



***Citizens for
Lexington
Conservation***

PO BOX 292, LEXINGTON, MA 02420-0003

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LEXINGTON MA
PERMIT NO 3314

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Kate Fricker, Editor

February, 2008

Eileen Entin, President

CANDIDATES' FORUM ISSUE

Citizens for Lexington Conservation, Inc. devotes this annual issue of its newsletter to candidates' statements in order to help you, the voter, cast your ballot effectively. All candidates for office were sent a letter soliciting their response to the following question (not all responded):

This year's warrant includes two articles asking Town Meeting to take actions concerning the threat of rapid climate change leading to global warming. One article asks the Town to register its concerns with our national and state elected leaders. A second article asks that the Town consider the impacts of rapid climate change in all future Town planning projects including those related to economic development.

Do you feel that either or both of these articles are adequate responses at the present time to this threat?

Please explain why you feel as you do, including any suggestions you may have for alternative actions that the Town should consider taking in its day-to-day operation and in its planning for the future.

CLC dues (\$12 or \$15) are payable now.
Please use the form below.

CLC MEMBERSHIP FORM: 2008

NAME _____
Tel. No. _____

ADDRESS _____
E-mail _____

<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 12.00 Basic Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15.00 Supporting Membership
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ Contribution
	<input type="checkbox"/> \$ Total

Please tell me how I can assist CLC projects in the following areas:

<input type="checkbox"/> Natural History	<input type="checkbox"/> Land Conservation
<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship	<input type="checkbox"/> Organizing Fall/Spring Walks
<input type="checkbox"/> Organizing Annual Meeting	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Writing for Newsletter	

☐ Check here if you would like to have your newsletter sent as an email attachment (in color, with live links), instead of the black and white paper edition.

Mail to: CLC Inc., P. O. Box 292, Lexington, MA 02420-0003

Lester Brown, President, Earth Policy Institute

**Cary Memorial Hall, 1605 Massachusetts Ave, Lexington, MA
Sunday, February 24, 2008, 7:30 PM, Free**

Lester Brown, President of the Earth Policy Institute, will speak in Cary Hall, Lexington on Sunday, February 24. He is the author of "Plan B, 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization" and will be presenting his bold new plan to stop global warming and achieve world sustainability.

Lexington's E.O. Wilson says of Brown: "Lester Brown is one of the pioneers and heroes of global environmentalism. If the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize had been extended to a third recipient, the logical candidate would have been Lester Brown."

In his new book, "Plan B, 3.0, Mobilizing to Save Civilization" he outlines a survival strategy for our early twenty-first-century civilization. The world faces many environmental trends of disruption and decline, including rising temperatures and spreading water shortage. In addition to these looming threats, we face the peaking of oil, annual population growth of 70 million, a widening global economic divide, and a growing list of failing states. The scale and complexity of issues facing our fast-forward world have no precedent

Kevin Knobloch, President of the Union of Concerned Scientists, will present opening remarks at 7:30 PM. Copies of Brown's book will be available for sale and signing that evening. Admission is free and the talk is open to all. Sponsored by Lexington Global Warming Action Coalition. For more information, see <http://www.lexgwac.org>

CLC Publications

Guides to the conservation land of Lexington and other interesting materials are available on the CLC website: <http://www.lexingtonma.org/clc/HomePage.htm>

CLC does not endorse any candidate. Rather, we urge you to read the candidates' statements, make your own decisions, and VOTE for your candidates on Monday, March 3.

CANDIDATES FOR TOWN-WIDE OFFICE

Candidate for Moderator

Margery Battin

781-862-3639 battin@alum.mit.edu

The threat of rapid climate change leading to global warming deserves the careful attention of all citizens so that the appropriate actions can be identified and taken.

As Moderator, however, I cannot give my opinion on the two articles related to rapid climate change in this year's warrant. If the Moderator is to preside fairly and impartially over Town Meeting, her opinion on issues should not be known. All questions facing Town Meeting deserve balanced, thoughtful consideration.

Therefore, the Moderator should make certain that the subject under debate is clear, town meeting practices and procedures are understood, and all points of view are fully explored. As Moderator I feel it is my role to protect and improve the process by which decisions are made which can affect the quality of life in Lexington. Last spring I held a meeting with town boards, committees and the TMMA to critique and refine the streamlined Town Meeting procedures that had been instituted to enable members to concentrate on the issues more quickly.

As Moderator I will continue to do everything possible to see that Town Meeting members receive the information needed to make informed choices and that citizen participants thoroughly understand Town Meeting procedures. Citizen article sponsors have been sent written instructions to aid them in preparing for Town Meeting. These citizens will be included in the Moderator's meeting with article sponsors during which we establish Town Meeting format, timing, and chronology, and note areas of potential disagreement. A workshop will again be held for new Town Meeting members to answer questions,

explain legal issues, parliamentary procedures and land use as well as financial terms and concepts. I will be readily available for consultation and explanation of meeting procedures to all citizens and officials wishing to be heard at Town Meeting. I will write a newspaper article to explain the protocol for citizen participation.

Candidates for Selectman

Norman Cohen

781-862-3098 linorm@comcast.net

Article 42, a citizens' petition, asks Town Meeting to pass a resolution requesting federal and state leaders to address climate change. Passage of such a non-binding resolution may not be adequate to bring about change, but it is appropriate since the problem needs national, not merely local attention. Article 43, also a citizens' petition, requests that planned town initiatives acknowledge climate change and dwindling supplies of oil. It is less clear why such a resolution is necessary since the Town has an impressive history in this area. Long before our dependence on the automobile was a hot topic, the Town started LexPress. We were one of the first communities to have curbside recycling. We have replaced light bulbs and boilers in town buildings with energy efficient replacements. We have built two new schools that have geothermal heat and cooling systems. We adopted a sustainable design policy for municipal buildings, and the new DPW building will be the first new town building constructed under that policy. Our new combined Facilities Department is monitoring energy consumption in our buildings. High mileage town vehicles have replaced other car models. Solar panels have been installed at the high school. Rather than a resolution directed to our Town officials and committees, we need to urge our residents to reduce the number and duration of car trips. A shift to mass transit, bicycles and walkers must be encouraged. Our citizens should support the work of our Climate Action Committee as they seek ways to cut down on carbon emissions.

Hank Manz
617-620-5011 hank@selectmanz.com

Since Articles 42 and 43 are both non-binding resolutions, they have to be seen as a first step and small ones at that. I remain uncertain about how much impact resolutions passed by local governments can have on national and state policy, but I think citizen involvement and interaction with government should always be encouraged.

Article 42 focuses on attempting to change national and state policy. Lexington already enjoys close contact with our elected officials at the state level and we work with them on a variety of issues. Unfortunately, given the lack of recognition of the problem at the federal level, I suspect that lobbying for recognition and mitigation of the impacts of climate change will not have much effect until there is a change of administration in Washington.

Article 43 is focused on local projects and fits nicely with the idea of sustainability. The Lexington Board of Selectmen has joined other groups in a formal endorsement of that idea and has appointed a Town committee to help with the effort. The Energy Conservation Committee was formed two years ago for the same reason. Moreover, recent projects, like the design of the new DPW building, have been based on concepts which promote energy efficiency and sustainability. I think that the idea of sustainability with its emphasis on eco-friendly materials, wiser use of electricity, fuel efficiency, and reduction of the need for personal vehicles, must eventually embrace residential, as well as commercial, construction, however. It is far easier to mandate something for the commercial and government sectors than it is for residential construction where the idea of maximized profit can cloud the larger issues.

We may also have to get over the idea that conservation will always be the cheaper alternative, at least in the near term. We must learn to think with a much longer timespan in mind and we must also think about what is good for the world and not just ourselves. I am in favor of a strong energy committee but do not believe a moderator-appointed committee is the correct approach. Moderator-appointed committees (like Appropriation and Capital Expenditures) are

advisors to Town Meeting, basically evaluating then recommending approval or disapproval of legislation being proposed to that body. That role is adequately being served by the finance committees.

The Selectmen's energy committee is currently being reinvigorated and is in the best position to instigate and implement action. I would invite the Director of Facilities for the Schools to be a participant with this committee and have every confidence that we could make such an arrangement to achieve a dynamic energy approach.

My charge to the committee would be to investigate current energy practices and usage, develop recommendations for actions that will reduce consumption, prepare policies and monitor progress. The committee should further advise on sustainable energy policy for town and school applications with implementation goals where the technology becomes cost effective.

Energy policy should have both short term and long term components. Our first priority would be to implement actions with a short payback. We proceed from there to those that are more difficult to implement and/or have a longer payback. New construction would have a more comprehensive review in order to take advantage of the latest technologies as they develop.

We have very talented volunteers with energy expertise on our committees to advise and guide this effort. Their recommendations on implementation would guide my decisions for any staffing requirements. This is a prime example of addressing our needs in partnership between our professional staff and citizen volunteers who have relevant expertise.

Candidate for Planning Board

Charles Hornig
781-862-1112 hornig@rcn.com

While I agree that the resolutions proposed by Articles 42 and 43 express the right sentiment and are useful as a statement of the Town's position, it would hardly be appropriate to stop there. Words without actions lose their meaning. The Town should keep sustainable practices in mind at all times in its operations and actions.

This does not mean that sustainability is the only consideration. Lexington's citizens expect the Town to consider issues such as cost, quality of life, and character of the Town as well. The right approach will not always be easy to find. We must make the effort, though.



Witch Hazel

CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MEETING

Precinct 1

Nancy Adler

nadler@cfa.harvard.edu

I believe that both of these articles represent a good starting point for Town Meeting to acknowledge the importance of rapid climate change issues in environmental decisions TM is asked to make. The first article cited would put Lexington on public record with its legislators as being concerned about rapid climate change. The second warrant article would assist TMs to consider rapid climate change impacts in all planning projects. TM members need to recognize that they are often asked to make decisions which might have important environmental consequences, and they need to be educated to factor those consequences in as they make decisions. TM should routinely consider the environmental factors along with many others as they evaluate proposals brought to them.

Albert P. Zabin

781.861-0956 azabin@rcn.com

I agree with the tenor of the global warming articles. The refusal of the present administration to try to deal with the issue is beyond appalling, and the lack of any real discussion of the issue by the candidates for President is strange. States and municipalities need to take the initiative to push the Federal government to take action and take measures themselves. The expressions of concern by Town governments and citizens, I think, will, if there are enough of them, have an impact and help push the National politicians to address this most important issue. The Town should look at its by-laws to see how they can be amended or applied to encourage "green" development. It is more effective to lead by example than by words alone.

Precinct 2

Barry Orenstein

(781) 862-1052 barryorenstein@msn.com

Taking steps to save the planet and prevent climate change is everyone's responsibility -- individuals, the Town, the state, and the federal government. I would like to see a proposal that delineates specific steps that could be taken at every level in order to respond to this threat to our environment. Gestures and general statements are not enough. We must do more.

Article 43 is another fine idea, but while the attempt is commendable, it is not clear from the language exactly what this article will accomplish. The article urges entities to "consider ... the impacts of climate change etc." Perhaps it will be easier to support such a resolution once the details are spelled out and we have a better idea how the information contained in such "considerations" (whatever that means) would be actionable and effectively used to deal with climate change and the dwindling supplies of petroleum.

Adam Sacks

781-674-2339 adam_artist@yahoo.com

I think that while neither of the two warrant articles addressing global warming is anywhere near adequate to the challenges we face, they represent important steps towards awareness and action in Lexington. I am the author of the article

asking that the Town consider the impacts of climate change on Town planning, and it is a result of my experience as a member of the Economic Development Task Force over the past year-and-a-half.

Despite repeated requests on my part, the co-chairs of the Economic Development Task Force did not see fit, even once, to put an item on the agenda discussing the potential economic effects on the Town of global warming and volatile rising energy costs. The Task Force seemed unwilling to consider that economic development is absolutely dependent on environmental stability. When we think about how local economies suffer during extensive droughts, massive wildfires, sudden floods, category 5 hurricanes and many other natural disasters that are now occurring with increasing frequency as a result of the human impacts on climate and the natural world, we begin to understand that we need a much broader view than the current one of what constitutes a healthy economy. Keene, New Hampshire, for example, has gone far beyond Lexington in its deliberations and efforts to become a climate-resilient community (see <http://www.ci.keene.nh.us/planning/climatekeene.htm>).

The intention of this warrant article is to send a message from Town Meeting that climate and energy costs have impacts on our daily affairs, and that it is the responsibility of Town government at all levels to anticipate these contingencies, intentionally incorporate them into our planning, and further the public discussion in the interests of an informed citizenry on these urgent issues.

Precinct 3

Dan Fenn
FennDH@aol.com

I do support both of the warrant articles.

I well recognize that there are some who feel that the first is beyond the purview of the Town Meeting, that we should not be dealing with issues outside Lexington. But I thought that issue had been settled for us in the 1770s when our predecessors often expressed their views on the great issues of the time.

As for doing more, I wonder what mechanisms exist for making sure that the Public Buildings Committee is planning and constructing green buildings?

As for the question of whether these steps are enough in the face of the frightening size and dimensions of the problem, probably not. But at least, small as these steps in one community may be, at least we are not making the crisis worse by our actions. And we are helping a little.

Patrick Mehr
781-372-1055 patrick.mehr@gmail.com

Although well intentioned, I feel that the two proposed articles are too general to have a real impact. The Town must take concrete and bold steps to fight global warming and save energy. As a Town Meeting member since 2001, this has been one of my top priorities. I was the co-author of our Tree Bylaw, which has saved or helped replant hundreds of trees on private lots throughout town. I have worked hard and long with the School Committee to convince them to initiate serious energy conservation investments in our schools: results are beginning to show, with about \$200,000 in energy saved so far this year. Since 2003, I have worked to advance legislation on Beacon Hill to give Towns the option to form a municipal electric utility, like Concord, Belmont or Wellesley already have: with a Lexington municipal utility, we could ensure that a large portion -- perhaps 20-30% -- of all the electricity used throughout Lexington by each house, business and public building (over 400 million kilowatt-hours annually) comes from "green" sources; that would constitute a huge step -- far more significant than anything else the Town could ever undertake -- to reduce carbon emissions.

Robert Whitman
rvdwhitman@comcast.net

Rapid global warming is a fact, and there is a strong probability that the actions of man are contributing seriously to it. Hence it is only prudent to consider all reasonable steps to reduce greenhouse gases. I expect to support appropriately worded motions to that effect at town meeting.

Precinct 4

Lisa Baci

781 861-7297 labaci@alumni.ksg.harvard.edu

While these articles encourage debate and thinking about climate change, I doubt even their proponents would claim they are an adequate response. Instead they are just two of many steps the town should take to deal with the serious challenges we face.

The Town already has several committees and boards that deal specifically with issues related to climate change including an Energy Conservation Committee and the new Climate Action Plan Committee set up last summer. Other committees that focus on improving public transit, promoting bicycle and pedestrian safety, planting/protecting trees, overseeing town buildings, or doing town or regional planning should also play important roles in developing or carrying out town climate change initiatives.

Since the town is already focused on energy conservation in its own buildings, new actions should include: helping residents and businesses get the information and assistance they need to reduce their own "carbon footprints"; strengthening programs that encourage people to walk, bicycle or use public transit and taking more aggressive steps to improve pedestrian/bicycle safety; investigating how to encourage the preservation and development of smaller, more energy-efficient homes instead of ever-larger McMansions; and reducing the town's use of heavily-polluting gas-powered leaf-blowers and developing programs to encourage residents to do the same.

Vince Pisegna

617-482-7211 w 781-863-0953 h
vjplex@aol.com

There is little doubt that sustainability is becoming a focal point of both the private and public sectors. For example, the U.S. Green Council released a new version of LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) for existing buildings which many expect will be embraced by commercial property managers and owners, lenders and consumers. The question becomes, what can the Town do? The Town can, first, establish serious sustainability goals for Town buildings and property. Second, the Town should incorporate

"green" design in evaluating proposed development projects in Town.

As to this year's specific warrant articles regarding the threat of rapid climate change, I think the question to be debated is whether they properly encapsulate all that the Town can and should do to effectively work towards that which everyone is against – global warming.

Ruth Thomas

781-861-1575 rthomas@bu.edu

The articles are non-binding resolutions that will express the will of Town Meeting members in directing the Town, the Board of Selectmen, and the Planning Board to take steps in addressing the problem of global warming. The articles open a dialogue for subsequent actions such as negotiating with developers of private and public buildings to incorporate green building efficiencies in the use of energy, water, and materials as well as in decreasing adverse impacts on health and the environment through siting, design, removal of demolition debris, etc. In the meantime, the Town should continue to pursue its efforts to reduce energy and resource use by simple but effective means such as turning off lights, repairing leaky pipes and faucets, lowering thermostats, and upgrading HVAC systems in all public buildings; replacing paper documents with electronic; recycling; and over time replacing its fleet with clean energy efficient vehicles. I am happy to support these articles.



Precinct 5
David Burns

dburns@debcoproperties.com

I feel that it is very important for us to take responsibility for our environment. This needs to be done cooperatively through government regulation and personal responsibility. As a developer and builder I take this role seriously. I am an Energy Star certified builder, install solar electric systems and many other steps to help our environment. Additionally I am a member of The Lakes Region Conservation Trust.

Nancy Corcoran-Ronchetti
Ncor1106@aol.com

I am very concerned about the impact that global warming and rapid climate change will have on Lexington and the world.

I would encourage every resident to do his or her part to help reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, which are contributing to global warming. Even small steps such as turning off car engines rather than idling or conserving electricity at home can help.

By banding together even larger steps are possible. The town can and should join regional initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Such initiatives can potentially steer state and national policy in a more environmentally friendly direction. The town should also consider the economic effect of rapid climate change on future economic development.

On an even larger scale, I would encourage Lexington to do its part in supporting worldwide initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Through our elected representatives and through citizens' initiatives we should attempt to communicate with the U. S. government to join international efforts to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

I believe that by acting on a personal and town wide level it will be possible to help develop a consensus to change national and international environmental policies.

Loretta A. Porter
781-862-4408 lorettaporter@comcast.net

I believe both articles are a step in the right direction. More needs to be done at all levels. We should support the groups in town that are forming to address this issue.

Precinct 6

Jerry Lacey
GALacey@aol.com

I have not read the referenced articles but want to convey to you that I approve the sense of the articles as outlined in your letter. Global Warming is a subject that is not getting enough attention simply because most of us are not being confronted with its effects in a way that is radically affecting our everyday way of life. There is not a real understanding of Global Warming among the population of this country and quite frankly most people do not care as they are caught up in the problems of their daily lives.

Anything that can be done to increase awareness of this problem should be done and what has been outlined is worthy of our support.

Frank Sandy
781-862-1365 fsandy@rcn.com

The aims of these two resolutions are admirable and I intend to vote for them even though I doubt that they alone will accomplish much. We need action not resolutions.

The first article calls on the Selectmen to write letters to all of our elected officials supporting sustainable energy technologies. Our lame duck president has clearly indicated he has no intentions of doing that and a letter from our Selectmen won't change his mind. Most of our other elected officials are already active supporters of sustainable energy technologies. It certainly doesn't hurt to show them that we support their positions, but it is just a symbolic action. The only exception is Senator Kennedy who opposes the offshore Cape Cod wind farm. I find that most disappointing and do hope this project will go forward with or without his support. It might help if the letter explicitly endorsed Cape Wind as an example of sustainable energy technology.

The second article calls for the Town to consider the impacts of climate change in all future projects. We need to do more than that. Energy efficiency in daily operations, such as shutting off desktop computers and lights at night is also important. It is only beginning to be addressed. I hope that will continue and expand. New buildings should not merely comply with the building codes minimal energy efficiency requirements. They should exceed them. After much prodding, I believe some such increased efficiency was added to the new DPW building now under construction. If the resolution will encourage more such action, that is good, but citizens will continue to have to follow up and encourage good design in each future project.

Mansionization is not only an aesthetic problem for abutters, it severely increases energy use. The Town should do whatever is possible to discourage mansionization, and encourage green building by private citizens as well as the Town.

Precinct 7

Deborah Brown

781-861-8311 johnsonbrown@rcn.com

Frankly, I feel the same way about these articles as I do about our own fledgling efforts to reduce our carbon footprint in the Brown household - good first steps, but we could be doing much more. I do, however, think these articles are meaningful responses and not just symbolic. It is critically important to communicate our concerns and the priority we place on them to our state and national elected officials. But it's also important to begin addressing climate change impacts at the local level, as the second article attempts to do. I have some concerns and questions about how this second article will be implemented and whether it will have any "teeth," but I support it in principle and think it is a step in the right direction.

Pam Hoffman

781.862.1434 pwhoffman@rcn.com

I agree that the town should register its desire for action against rapid climate change with our national and state elected leaders; this is a consciousness-raising act for the town that adds Lexington's voice to the growing demand for effective action at the federal and state levels. Beyond this largely symbolic act we should

continue to take concrete action locally. I believe the town should look for every opportunity to incorporate "green," climate sensitive approaches in our town's activities. This includes the planning for future development, the construction and operation of our municipal buildings and grounds, and the selection and operation of town vehicles and street and traffic lighting. In addition to helping the environment, saving energy usually translates into saving dollars, which is smart town management.

Beyond what the town can do is what we citizens can do ourselves. I would like to see the town sponsor a community-wide campaign to encourage more carpooling and discourage idling. I drive multiple carpools daily as I take my children to and from school and various activities across town. I fill my car with as many passengers as I can, and I turn off my car while waiting in long pick-up/drop-off lines. Too often I see one adult driving only one child in a car. Too often I see cars and busses idling when they could be turned off for a few minutes. The town could kick-off and sponsor the campaign, coordinating with other local groups to educate their constituents. It will take action by individual citizens and every level of government to meet the challenges of rapid climate change.



Precinct 8

Thomas Wiseman Alspaugh

cell 617-312-6595 thomaswalspaugh@aol.com

I feel I have excellent credentials when it comes to conservation and the environment from my participation in the first Earth Day to recycling before it became "PC."

On the warrant articles before town meeting, I fully support the town considering the global warming impact on any projects. I do not support the article registering our concerns on global warming with national and state elected officials. I do not support this because I feel that town meeting is an inappropriate venue. Town government exists to deal with town issues. There are many noble causes that should not be addressed by town government and this is one.

Margaret Bradley

781-862-0581 maarmadillo@aol.com

Advertising, even of political issues, usually pays. It can't hurt to make official statements of the Town's positions to those whose positions might enable them to be supportive. I do think the Town is trying to take steps to alleviate environmental damage that day to day operations inflict. The design process for new Town buildings, renovations and capital purchases have all received the benefit of conservation measures.

As a former biology teacher I am aware that the ecological fate of open land in the northeast is to become forest and that some plants are simply better competitors for resources than others. Without attention to plant succession and the vigorous invasives (eg. bittersweet, roses, garlic mustard) our conservation land will in time be drastically changed. Mowing and removal of invasives demand tools, people and inevitably some money. The stewards and occasional volunteer activity and the DPW are doing their best but there are not enough resources - particularly to remove invasives. I would like to see someone (CLC?) organize a group to supplement them and on a continuing basis attack the problem. Naturally, since these lands are under Conservation Commission supervision, a cooperative effort would be required to avoid damage to the area during the process.

Charles Hornig

See Candidate for Planning Board

Stewart Kennedy

Sgkbigguy@aol.com

I feel both warrant articles are quite appropriate, and if returned as a town meeting member from Precinct 8, I plan to support them when they come before Town Meeting. In fact, the proposals are so sensible I will be surprised if both are not approved

unanimously. But the question of whether these are "adequate" responses to the frightening and potentially disastrous changes that human activities are causing to the earth in the form of global warming is harder to answer.

Just as no responsible person today should rest until he has done all he reasonably can to reduce his carbon footprint, every family, every town, every state and every nation needs do so as well. Just as our townspeople can do more to limit their contributions to greenhouse gas production by continuing to change their behavior in a myriad of ways, the town can do more to make its own operations more efficient, and to facilitate overall improvements, including through planning as encouraged by the second proposed article. But there are also regulatory changes the town (and preferably the state) could implement that would help us to move faster in the right direction. I would favor more stringent limitations on the size of single family houses that can be built in town. I would favor requirements that parking lots over a certain size be supplied with bicycle racks. Stores could be required to penalize shoppers who require plastic bags or conversely reward those who bring their own bags. Even small changes like the latter can go far in helping people realize the importance of changing their behavior to reduce their carbon footprints. Meanwhile I applaud those who have placed these two articles on the town warrant.

Charles L. Moore

(781) 687-9500 ext. 201

CMoore@healthmetricspartners.com

I support both articles. However, I do not think it is an adequate response. As one who has reviewed the scientific data on climate change, I realize that several natural feedback loops have begun to accelerate the warming of our planet thereby escalating the release of CO₂ into our atmosphere. The most disturbing feedback loop is the 60% reduction of the arctic ice shield and the beginning of methane release from the tundra as it warms. These trends will increase the absorption of heat energy by our planet and increase the amount of heat that is retained by our atmosphere.

It is for these reasons that I am a member of and strongly support the Town's initiative to form the Climate Action Plan Committee. This group will quantify Lexington's carbon footprint and develop

programs the Town can implement to reduce our carbon footprint. Likewise, I am also very active in Lexington's Global Warming Action Coalition to increase awareness of climate change and encourage action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Although I am not confident of its impact, I have also been seen around town wearing a Polar Bear outfit.

Precinct 9

Shireen Ahmed

781-676-2795 shireen@us.ibm.com

An initiative towards passing a resolution to address the issue of climate change which is increasingly harmful to the environment and the economy of Massachusetts and the future well being of the people of Lexington is imperative for us. It is an issue that threatens our future generation and is not a myth anymore but a reality. It can be felt everywhere even in our beautiful tree-ed Lexington neighborhoods. I have always felt that people are more proactive when there are incentives associated with any effort. Keeping that in mind I think we could address some of the listed things below which in the long term would help in decreasing global warming.

Solar energy – Have solar energy companies come and give series of demonstration on the conversion process, how it is done, how we can benefit from it, how it impacts the ecology, savings etc. In turn give incentives to people like tax breaks if they transform their residence to solar energy. This we all know in the long run will have tremendous energy savings.

Green Buildings - Give tax breaks for building green houses – both residential and commercial.

Energy efficient cars - Maybe reduce excise tax on cars if they are hybrids and increase tax on non-hybrid new cars.

Tree planting weekend - Have a weekend where we ask out local nurseries to have sales on trees/shrubs where you buy in pairs and donate one to the town or schools. We could get the Gardening Club to participate and help out in such an endeavor.

Have a town day where people are asked to come out and clean their conservation land or areas near their neighborhood. This gives the town residence

a sense of community which has an immediate impact.

The listed items can be applied to existing and new efforts. If we could achieve some of the items consistently for a period of time keeping good data we could be a positive influence on other towns and communities. Also as a town we would have a bigger impact and a louder voice on how to lower global warming.

Wendy Manz

781 863-1733 wendy_manz@yahoo.com

It is appropriate for Lexington to register its concern with a formal request to our national and state governments to address these issues. One town's request is unlikely to make a difference, but thousands of towns across our nation doing so can provide necessary political support for Massachusetts and the federal government to take useful action.

Lexington is already beginning to consider the impacts of climate change and over-reliance on fossil fuels in its planning and development. Last year I served on the 2020 Vision Sustainability Task Force which led to the present Climate Action Plan Ad Hoc Committee. At the recommendation of the Task Force, the Selectmen voted to join Cities for Climate Protection, a program of the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives. The program provides a template and consulting assistance for setting up our own climate action plan. Two years ago the Selectmen appointed an Energy Committee, which reviews energy usage in our schools and public buildings and makes recommendations for conservation and cost savings. Last year, the town passed an anti-idling ordinance, paralleling the state law to curb vehicle emissions. The plans for our new DPW building, now under construction, explicitly call for green building techniques and materials. While there are not yet widely accepted green standards for residential building, the town planning staff is following the development of such standards, and the Planning Board, on which I serve, anticipates incorporating them in requirements for subdivisions built in Lexington.

These are incremental actions, and frustratingly small in the face of worldwide climate change. But action is clearly necessary if humanity is to deal with this issue, and Lexington, like every community in our country, is a good place to begin.

West Lexington Greenway Master Plan Public Meeting

**February 28, 7 pm
(Maps Preview – 6:30 pm)
Cary Hall 1605 Massachusetts Avenue, Lexington
(Next to Town Hall)**

The community is invited to the second public meeting reporting on progress on the West Lexington Greenway Master Plan process. This town-approved Community Preservation Act project is seeking to create a network of universally accessible trails linking all town conservation areas west of Route 128. Master Plan consultants from Vanasse, Hangen & Brustlin will present, via maps and images, preliminary analysis proposals that draw upon the extensive amount of data collected to date and reviewed at the first public meeting for this project held on January 16. For further information please visit the project web site at <http://www.lexingtongreenways.org/westlexingtongreenway>.

