

Courageous Conversations statement in support of Andover WECAN's Andover Sustainability Resolution - Warrant Article #28

Courageous Conversations is in full-throated support of the **Andover Sustainability Resolution** as put forward by Andover WECAN. The umbrella of courageous conversations is large, all encompassing and must prioritize this climate emergency. We believe that passage of this Resolution at Town Meeting, Monday, May 1, 2023 will lead to an accelerated pace of community action to reduce Andover's greenhouse gas emissions. We agree wholeheartedly that the costs of these mobilization efforts do not unfairly burden those who are economically or socially disadvantaged and that all policies and decisions include the lens of environmental justice as written in the Resolution.

Courageous Conversations hopes to expand the conversation to include our more vulnerable neighboring communities in the Merrimack Valley who have historically contributed the least to current climate change yet are disproportionately affected. That is a conversation we need to be having as we begin building a sustainable and equitable future for all who live not only in Andover but in the Merrimack Valley.

Thank you to Andover WECAN for giving our community the opportunity to join the 37 plus towns and municipalities across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts who have passed similar Climate Emergency Declarations. This Resolution is the clarion call to action Andover's leadership needs as we create the Climate Action Plan for a sustainable future.