

Town of Exeter Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Resolution DRAFT

WHEREAS: The transition to a net-zero greenhouse gas economy brings many potential benefits, including improved health, reduced pollution, the creation of clean energy and energy efficiency jobs, and the ability to retain more of our energy dollars in the local economy; and

WHEREAS: Exeter is already feeling the impacts of a changing climate, with rising temperatures, increased flooding and more intense and frequent storms, and the state's centralized energy system and transit infrastructure is becoming more vulnerable to climate-related risks; and

WHEREAS: Exeter can generate 100% of its energy from renewable sources by harnessing the area's solar, wind, water, and geothermal resources; and, by leveraging innovations in energy efficiency and storage, green transportation, and other technologies, which will enhance its resilience and energy security; and

WHEREAS: The Exeter Select Board adopted a Proclamation on September 9, 2019 where they stated their "commitment to uphold the principles of the Paris Climate Accord to hold the increase of global temperature by reducing our greenhouse gas emissions"; and

WHEREAS: The Town of Exeter has been taking action to reduce its carbon emissions, promote clean energy, and increase resiliency by participating in the New England Municipal Sustainability Network, installing a solar array on municipal property, supporting private and public renewable energy installations, supporting the transition of the municipal fleet to hybrid and electric vehicles, and converting to LED streetlights, among other efforts;

WHEREAS: The Town of Exeter conducted a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory in 2020 that established a baseline estimate of greenhouse gas emissions of municipal operations for the year 2019; and

WHEREAS, The Sustainability Advisory Committee and the Energy Committee both unanimously support all efforts to reduce the municipality's greenhouse gas emissions and have fully endorsed this Resolution; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Exeter Select Board support a goal of reducing our greenhouse gas emissions from our municipal operations by 30% of 2019 levels by the year 2030 and eliminating or offsetting all our greenhouse gas emissions of 2019 from our municipal operations by 2050 and will involve efficiency measures, supporting low carbon transportation infrastructure, and the replacement of fossil fuels with renewable energy sources.