

Belmont joins larger efforts to reduce global warming

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To increase its resources to help with development of a climate action plan for Belmont, the town has joined two nonprofit organizations: the Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN) and ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability.

Sustainable Belmont is now the local chapter of MCAN. This nonprofit organization is dedicated to reducing emissions of heat-trapping gases (such as carbon dioxide and methane) at the community and state levels. Its network is composed of local and statewide climate groups, including those based in Arlington, Cambridge, Lexington, Waltham and Watertown, that are working cooperatively to advance practical measures to reduce the risk of climate change.

Additionally, the town of Belmont joined ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. This nonprofit international association includes more than 475 cities, towns and counties worldwide. As a participant in ICLEI's Cities for Climate Protection, Belmont will draw on ICLEI's resources to inventory the town's emissions of heat-trapping gases, establish a goal for reducing these emissions - with public input - and develop and implement a plan to achieve the reductions over time.

"The town's membership in ICLEI has given us access to experts with experience in collecting data and figuring out how to use it to create a meaningful climate action plan," said Deborah Lockett, co-chairman of Sustainable Belmont's Climate Action Subcommittee.

To learn how you can help with these efforts, please send an e-mail to sustainablebelmont@gmail.com.

- Submitted by Sustainable Belmont