

Climate Change Conversations:

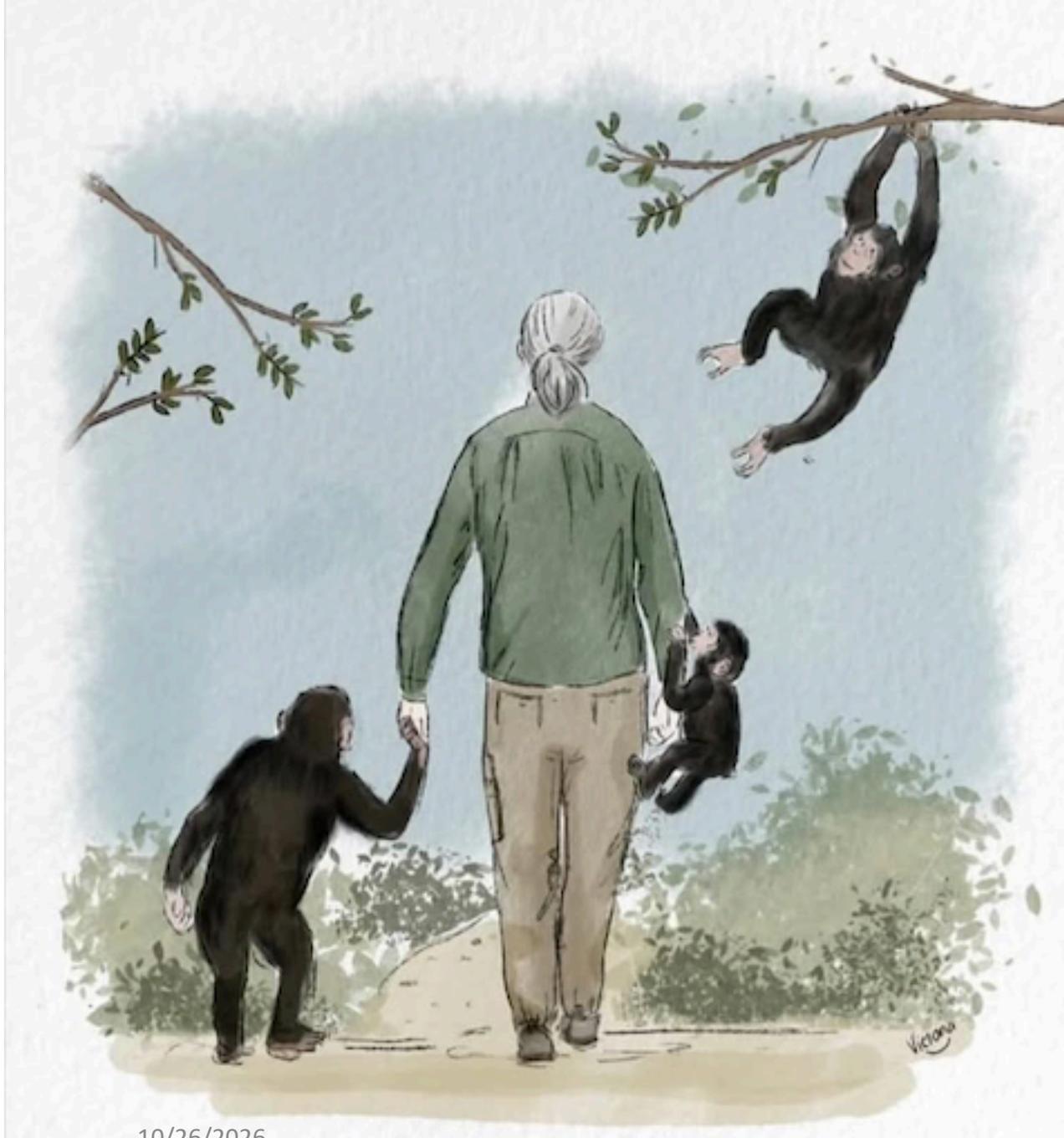
What can we do?



Tom McNellis, Chair, Eastham Energy and Climate Committee

Email: EasthamClimate@gmail.com

January 11, 2026

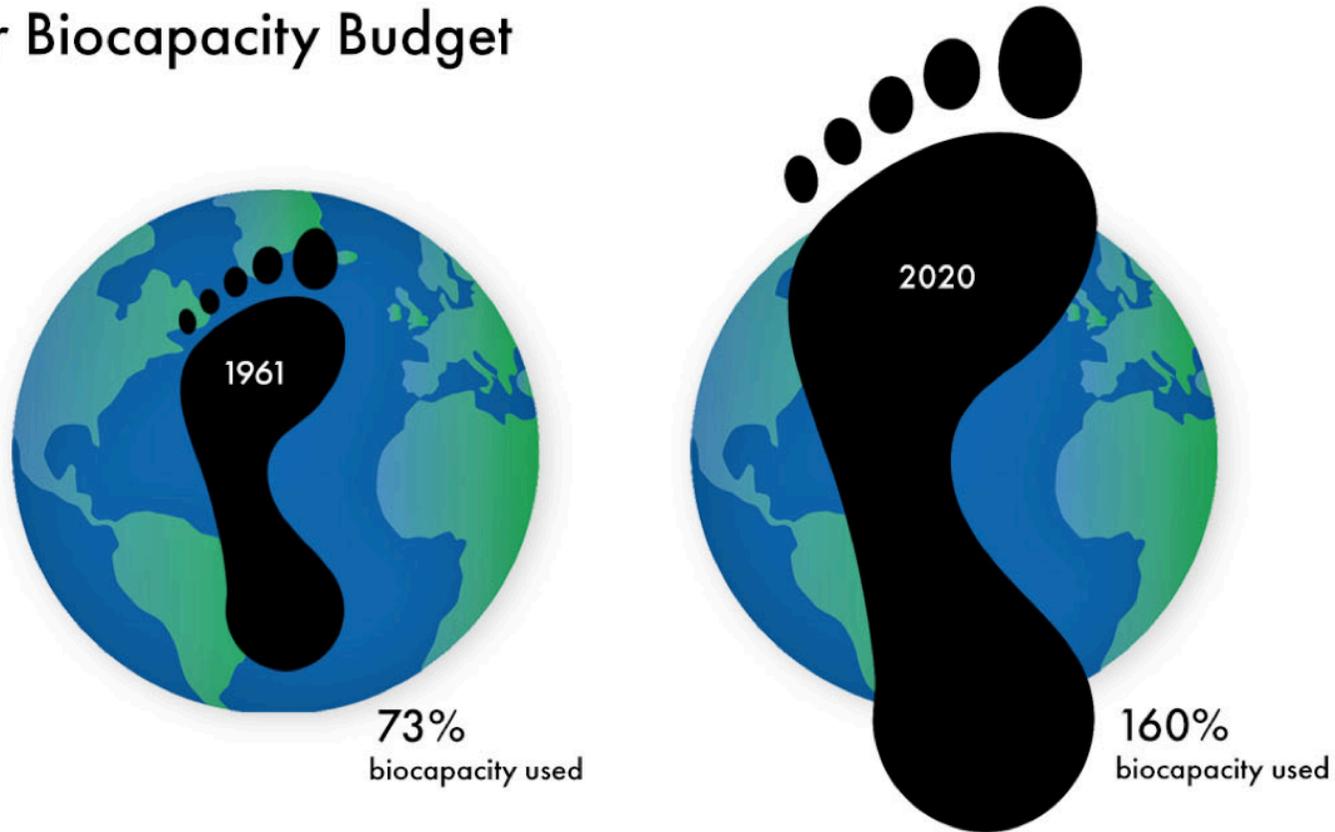


“What you do
makes a difference,
and you have to
decide what kind of
difference you want
to make”

Jane Goodall

So, what's the problem?

Busting our Biocapacity Budget



Source: Global Footprint Network, National Footprint & Biocapacity Accounts 2019 Edition
data.footprintnetwork.org

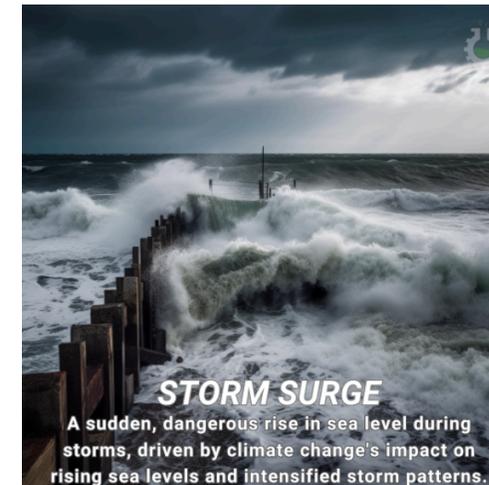
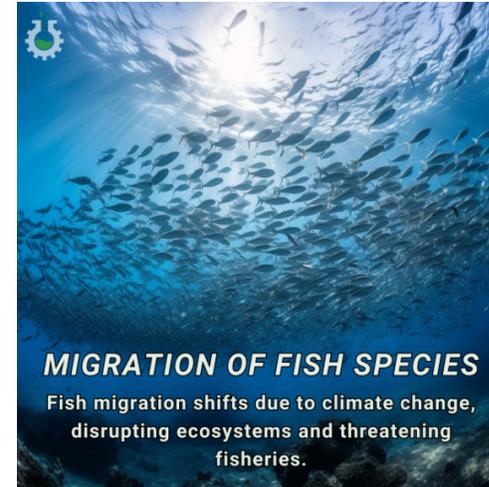
Humans are using more natural resources, including fossil fuels, and emitting more pollutants into the atmosphere than the ecosystems can absorb

One major effect is the trapping of heat energy inside our ecosystem ₃

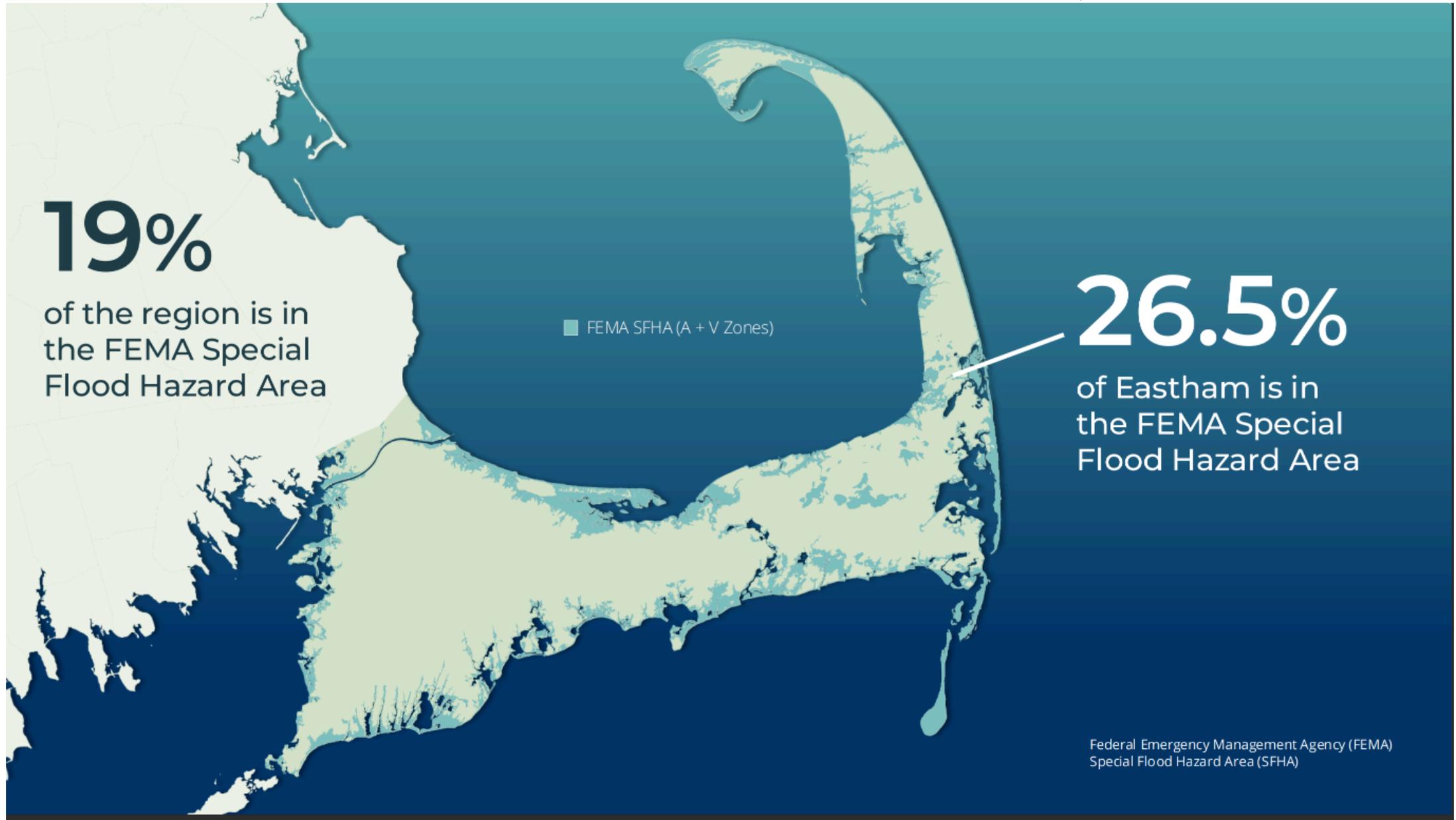
Is it worth the fight?



Fossil fuels are a non-renewable resource, formed over millions of years. They are not replenished within a human timescale.

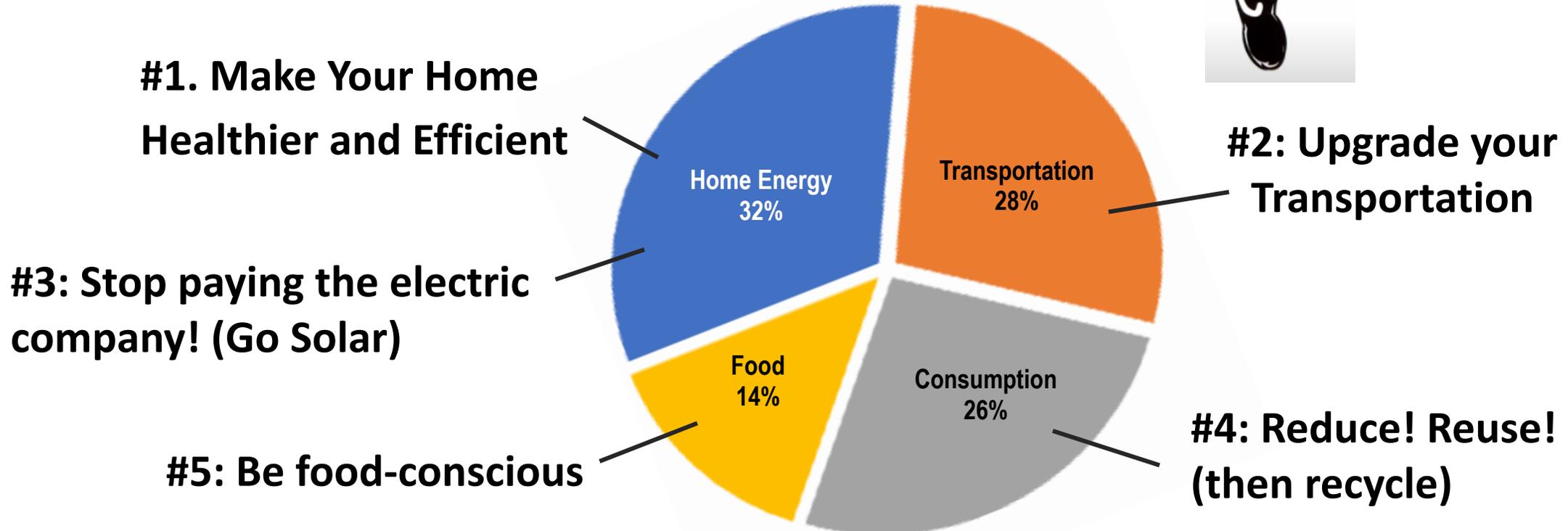


Eastham is especially vulnerable



What can I do as an individual?

Average American Carbon Footprint



#1: Make Your Home Healthier and Efficient

#2: Upgrade your Transportation

#3: Stop paying the electric company! (Go Solar)

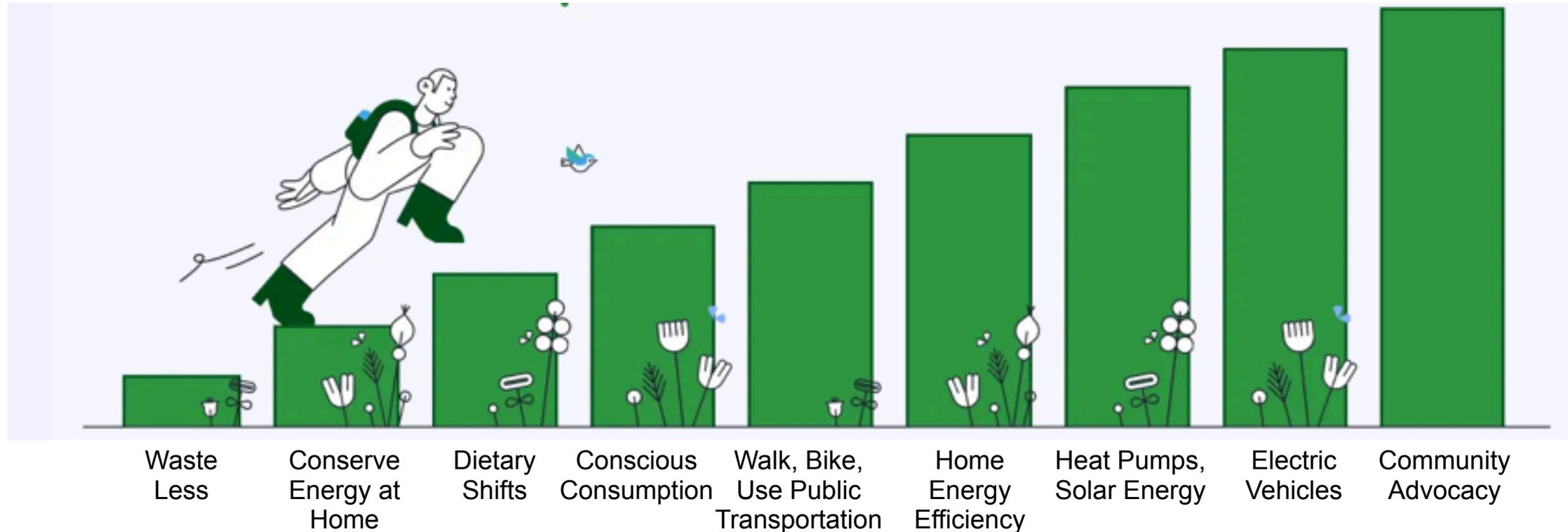
#4: Reduce! Reuse! (then recycle)

#5: Be food-conscious

#6: Advocate for Change

Source: Union of Concerned Scientists

Where should I start?



Easy Lifestyle Tweaks



BEGINNER

Lifestyle & Consumption Changes



ADVANCED

High Impact Changes



MASTERY

Step 1: Lifestyle Tweaks (Easy & Low-Cost!)

- Turn off lights, LED bulbs,
- Unplug electronics,
- Cold water for laundry,
- Adjust thermostat.

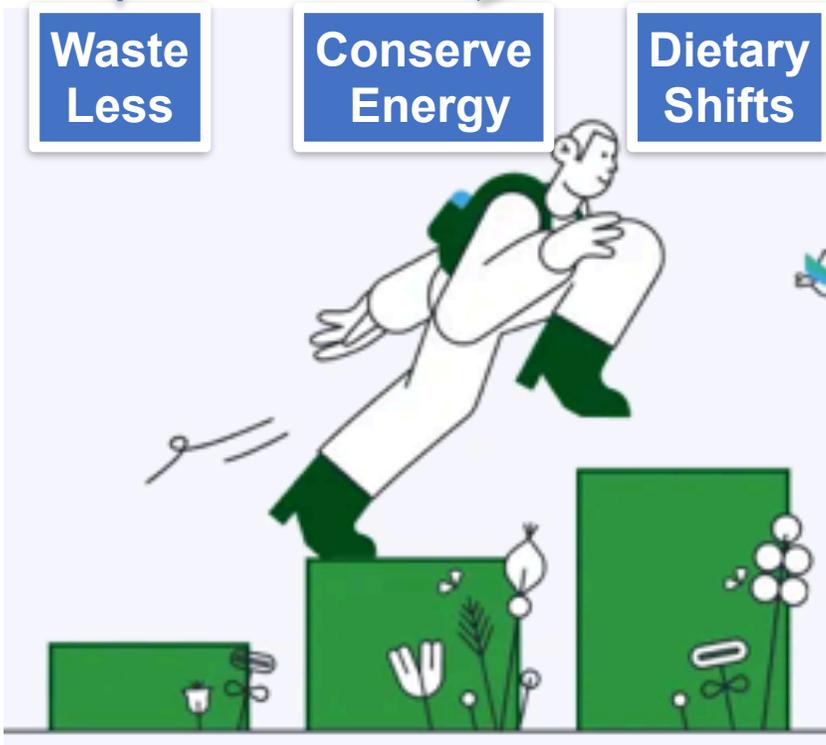
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle;
- Compost,
- Use reusable bags/bottles/cups,
- Reduce single-use plastics.

- Eat less meat (especially red meat),
- Choose seasonal/local foods.

Waste Less

Conserve Energy

Dietary Shifts



All Important... but not enough!

Step 2: Lifestyle Changes (just a little planning!)

Buy less, repair items, choose durable goods, support sustainable brands

Home Energy Assessment, Weather sealing, Improve insulation, choose energy-efficient appliances

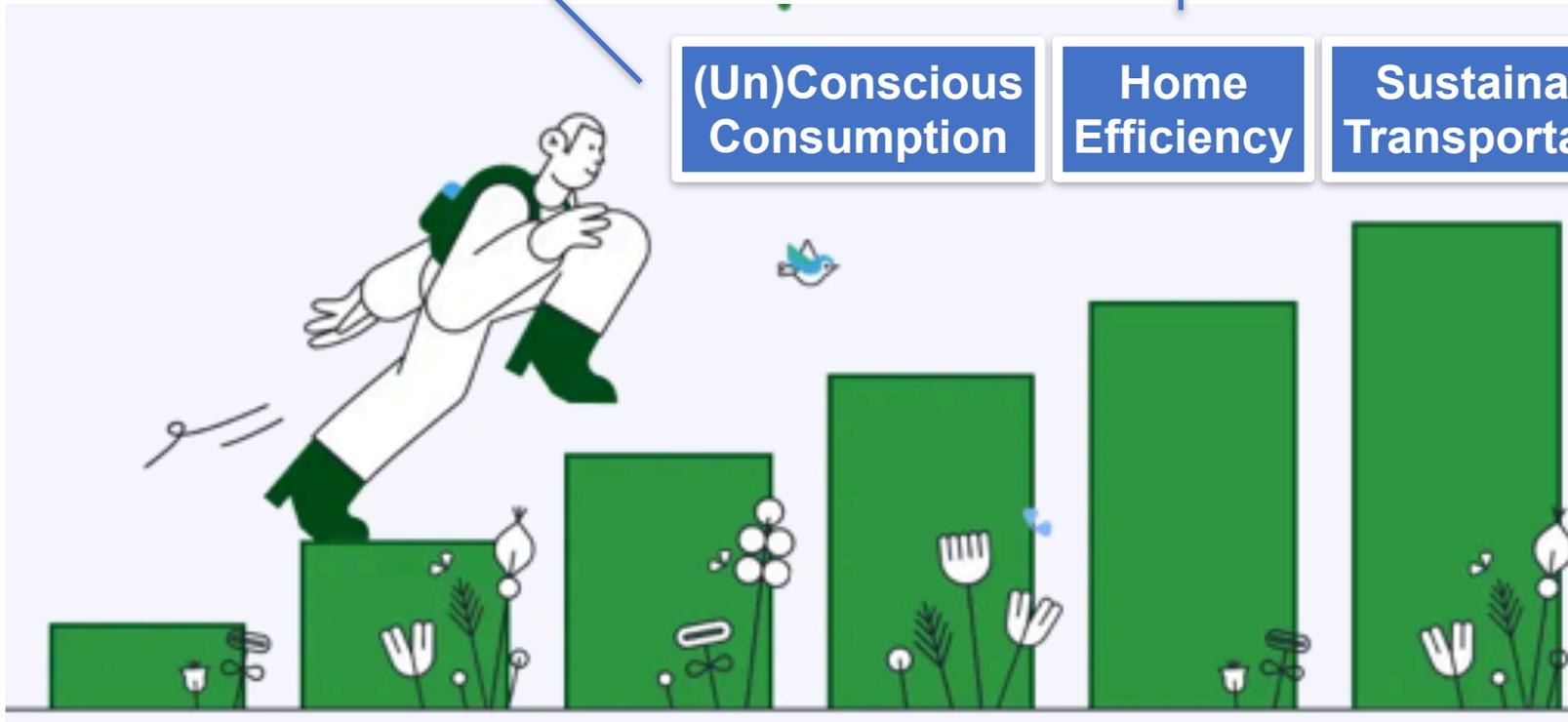
Walk, bike, use public transit, carpool, take the train instead of the plane

(Un)Conscious Consumption

Home Efficiency

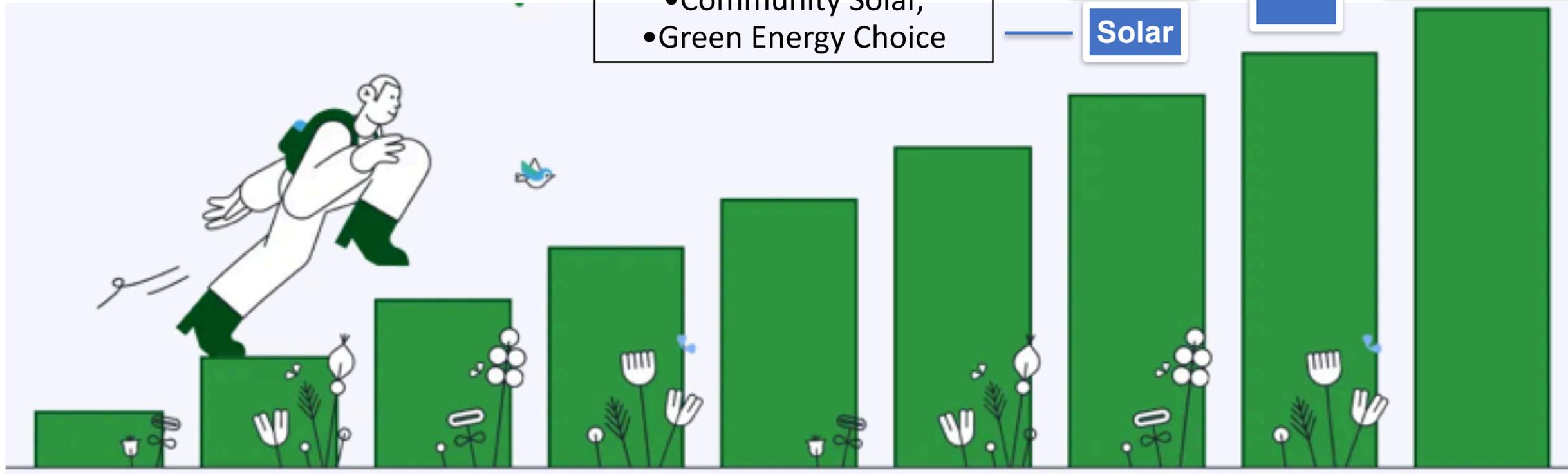
Sustainable Transportation

Substantial and important steps; help is available!



Step 3: High Impact Climate Hero

Key investments in our future



- Get Involved!
- Speak your mind,
 - Vote your conscience,
- Invest Sustainably

Whole house heat pumps, either ducted or Mini-Splits

•Switch to a zero-emission vehicle

•Solar Panels (+ battery),
•Community Solar,
•Green Energy Choice

Heat Pumps

EV's

Community Advocacy

Solar



Conversations with family and friends

- ◆ **Break the Spiral of Silence:** Over 60% of Americans are concerned about climate change, but only 33% occasionally discuss it, leading to a perception that the issue is unimportant.
- ◆ **Focus on Solutions not Science:** Transform anxiety into hope and inspiring action that we can all agree on.
- ◆ **Connecting over shared values** like family, community, faith, or health to show how a changing climate affects what they already love,

Vote your conscience

- ◆ Vote for leaders who support climate-smart actions and investments

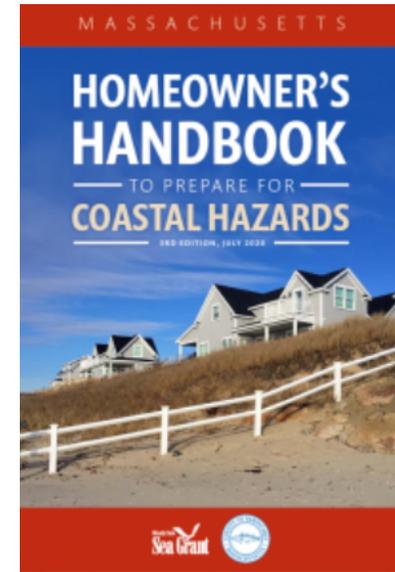
Be active in your community

- ◆ Join collective campaigns that drive change at scale
- ◆ Join local action groups: Climate Action Committees, Climate Action Networks

The community voice is a force multiplier!

Become more resilient

- ◆ Get to know town resources and protocols related to emergency response in the event of natural disasters
- ◆ Join “Code Red” alerts, Town Email Blasts, Police and Fire Facebook Pages
- ◆ Understand the relationship between climate change and public health and incorporate this into your decision-making
- ◆ Take advantage of or help to advance food resiliency efforts



Winter Weather

Know what to do before, during and after snowstorms and extreme cold.

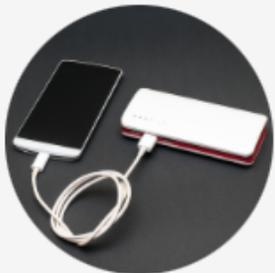
[Get #WinterReady](#)



Build a Kit

Make sure your emergency kit is stocked with the right items.

[Emergency Supply List](#)



Power Outages

Have alternative charging methods for your phone in case of power outages.

[Get More Power Outage Tips](#)



Emergency Alerts

Wireless emergency alerts allow officials to provide the public with life-saving information quickly.

[More on Emergency Alerts](#)


Ready



Ready.gov



Flooding

If you approach a flooded road or walkway, follow this rule: turn around, don't drown!

[Prepare for Flooding Now](#)

Resources



www.capelightcompact.org
1-800-797-6699



Town of **EASTHAM**

Energy & Climate Action
Committee

eastham-ma.gov/521
EasthamClimate@gmail.com



www.EnergyNavigator.org
508-205-7147



www.masssave.com



www.masssave.com



www.mass.gov



www.capecod.gov/departments/cooperative-extension
gardeners@capecod.gov or call 508-375-6700

Orleans Climate Action Network

www.orleansclimateaction.org/
Info.OrleansClimateAction@gmail.com

Eastham's Climate Action Plan

2025



EASTHAM
CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

- Solidify local mitigation and adaptation goals
- Outline and prioritize actions and strategies that will enable the community to arrive at those goals
- Ensure coordination and shared understanding across municipal departments, community entities, and community members on steps needed for action
- Attract funding to support future implementation activities
- Inform municipal priorities and investment
- Develop a local framework to measure and track progress
- Learn from, educate, and empower all community members to act
- Provide a resource for future planning efforts

Developed with Cape Cod Commission; Final public review Jan-Feb

**“We can’t do everything that Mother Nature Needs,
But Mother Nature needs everything that we can do!”**

Questions? Thoughts?

What type of Climate Conversations do you
have with your friends and family?

Backup Slides

Energy Efficiency Savings

Energy Efficiency



www.masssave.com



www.capelightcompact.org

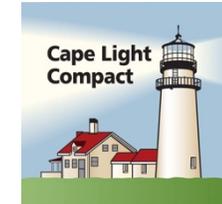
Home Energy Assessment	No cost
Air Sealing	No cost
Insulation	75-100% Discounts
“HEAT” Improvement Loans	0% interest
Heat Pump (standard)	Up to \$8,500 Rebates ¹
Heat Pump (moderate income)	Up to \$16,000 Rebates ¹
Heat Pump (income eligible)	No cost ¹
Smart Thermostats	Up to \$100 off
Appliances	Up to \$500 Rebates
Lawn Equipment	Up to \$75 rebate
Windows	Up to \$75/window

Note 1: Requires winter occupancy

Note: Some programs have income and residency qualifications

<https://www.capelightcompact.org/energy-efficiency-for-your-home/>

Solar & Electric Vehicle



Solar Installation (Direct Ownership only)	\$1000 MA State Tax Credit ²
Solar Net Metering Credits	Only pay net kWh used vs. produced
Solar credits SMART 3.0	Incentives paid by kWh produced
Solar Loan Programs	Various available, 0-3% interest
Battery Storage	No-interest HEAT Loans Available Est Yearly Incentive \$1375 (MassSave)
EV and Plug-in Hybrids	Up to \$3500 MA State Tax Credit
EV Home Charger	\$1000 Federal Rebate (ends 6/2026)
EV Home Charger Wiring	Up to \$1400 Eversource Incentive

Note 2: for primary residence

Home Energy Assessments



A qualified energy specialist performs an energy assessment on your home using a “whole-house” approach which includes:

- Analysis of historical energy use using utility bills
- Combustion appliance testing (checking for safety and efficiency)
- Identification of cost-effective energy efficiency opportunities
- Home energy action plan providing recommendations and energy savings projections
- Generous incentives for recommended measures
- Virtual or in-person options available
- No-cost low-flow showerheads
- We recommend getting one every 5 years
- An HEA may be required to receive certain offers

Schedule a Home Energy Assessment: call Cape Light Compact 1-800-797-6699 or visit www.capelightcompact.org



Financing Options

	Mass Save Heat Loan	Energy Saver Home Loan	Cape & Vineyard Solar Loan (pending funding)
Loan Amount	up to \$25k	\$10k-\$100k	Up to \$50k
Term	*Coming Soon* 3-7 years based on income. 3 YEAR >300% SMI 5 YEAR - 135%-300% SMI 7 YEAR - < 135% SMI	240 Months (First 18 months are interest only)	120 months
Rates	0%	<80% AMI: 0.5%, 80%-135% AMI: 2%	2.75%
Eligible improvements	Pre-Wx Barriers, weatherization, heat pumps, heat pump water heaters, windows, and batteries	Heat Pumps, heat pump water heating, batteries, solar, roofing, doors, windows. Restrictions apply.	For solar PV and inverters only. Roof repairs, tree work, and batteries are not eligible

0% Interest Mass Save[®] Heat Loan

Up to \$25,000 with Repayment Terms up to 7 Years for Eligible Residential Measures Including:

- Insulation and Duct Improvements
- Heat Pump and Heat Pump Water Heater installation
- Finance up to \$5,000 for an electric panel upgrade when financing a heat pump installation.
- Battery system
- Barrier remediation

Loan eligibility is determined by the lender. Must receive Energy Assessment

Please note: later this year, the Sponsors of Mass Save will be implementing income tiers for the associated rate of the loan. The term of the loan will be 3, 5 or 7 years, based on income.



[Apply through our website!](#)



MassSave Income Guidelines

October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2026

# of Household Members	Income Eligible	Enhanced Residential Barnstable County	Enhanced Residential Dukes County
1	\$51,778	\$74,800	\$72,950
2	\$67,710	\$90,279	\$90,279
3	\$83,642	\$115,522	\$115,522
4	\$99,574	\$132,764	\$132,764

Income thresholds for homes with more than four members can be found on the Compact's website.



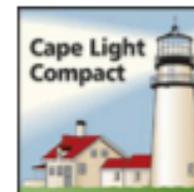
Energy Coaching

Still not sure where to start on your energy-saving journey? Our staff can help answer questions about what's available, how the programs work, and what might be the best options for your unique situation.

- [Book an appointment](#) with our energy coaching staff, available in-person or over the phone
- Our staff can help discuss available rebates, loan offerings, and other energy efficiency programs
- Work with us to figure out what options best work for you!



**Call Cape Light Compact 1-800-797-6699
or visit www.capelightcompact.org**



ENERGY NAVIGATORS



Do You Have Energy Questions? We Can Help.

The **Energy Navigator** program *is based on the premise that good information leads to good decisions.* Our message - **neighbors helping neighbors save money on energy** - speaks to growing interest in preparedness, saving money, and climate change resilience.

The Energy Navigator program is working with the Town of Orleans Energy and Climate Action Committee and the Orleans Climate Action Network. Energy Navigators will provide residents with energy efficiency information and resources through individual conversations and a variety of community educational programs.

Eastham Climate Action Committee

- Seven citizen members, with three-year overlapping terms, appointed by the Select Board.

Name	Position	Term Year
Tom McNellis	Chair	2028
Roberta Longley	Vice Chair	2027
John Boiney	Clerk	2026
Michael Sarcione	Member	2028
Olav Hegland	Member	2026
Eleni Carr	Member	2027
Harriett Emerson	Member	2028

Email us at EasthamClimate@gmail.com
Or visit our web page: : <https://www.eastham-ma.gov/521/>

Committee Liaisons

Jerry Cerasale, Select Board
Shana Brogan, Staff Liaison
Gary Senecal, Recycling Liaison
Kathy Daw, EPRTA Liaison

“Non-Voting Volunteers”

Jack Hadley
Gary Senecal
Cheryl Gayle

Working Groups

Stationary Energy
Climate Adaptation
Transportation
Communication