



## WHAT'S HAPPENING

### Town seeks Community Liaisons for Environmental Justice Issues

Evan Belansky, Chelmsford's Community Development Director, is looking for several people to join a Core Team of town officials to focus on ways to make the town more resilient to climate change. These would be part-time paid positions, through June 2025, which will be funded through a Municipal Vulnerability Program grant that the town has received. Applicants must have a strong interest and/or expertise in environmental issues and how they affect vulnerable people who are most likely to bear the brunt of climate change, such as flood risk, heat risk, and access to healthy food, housing and transportation. The work will involve participation in Core Team conversations to understand community needs and to help develop a project that will address those needs and support community resilience. **Contact Evan Belansky at 978-250-5231.**

### Weatherization Update

By now, many of you should have received letters from Paul Cohen, Chelmsford's Town Manager, or directly from Home Works Energy regarding the town's program to encourage homeowners to sign up for no cost energy audits. Even if you have one done in the past, you are eligible to have another assessment every two years. This enables you to learn about and take advantage of new state and federal energy saving incentives such as no-cost sealing of air leaks, 75%-100% off recommended insulation, heat pump rebates, and 0% financing for energy efficiency upgrades. **Visit:** <https://www.homeworksenergy.com/town-partners/chelmsford/>

### School Engagement

As part of a MassSave grant that the town Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee received to encourage energy audits for specific groups of people including students, HomeWorks has agreed to donate \$25 to the PTO for each school household that signs up for a home audit. CCAT hopes to promote and coordinate this program through the school PTO's, which can then use the money as they wish. If anyone is interested in helping CCAT promote this fundraiser program to a school you may be involved in, please **contact Bern Kosicki at [kosicki@verizon.net](mailto:kosicki@verizon.net)**

### Town Adopts New Stretch Energy Code

CCAT members were instrumental in getting Article 25 passed at Chelmsford's Fall Town Meeting to adopt the new state specialized stretch energy code. Badhri Uppiliappan, who also serves as the chairperson of the Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee, gave a presentation on the new code,

and other CCAT members spoke in favor. The changes incorporated under the new code are for new construction only and are intended to encourage electrification readiness of new construction without removing fossil fuel options. Owners who want to install oil or gas heating or appliances in their new construction are still able to do so but must also install wiring for future electric appliances and also install solar panels to offset their use of fossil fuels.

The objective of requiring pre-wiring is to prevent the need for expensive retrofits in the future, should owners decide to switch to electric energy systems to take advantage of lower electric rates generated from renewable energy. Adoption of the new code will also position Chelmsford to qualify for Department of Energy Resources (DOER) grants. The article passed 58-45 with one abstention.

**Watch the presentation and discussion at <https://www.chelmsfordtv.org/shows/town-meeting/>**

## NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

*As we enter the new year, this is a great time for everyone to resolve to take another step towards fighting climate change by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. Consider purchasing an electric vehicle, switching your gas dryers, stoves, hot water heaters, and lawn mowers to electric, and opting up to have your electricity generated by renewable energy through the Chelmsford Choice Program.*

## FUTURE EVENTS

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Environmental/Earth Day Fair

CCAT is starting to plan for our third annual Environmental Fair in collaboration with Chelmsford Public Library. We hope to expand the number of organizations participating by holding our fair in early May, rather than closer to Earth Day, as in previous years. Watch for future announcements. Also, we encourage CCAT participants to help our core group with planning this and other activities.

**Join our monthly meetings - CCAT meets every third Monday at 7:30pm.**

**Contact Bern Kosicki - [kosicki@verizon.net](mailto:kosicki@verizon.net) for access to the zoom link.**

### Visit our CCAT website

CCAT's website is frequently updated with news of upcoming regional events and links to action items that you can take to promote climate change solutions. Visit <https://www.chelmsfordclimate.org> for detailed information on the following:

- Environmental Justice and Building Our New Grid - Where Should It All Go? – January 20 in Concord
- Harvey Leonard Presentation – Climate Change: Simple, Serious, Solvable, January 23rd in Westford
- Sign Up For Chelmsford's Curbside Composting Program
- Help To Stop Private Jet Expansion at Hanscom and Everywhere – Sign Petition
- Review and Act on the CEAS Climate Action Plan