

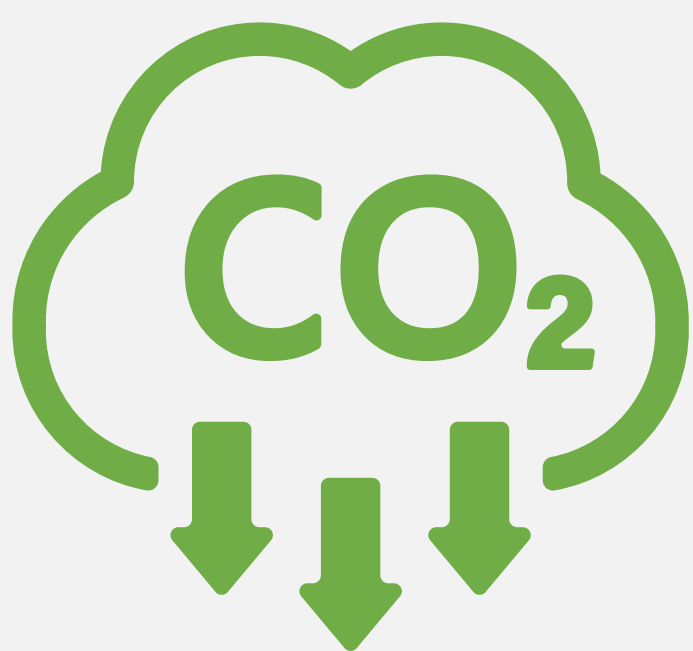
Town of Freeport

SETTING EMISSIONS TARGETS



SHAPING OUR SOLUTIONS

As part of the Climate Action Planning process, Freeport has selected a set of emission reduction targets to be achieved over the next few decades. These targets will help us track our progress on implementing our climate action plan. By setting targets - which are voluntary commitments - Freeport has joined other communities, and the State, in the effort to cut polluting emissions.



Targets adopted by Town Council in October 2023, as recommended by the Freeport Sustainability Advisory Board (FSAB). Emissions reduction targets based on 2019 baseline.

Community-wide & Municipal Operations Emissions Reductions Targets

2030	65% reduction
2040	85% reduction and net zero municipal operations
2050	Net zero community

TARGET RECOMMENDATION

The Freeport Sustainability Advisory Board (FSAB) made this recommendation with consideration of:

- the unique context of the Freeport community
- municipal resource capacity
- data and analysis from the Climate Action Plan process
- the emissions reductions targets endorsed by current scientific consensus

WHAT WOULD MEETING THESE TARGETS LOOK LIKE?

If we achieve Freeport’s target for 2050, we would have achieved strategies that address where most emissions come from - transportation and building energy. For residents, that would mean there would be some changes to how we get around, heat our homes, and power our lives.

Individual residents can take action to contribute as they are able, such as using rebates to install a heat pump, making their next car electric, or choosing to take the bus or walk to work. Federal, State, and local efforts will strive to make lifestyle changes and investments affordable and convenient for people along the way.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DON'T DO ANYTHING TO REDUCE EMISSIONS?

If the town continues to function without intentionally reducing fossil fuel use, emissions will not decrease. We know that if global temperatures rise over a threshold (1.5 degrees Celsius) climate hazards will worsen - greater storms, more damage to infrastructure, disruption to our economy, and more high heat and vector-borne diseases impacting our health. More vulnerable Freeport residents (children, older adults, and underserved people) will be impacted most. Reducing emissions will help minimize these impacts and protect our community.

WILL THESE TARGETS IMPACT ME?

The targets themselves will guide municipal policy making and do not apply to individual residents or businesses. Achieving these targets will require action from across our broader community and the Climate Plan will include initiatives that may create new policies. These efforts will be largely voluntary and there will be guidance and resources from the Town, FSAB, and other entities. There will also likely be funding available to support individuals to take advantage of these efforts.

HOW DO THESE TARGETS SHAPE THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN?

With set emissions reductions targets, the Town’s Climate Action Plan will be more data-driven. The actions and strategies in the Plan will be tied to metrics that will show us what we need to achieve on a year-by-year basis to reach our targets. Having a data driven Climate Plan will ideally enhance access to grant funding, support social equity, and continue ongoing efforts in town.

WHAT IS NET ZERO?

Net Zero is when the greenhouse gases going into the atmosphere are balanced by reduction and removal out of the atmosphere. Removal is pursued only after all reduction strategies are exhausted as defined by the Freeport Sustainability Advisory Board. Many states, cities, and countries are striving to reach net zero emissions by 2050.

WHAT TARGETS HAVE OTHER TOWNS COMMITTED TO?

Emissions Reduction Timelines	York Climate Action Plan	Yarmouth Climate Declaration	Falmouth Climate Action Plan
By 2030	50%	80%	65%
By 2040	--	--	85%
By 2050	100%	100%	100%
Municipal Operations	--	100% by 2030	100% by 2040

WHY DID WE NEED TO SET TARGETS?

Setting targets does many things:

- Helps us track our progress on implementing our climate action roadmap
- Signals our town’s commitment
- Guide’s the town to prioritize efforts that have the biggest impact