



EC Recommends Town Council to Endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty

On June 10, 2021, the Environment Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Town Council endorse the **Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty**. This is a non-binding pledge that supports the following three tenets: 1) NON-PROLIFERATION: Preventing the proliferation of coal, oil and gas by ending all new exploration and production; 2) GLOBAL DISARMAMENT: Phasing-out existing stockpiles and production of fossil fuels in line with the 1.5C global climate goal; and 3) JUST TRANSITION: Fast-tracking real solutions and a just transition for every worker, community and country. The scale of the challenge demands urgent collective action. A peaceful and just transition calls for a clear path and a proactive plan to enable economic diversification, implement renewable energy and other reliable, cost-effective low-carbon solutions, and to support every worker, community and country.

BACKGROUND

- Making this pledge allows the Town of Somerset to join over 500 like-minded municipalities worldwide, joining the movement for phasing out fossil fuels and continuing the transition to renewable energy sources.
- Apparently, this Treaty is inspired by the successful Nuclear Arms Non-Proliferation Treaty, which started in the 1970s.
- For those interested in learning more about the Treaty, please watch this captivating Mother Earth Project Zoom Webinar presentation by Seble Samuel, Global Cities Campaign Lead, at Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative, at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LTsPquBbCmo>.

EC Recommends Town Council Sign the Sierra Club MD Mayors for 100% Clean Energy Pledge

The Environment Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Town Council that Mayor Jeffrey Slavin sign the Sierra Club Pledge. This pledge is a non-binding pledge that encourages municipalities to find ways to convert all of its use of fossil fuels to renewable energy sources.

BACKGROUND

- Making this pledge allows the Town of Somerset to join a large group of other like-minded municipalities, joining the movement for a clean transition to renewable energy sources.
- A Sierra Club pledge of this type give more collective power to the smaller municipalities and allows us collectively to exert pressure on our federal government to accelerate the process of creating a world without fossil fuels.

Town Council Declares Climate Emergency – What is Our First Step?

The Town's use of electricity is by far the largest contribution to greenhouse gases, GHG. It makes up the largest portion of our carbon footprint. Thus, as a first step, the Environment Committee has recommended that the Town change its Pepco arrangement to use a 100% renewable energy source, namely **Clearview Energy**. Presently 30-40% of town residents already use this option, which REDUCES your Pepco bill by 0-8%. This is a win for saving money and a win for the environment.



We also recommend that all remaining residents convert to Clearview as soon as possible.

If you need help signing up online (it's simple and takes five minutes), please contact us at **TOS.EnvironmentCommittee@gmail.com**.