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**To:** [Jim Purdy](#); [Daphne Politis](#); [Acton 2020 Committee](#)  
**Subject:** Some background on Acton carbon emissions commitments  
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I wanted to pass on some information about commitments the town has already made with respect to greenhouse gas emissions. (Our sustainability goal includes more than just climate change impacts, but energy use and greenhouse gas emissions are an important and highly visible part of the sustainability puzzle).

## 1. ICLEI agreement

<http://www.iclei.org> is the home of Local Governments for Sustainability. Because of advocacy by the town manager and the Green Advisory Board, the Board of Selectmen signed on to the ICLEI declaration of sustainability in 2009.

The heart of the pledge includes a commitment "to reduce both greenhouse gas and air pollution emissions throughout the community, specifically:

- conduct a greenhouse gas emissions inventory and forecast to determine the source and quantity of greenhouse gas emissions in the jurisdiction;
- establish a greenhouse gas emissions reduction target;
- develop an action plan with both existing and future actions which when implemented will meet the local greenhouse gas reduction target;
- implement the action plan; and
- monitor to review progress."

### Agreement details:

The Board of Selectmen signed off on the pledge at their Dec 21, 2009 meeting, as part of the consent calendar (the general discussion had taken place a few months earlier). Here's the relevant links:

-Agenda: <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-27051/4qkg1fqv.pdf>

-Minutes: <http://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-27401/BOS%20Minutes%2012-21-09.pdf>

-The draft pledge from the BoS packet:

<https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-27060/4qkgbc2v.pdf>

-A generic version of the draft pledge, easier for copying & pasting (the whereas clauses were updated for Acton)

<http://www.iclei.org/documents/USA/resolution.pdf>

## 2. Green Communities Pledge

As part of becoming eligible for state designation as a Green Community, the Board of Selectmen, with the support of Town Meeting as needed, approved a 5-point plan as required by the Green Communities Act. The 5 parts are:

1. As-of-right siting for renewable or alternative energy generating, manufacturing or R&D facilities in designated locations
2. Expedited permitting process for approving such facilities within one year of the filing of an application;
3. Energy use baseline and a program to reduce energy use by 20% within 5 years (This applies just to municipal and school operations, where the ICLEI pledge applies to the town as a whole)
4. Policy to purchase fuel-efficient vehicles; and

5. Policy to minimize lifecycle energy and water costs for all new commercial, industrial and large-residential construction (The 'Stretch Energy Code')

Here is the executive summary of Acton's compliance with the Green Community Act requirements presented at the Sept 18, 2009 meeting:

<https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/Get/Document-26195/4h74zkb6.pdf>

The School committee approved parts 3 and 4, which were the only parts they needed to approve, at their May 6, 2009 meeting.

Minutes:

<http://ab.mec.edu/about/minutes09-10/05-06-10%20JT%20AB%20APS%20MIN%20A.pdf>

Lots of technical detail in the school committee packet on the energy reduction plan & the vehicle policy:

<http://ab.mec.edu/about/scpackets0910/AB-JT-APSPacket5-6.pdf>