive Plan Update will guide Town decisions on managing growth and redevelopment, investing in capital improvements, and addressing community issues including environmental protection, transportation, and housing for the next decade. The Long-Range Planning Advisory Committee and the Comprehensive Plan Committee have been meeting to refine policies and

actions for the new plan, which were discussed at a public meeting held at Lunt Auditorium on February 28. The Comprehensive Plan Committee is now reviewing a draft of the document ahead of a presentation to the Town Council at their meetings in April and the potential adoption of the plan in May. You can find information about the Comprehensive Plan and opportunities to give feedback on the project website. Visit www.falmouthme.org/comprehensive-plan-update or scan the QR code above.

LETTER FROM COUNCIL CHAIR, HOPE CAHAN

Dear Neighbor:

The Council is looking forward to a very busy spring. The proposed FY25 Budget has been developed, and I encourage you all to review the budget documents on our website at:

www.falmouthme.org/finance. Should this

newsletter land in your mailbox prior to April 3, please join us at the Town Council meeting that evening when we will hold a public comment opportunity to hear resident feedback on the proposed budget. The Council will vote to approve the budget at our April 24 meeting. If you are unable to join us on April 3, the Council is always happy to receive input via email. You can email the entire council via the Town website at: www.falmouthme.org/town-council-town-manager.

The Council is also pleased at the ongoing progress in updating the Comprehensive Plan. This important document will guide the Town in policy and decision making for the next 10 years. Public input has been a crucial



part of the process. You can find more information about the Comprehensive Plan and how to give feedback on page 2. We look forward to your input as we near the finish line on this important project.

Finally, I'm excited to share that planning is underway for an exciting new community event for

Falmouth. Mark your calendars for June 22 when Falmouth's Community Wellness Committee will hold its first annual Falmouth Community Fest. See details on page 4. Throughout the Vision & Values Project and the Comprehensive Plan Update, residents have voiced a desire for more town-wide events and opportunities to connect with their neighbors and foster a greater sense of community. I hope you will all join us for just such an opportunity.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy a beautiful spring!

Best Wishes,

Hope

SR. TAX RELIEF

As part of the FY25 Municipal Budget, the Town has earmarked \$100,000 toward Falmouth's Senior Property Tax Relief Program, an increase of \$10,000 from last year. The Town estimates that 175-250 households could qualify for the program, which requires an annual household income under \$60,000. The program is open to homeowners whose property taxes are greater than 4% of their income and renters if 15% of their annual rent is greater than 4% of their income. Applicants must be age 62 or older. Applications for the program will be available from the Finance Department at Town Hall in early September. Find more information at: <https://www.falmouthme.org/finance/pages/senior-property-tax-assistance>

ON DEMAND TRANSIT SERVICE COMING TO FALMOUTH THIS FALL!

Greater Portland Metro will launch an on-demand transit ("microtransit") pilot program this fall which will expand bus service in Falmouth, including the ability for users to schedule rides, much like calling a taxi or car service. Microtransit is an on-demand service that covers a geographic area, rather than a fixed route, and allows riders to call Metro or use a mobile app to schedule a ride anywhere in the zone. The microtransit zone is expected to encompass Falmouth Foreside and

extend as far west as Town Hall. Passengers can ride anywhere within the zone, including to designated transfer points where they could then take the Route 7 service into Portland. The cost to use the microtransit service will remain \$2.00 for a full fare, with free transfers to the Route 7 trunk line when using the Umo app or smart card. Visit www.gpmetro.org/falmouth to learn more.

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ecadigan@falmouthme.org

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INCORPORATED 1718
FALMOUTH
MAINE

TRANSFER STATION & PARKING STICKERS

As warmer weather approaches, residents are reminded that a Transfer Station/Parking Sticker is required not only to use the Transfer Station but, also, to park at Town Landing in either the upper or lower lot. Stickers are \$5.00 annually and can be purchased at either Town Hall or the Public Works Office on Woods Road. The color of the sticker changes each year. Stickers are valid for the calendar year from January 1 through December 31.



NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR CITIZEN OF THE YEAR



The Town is accepting nominations for the 2023 Citizen of the Year Award, honoring an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the municipality and sets a positive example of citizenship. Nominations of

500 words or less may be submitted in writing by May 9 via email to Julie Baxter at jbaxter@falmouthme.org, or by mail to Town Manager's Office, 271 Falmouth Road, Falmouth, ME 04105. The Town Council will judge nominations on the following criteria:

- Contributions to community welfare
- Civic achievement
- Volunteerism
- Conscientious service to Falmouth Town government

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FALMOUTH COMMUNITY FEST!

The Falmouth Community Wellness Committee is excited to announce the First Annual Falmouth Community Fest on June 22, 2024, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm at the Gardens at Tidewater Farm (200 Presumpscot Point Road in Falmouth). The purpose of this event is to foster community gathering, arts, wellness, family, and fun. The event will include food trucks, live music, art, and fun activities for all ages!



Call for Artists, Artisans & Makers
Falmouth's Community Wellness Committee is seeking artists, artisans, and makers to apply to rent a booth at the festival. The site is a lovely grassy area with views of the water. Please contact Maggie Fleming, Assistant Town Manager, at: m Fleming@falmouthme.org for more information. We hope to have you join us!