

City of Framingham

The City Council of Framingham



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
FRAMINGHAM, MA.

2020 DEC -3 AM 10:43

ORDER NO. 2020-066-001

REQUEST OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE

UPON THE REQUEST OF THE ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY SUBCOMMITTEE, THE CITY OF FRAMINGHAM, THROUGH THE FRAMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL, IT IS SO ORDERED:

That the City Council votes to establish a Sustainability Committee as outlined below and to amend the General Bylaws/Ordinances as follows:

SECTION 1. Add the following new section to Article II of the General Bylaws/Ordinances:

Section 25. Sustainability Committee

25.1 The Framingham Sustainability Committee (FSC) is hereby established. The FSC will strive to make Framingham a more sustainable community through the consideration of practical new programs and policies as well as public engagement and outreach activities that seek to address environmental, resource, and energy challenges.

The FSC is expected to engage citizens in understanding sustainability principles and their role in building a more sustainable city, utilizing outreach and engagement programs to support residents, businesses, and other organizations. In addition, the FSC will act as a resource to the City, providing information and assistance on opportunities to enhance the sustainability and resiliency of municipal operations and promote environmental justice. The FSC shall provide recommendations to the Mayor, Energy Task Force and Sustainability Coordinator by October 1st of each year in order to allow for the timely consideration of new programs and policies in the annual budget.

25.2 Definitions

Sustainability – the ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs (derived from the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development).

Resilience - the capacity of a community, business, or natural environment to prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover from a disruption (U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit).

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Climate Change - a broad range of global phenomena created predominantly by burning fossil fuels, which add heat-trapping gases to Earth's atmosphere. These phenomena include the increased temperature trends described by global warming, but also encompass changes such as sea level rise; ice mass loss in Greenland, Antarctica, the Arctic and mountain glaciers worldwide; shifts in flower/plant blooming; and extreme weather events (NASA).

Energy Task Force (ETF)— an internal energy working group, a group of city employees, made up of certain department heads and other individuals, or their respective designees, that meet no less than quarterly, to discuss and work together to advance the City's identified environmental and sustainability priorities. In addition to the sustainability coordinator, the members of the ETF shall represent:

- the capital projects and facilities management department,
- the department of public works,
- the parks, recreation and cultural affairs department,
- the Framingham Public Schools,
- any other city employee as the Mayor sees fit

Environmental Justice - the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations and policies (EPA).

Renewable Energy - often referred to as clean energy, comes from natural sources or processes that are constantly replenished (NRDC).

25.3 **Composition, Membership, and Terms**

25.3.1 The FSC is to be comprised of nine voting members appointed by the Mayor. The term of office shall be for three years, with initial appointments of one, two, and three years so that the terms of members shall be staggered.

25.3.2 Terms. FSC member terms shall coincide with the fiscal year (effective July 1st) and expire on June 30th. At the start of each fiscal year, the FSC shall conduct an organizational meeting to elect from its members a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary. The FSC will receive staff support from the Sustainability Coordinator. The FSC shall meet quarterly, or more frequently as warranted.