

Town of Scarborough Sustainability Committee

January 24, 2024 | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Hybrid Meeting – Town Hall and via Zoom

To participate in the Sustainability Committee’s meeting, please use the following link:
https://scarboroughmaine.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_twq7FeUORuCy9vcUc53eHg

To view in the Sustainability Committee’s meeting, please use the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCD5Y8CFy5HpXMftV3xX73aw>

Agenda

8:00 am Call to order and attendance

- (1) Welcome and introductions
- (2) Vote on minutes from 12/13/23
- (3) Changes to the 1/24/24 meeting agenda
- (4) Public Comment

8:05 am Old Business

- (1) “Carbon Cash-Back” resolution
 - Review revised draft Town Council resolution (attached)
 - Discuss next steps

8:25 am New Business

- (1) Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant (memo attached)
 - Identify project to pursue with funding
- (2) Town Council Goals
 - Review 2023 goals (attached)
 - Discuss potential 2024 goals

9:15 am Updates

- (1) Town Council
- (2) Planning Board
- (3) Conservation Commission
- (4) Transportation Committee

9:25 am Next meeting agenda

Next meeting date: February 28, 2024

9:30 am Adjourn

Engineering & Technical Services

Town of Scarborough Sustainability Committee

December 13, 2023 | 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. | Scarborough Town Hall and via Zoom

Meeting Minutes - DRAFT

Attendance – in person

Committee: Ron Allen, Anton Bodor, Lydia Jopp, David Kirstein, Deb McDonough, Rick Meinking

Staff: Angela Blanchette, Town Engineer; Autumn Speer, Planning Director

Guests: David Kunhardt, resident and member of Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL); Larry Litten, resident; Agnes & Norm Dugas, residents

Attendance – Zoom

Town Council: April Sither

To re-play the Sustainability Committee's 12/13/23 meeting, please use the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsdXAQ6_H70

Call to Order

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 am.
2. The Committee voted to approve the minutes from the 10/25/23 meeting. Deb motioned to approve the minutes, Anton seconded. Vote was unanimous.

New Business

1. Carbon Cash Back
 - Davin Kunhardt, Scarborough resident and member of Citizens Climate Lobby, attended the meeting to provide a presentation on the federal Energy Innovation Act and to ask the Sustainability Committee request the Town Council pass a resolution in support of the legislation (presentation slides and proposed resolution attached).
 - The Committee made the following comments and asked the following questions regarding the presentation and proposed resolution:
 - Deb suggested revising the resolution language to reference Scarborough's coastal location and vulnerabilities to sea level rise.
 - Lydia confirmed that tax/fee is assessed on the extraction/production of fossil fuel, not on its use.
 - Ron asked for examples of a direct correlation between the establishment of a fee/tax and a reduction in fossil fuel use.
 - [Case studies and analyses](#) of the United Kingdom's 2013 carbon fee and subsequent reduction in the use of coal are available.
 - Ron noted that the fee/tax model seems like a very bureaucratic process and suggested that regulation on production would be more streamlined.
 - David likened the fee/tax to similar efforts related to tobacco use.
 - Rick asked how the carbon fee/tax differs from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI).

Engineering & Technical Services

- RGGI is a cap and trade program that limits the amount of emissions polluters can generate. Large polluters can buy carbon credits from smaller polluters. David noted that the pollution credits are relatively inexpensive and not all sources of pollution are captured under RGGI. Carbon fee and dividend applies to all sources of carbon.
- Rick noted that RGGI funds in Maine support local efficiency projects. Maine netted \$11M off the 2023 Q4 auction.
- Anton asked about CCL's position on nuclear energy.
 - CCL is open to nuclear energy solutions.
- Who sets the price for the fee/tax?
 - It is imbedded in the law.
- Rick asked April to provide some insight into the Council's resolution process.
 - April recommended that the Sustainability Committee finalize language in the resolution. The Council will need to understand the carbon fee and dividend program, so education will be needed. April suggested requesting a sustainability workshop with the Town Council.
- Next steps:
 - CCL will provide information to the Conservation Commission
 - The Sustainability Committee will consider requesting a workshop with the Town Council about the carbon fee and dividend program

Updates

1. Town Council

- Council goal setting is scheduled for 1/27. April would like time on the Committee's 1/24 agenda to discuss possible goals.
- April will be the Town Council liaison to the vulnerability assessment steering committee. If anyone from the Sustainability Committee is interested in serving on the committee, please reach out to Jami.

2. Planning Board

- Beech Ridge redevelopment is going through the master planning process and may include a transportation depot. The specific use has not been announced yet.
- Rugby fields are being proposed on Tow Rod Road.
- Additional multi-family housing has been approved at The Downs.

3. Conservation Commission

- The Commission is working on ordinance language to strengthen protections around natural resources.

4. Transportation Committee

- The Committee is working on wrapping up the town-wide transportation study.

5. Finance Committee memo

- Jami will send the memo requesting a sustainability reserve account to the Finance Committee on 12/14. The Sustainability Committee will be included in the email.

Next meeting: January 24, 2024

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 am.

Future Projects List:

- Community solar / municipal solar array
- Municipal building energy audits
- Residential energy efficiency grants
- Electric school buses
- Recycling information for homeowners when houses change hands
- Composting
- Tree preservation ordinance

A Solution to the Climate Crisis

David Kunhardt
Scarborough Sustainability Committee
13 December 2023

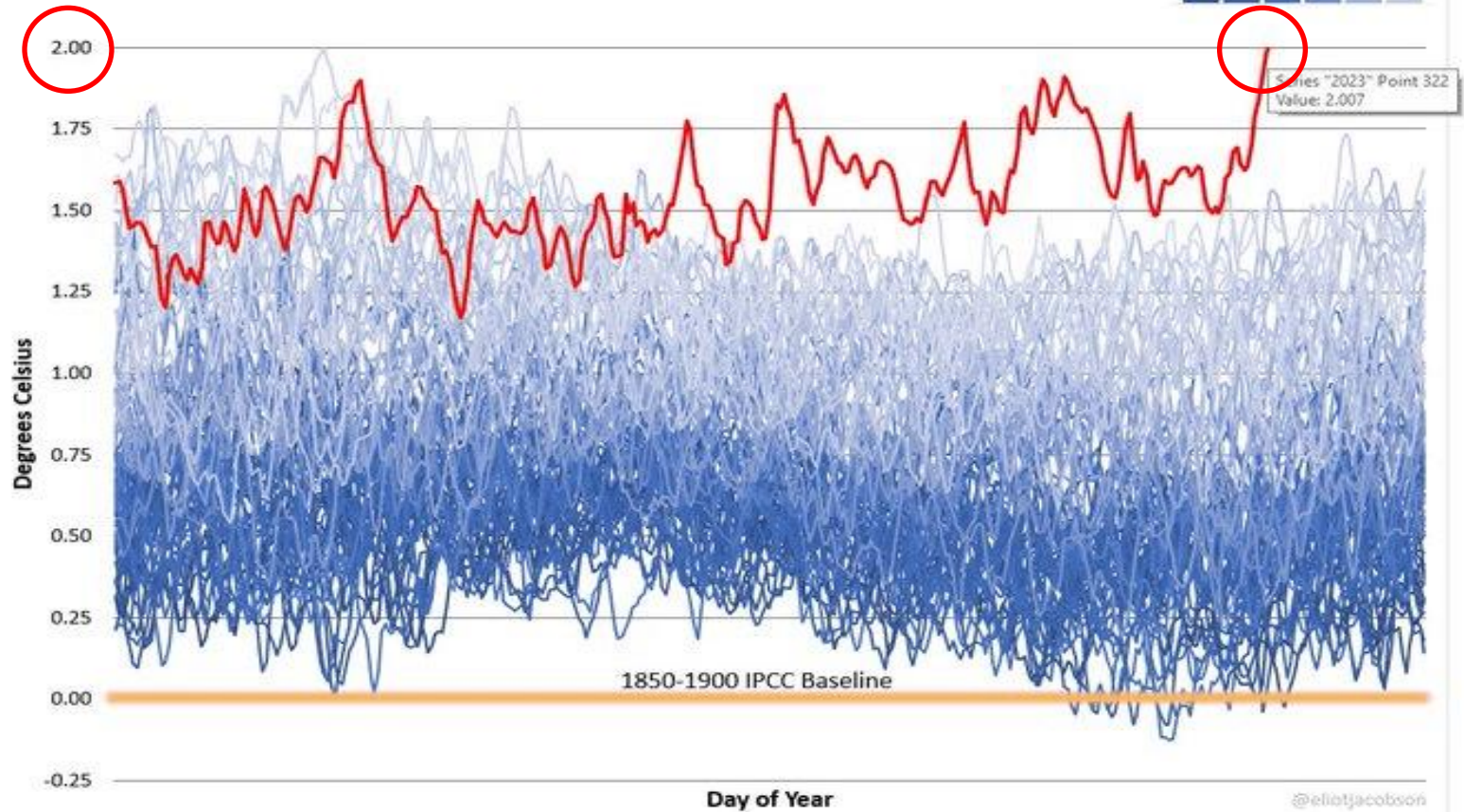
Our Ask Today:

For the Sustainability Committee to support Town Council signing the Carbon cash-back 4 ME resolution that is in your packet. No new spending or program.

Global 2m Surface Temperature Anomalies: 1940 - 2023 vs. 1850-1900 IPCC Baseline

Data: NCEP Climate Forecast System 1979-2023, Copernicus adj. 1940-1978

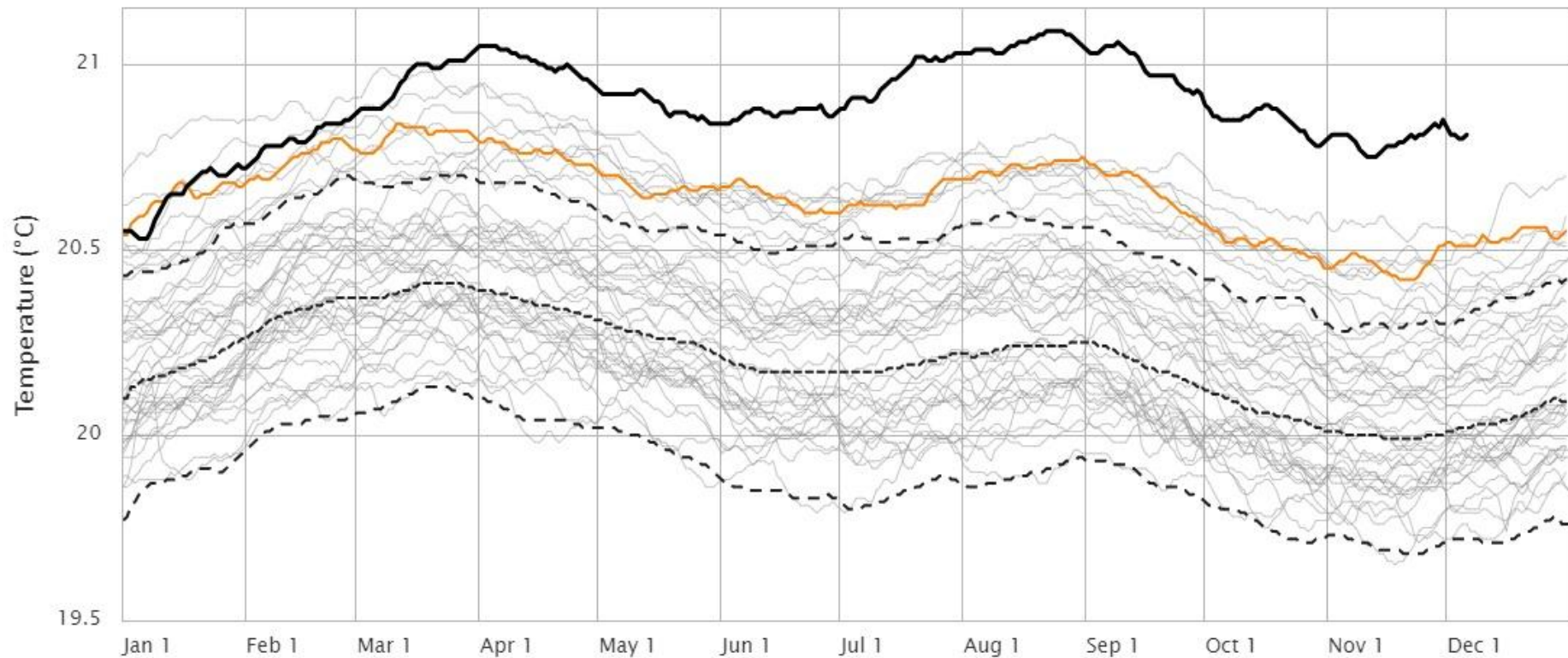
— 2023 through Nov. 18



OCEAN SURFACE TEMPS

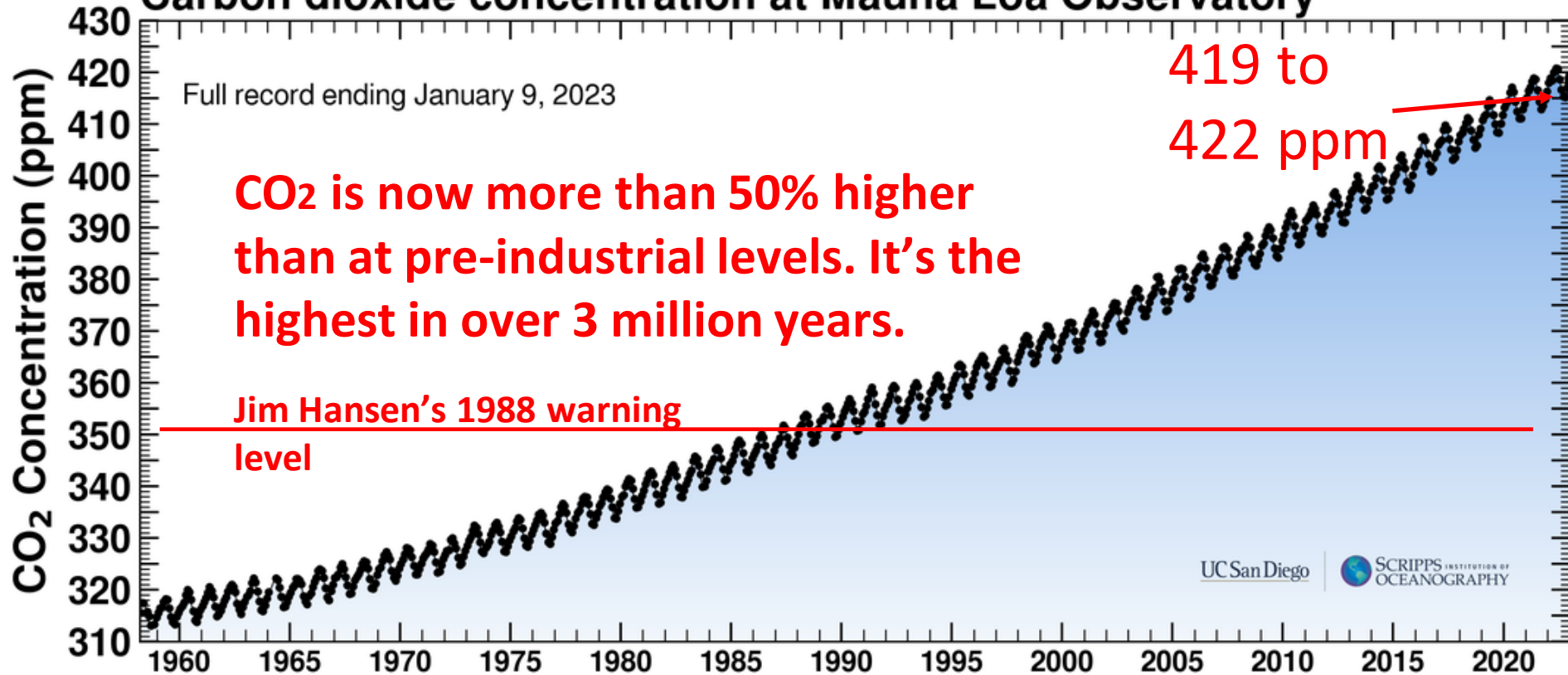
SST World (60S-60N)

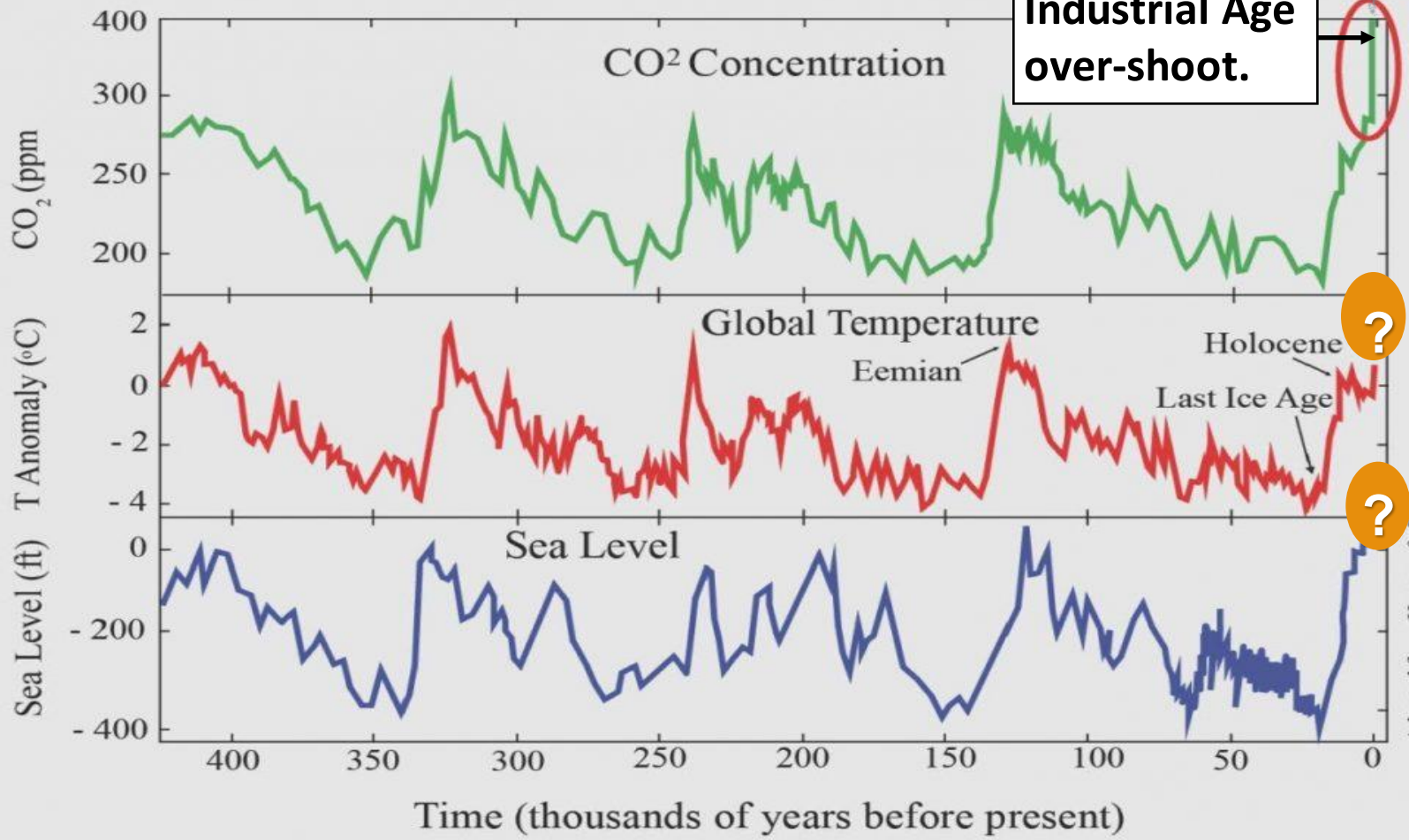
Data Source: NOAA OISST V2.1 | ClimateReanalyzer.org, Climate Change Institute, University of Maine



The Root Cause

Carbon dioxide concentration at Mauna Loa Observatory

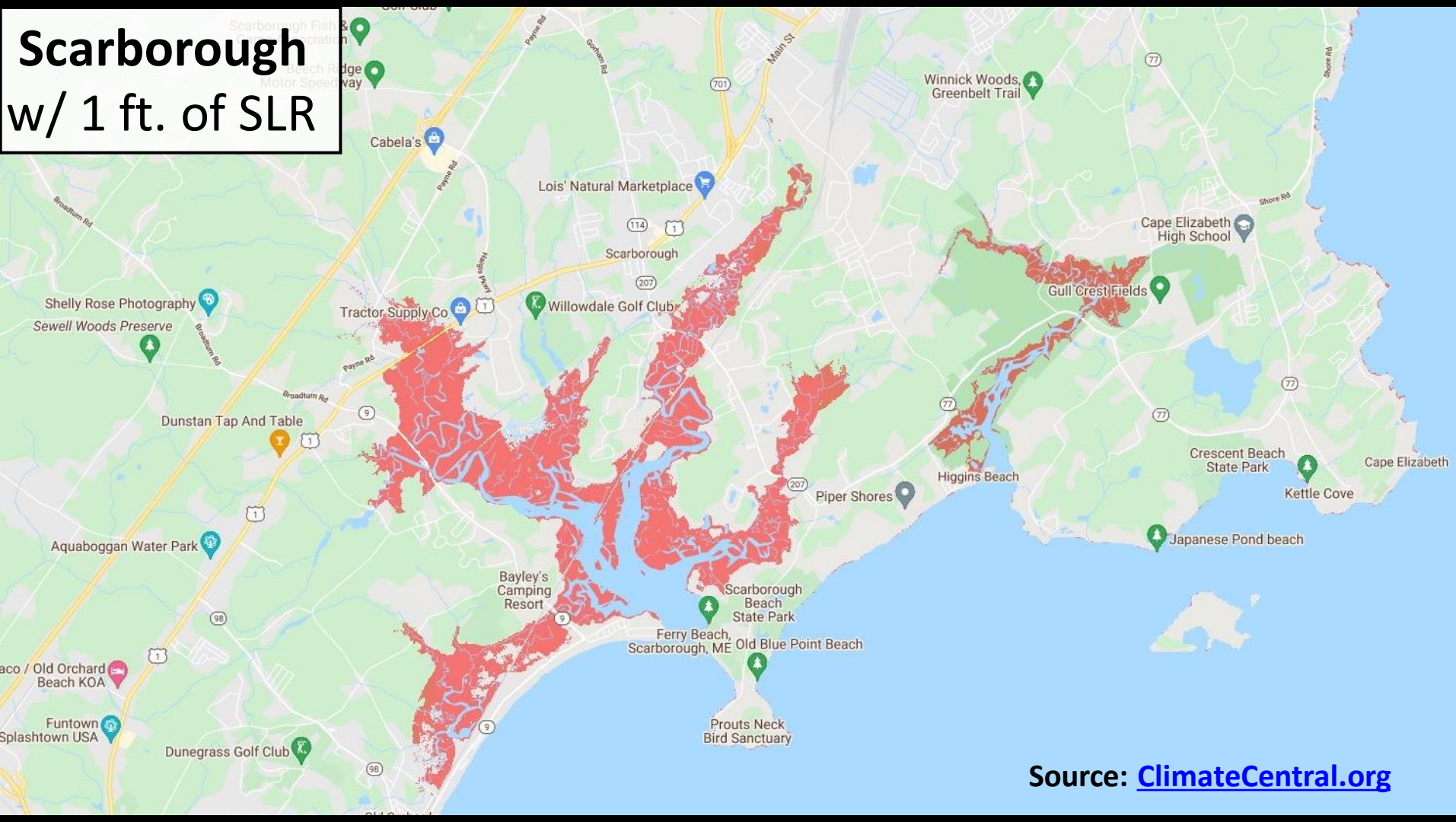




The last time *the present* CO₂ levels were reached, the oceans were up to 20m (>65 ft.) higher than they are today.

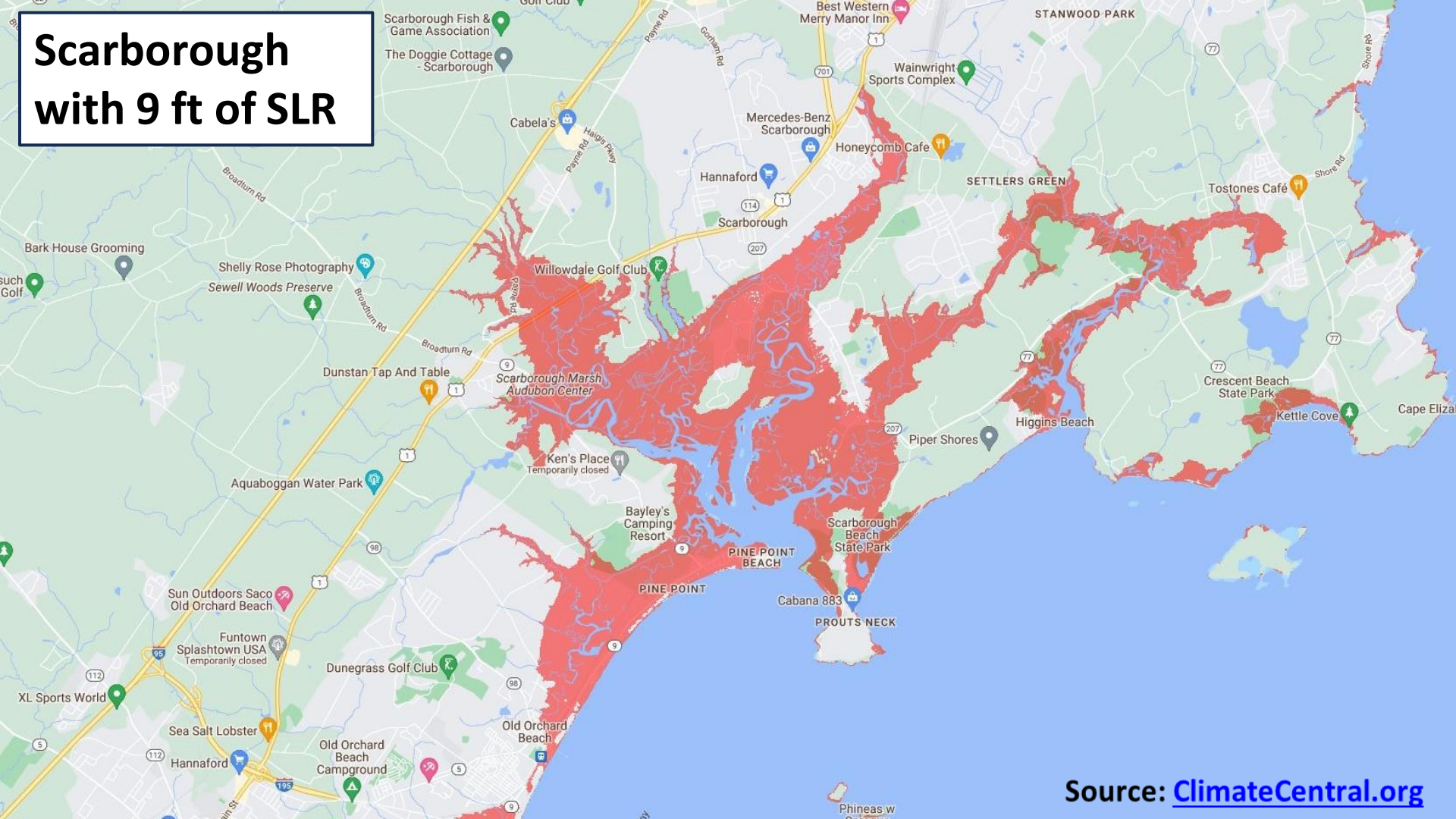
John Englander, Dr, James Hansen, Makiko Sato

Scarborough w/ 1 ft. of SLR



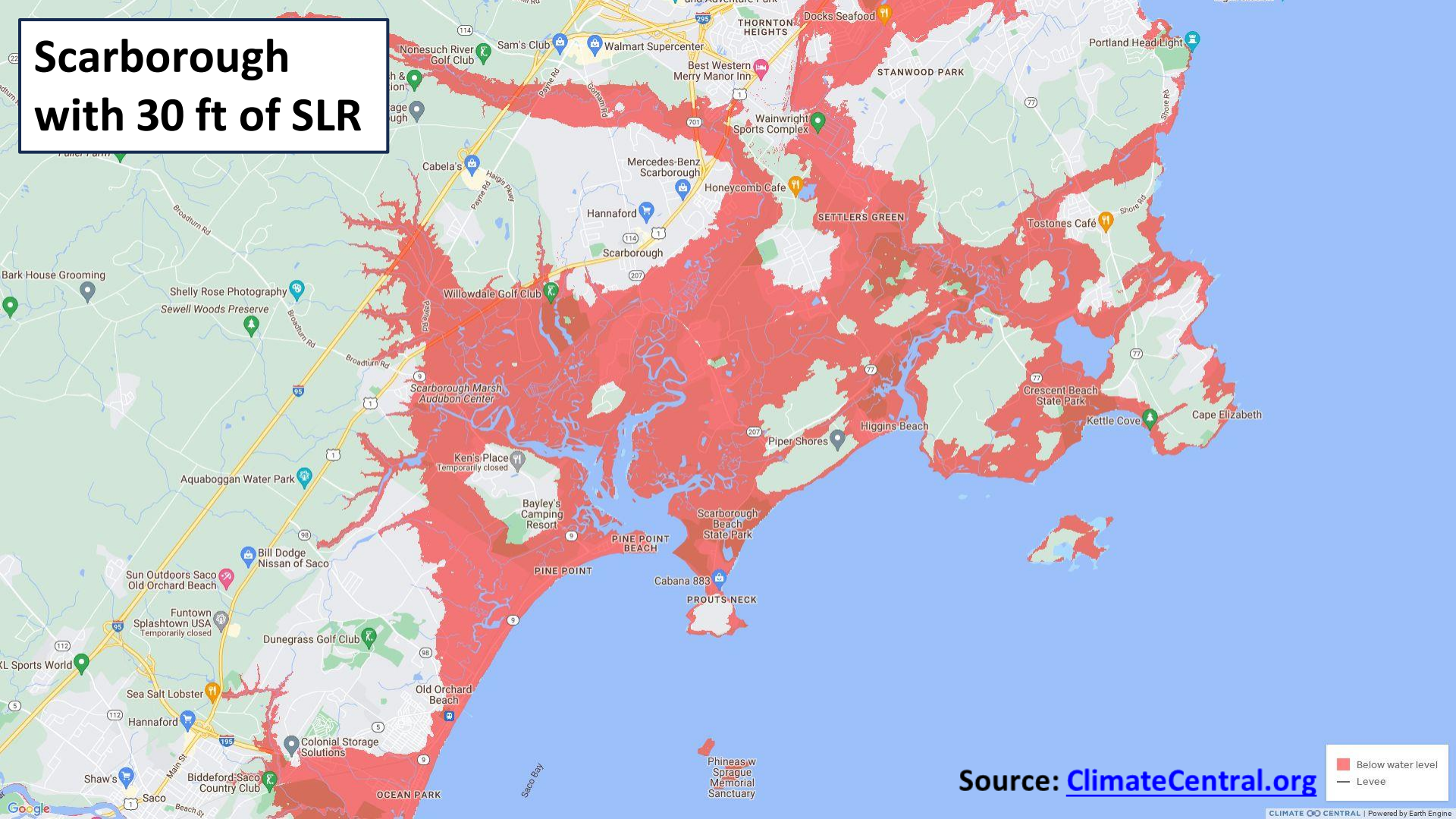
Source: [ClimateCentral.org](https://www.climatecentral.org)

Scarborough with 9 ft of SLR



Source: [ClimateCentral.org](https://www.climatecentral.org)

Scarborough with 30 ft of SLR



Source: [ClimateCentral.org](https://www.climatecentral.org)

Below water level
Levee

Carbon Fee & Cash-Back

“From the standpoint of an economist, the most efficient way to tackle climate change is to tax emissions — to create a disincentive to emit carbon dioxide.”

-- Janet Yellen 2018

3,623 US economists have signed a statement of support:

- All four current and former Chairs of the Federal Reserve
- 27 Nobel laureates; 15 Chairs, Council of Econ. Advisors

Consensus of economists on carbon price

is as strong as

Consensus of climate scientists about climate change



Janet Yellen
Treasury Secretary

Former Chair of the Federal Reserve

Carbon Fee & Cash-Back

- **COP 28:** 200 countries pledge a “transition from fossil fuels”
- MIT Co-Lab & ClimateInteractive.org
 - [EN-Roads Climate Solutions Simulator Tool](#)

The Carbon Cash-Back Solution

Revenue-Neutral – doesn't add to deficit
Carbon Fee – yes, a tax on polluter companies
& Cash Back – send the \$ out to all, equally
with Border Adjustment – a tariff on non-C-
tax countries' products to protect US business,
and encourage global compliance

Sponsors of a Carbon Fee and Cash Back

- Over **40 countries** already tax Carbon
- **Sweden** – highest price, growing economy
- **Canada** – expanded to nation-wide
- **96** Members of the U.S. House, incl **Chellie Pingree of ME**, and **49** U.S. Senators
- **Citizens' Climate Lobby**



See: <https://energyinnovationact.org/>

Who Is Citizens' Climate Lobby?

- A **grassroots volunteer** organization creating the **political will** to address climate
- **>200,000** supporters
- **600 chapters in >90%** of Congr. districts
- **2023: Held 436** Meetings on Capitol Hill
- “A **peaceful army** with respect & admiration...”

Slide created by CCL & David Kunhardt

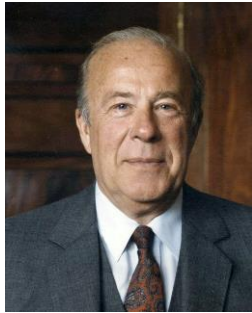


Who Is Citizens' Climate Lobby?

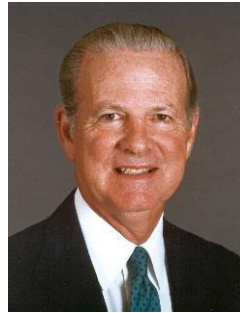
- This year, **15 students** went with our Maine delegation to the training, then to Lobby Day
- Including these ten from Baxter Academy
- They were awed,
- ...and were awesome.



CLIMATE LEADERSHIP COUNCIL



George Shultz



Jim Baker



Who's supporting carbon fee & cashback?

Climate Leadership Council is making the conservative case for implementing carbon fee & cashback

INDIVIDUAL FOUNDING MEMBERS



Ben Bernanke



Steven Chu



Ray Dalio



Martin Feldstein



Ted Halstead



Stephen Hawking



N. Gregory Mankiw



Paul Polman



Klaus Schwab



Tom Stephenson



Lawrence Summers



Ratan Tata



Rob Walton

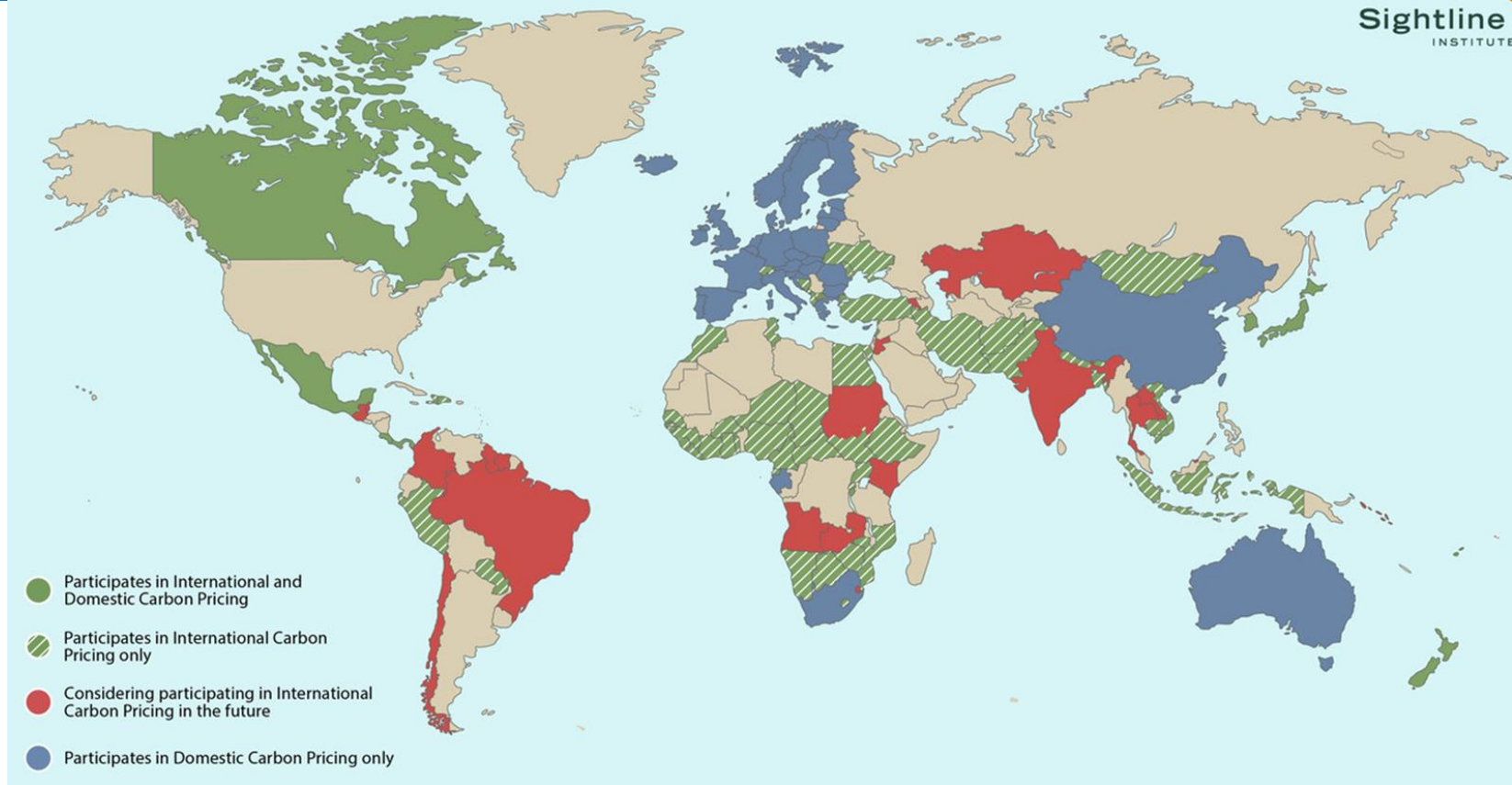


Christine Todd Whitman



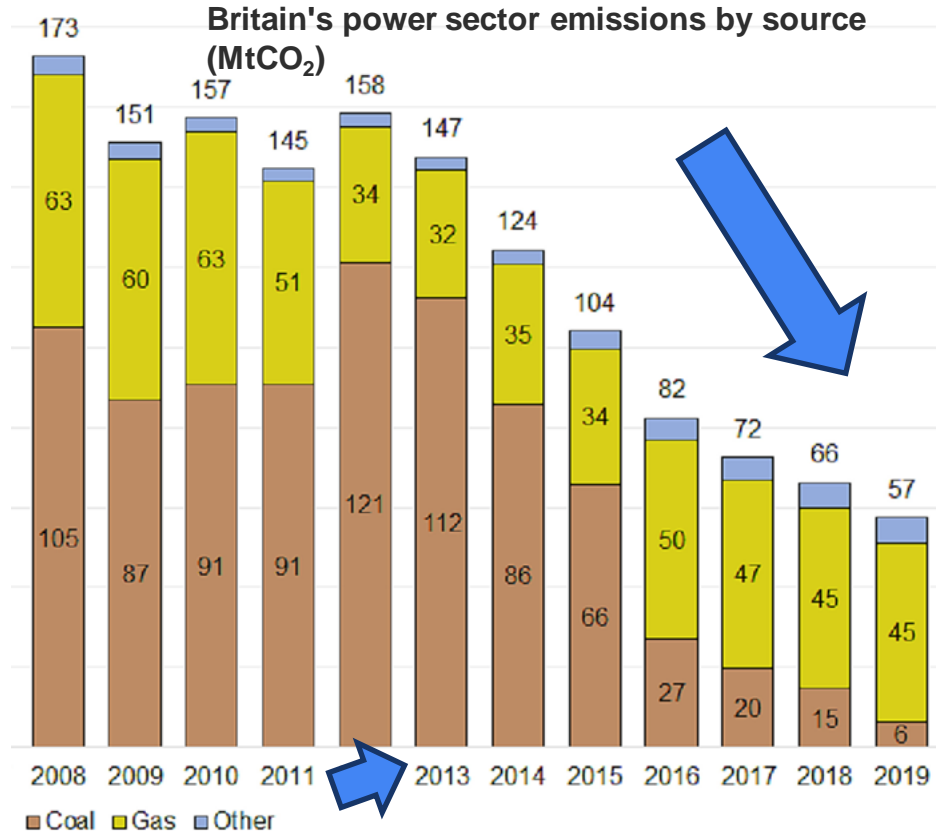
Janet Yellen

Carbon Pricing is the Growing Global Norm

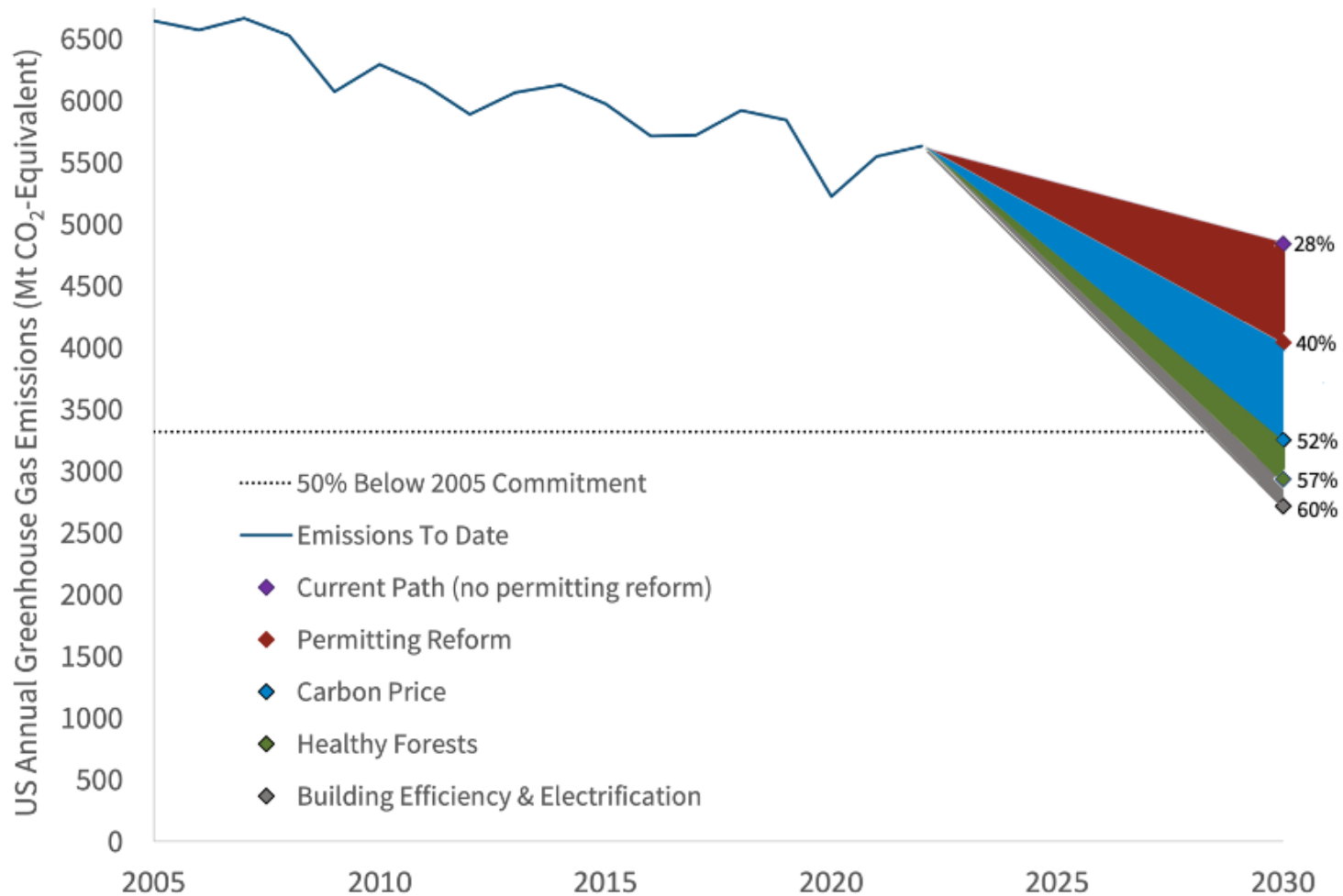


Carbon Pricing has Proven Effectiveness

After Great Britain introduced a carbon tax in 2013 (about \$7.75, rising to \$27 in 2015), *CO₂ emissions fell 61% in six years*, led by a steep decline in coal generation.



US Greenhouse Gas Emissions



How Carbon Fee & Cash Back Works

U.S. Treasury writes
monthly checks



... to every individual
equally

Energy Companies pay rising
fees per ton of carbon from
mines, wells & ports to Treasury

Increased cost of
carbon-intensive
products **stimulates
demand** for lower-
cost products

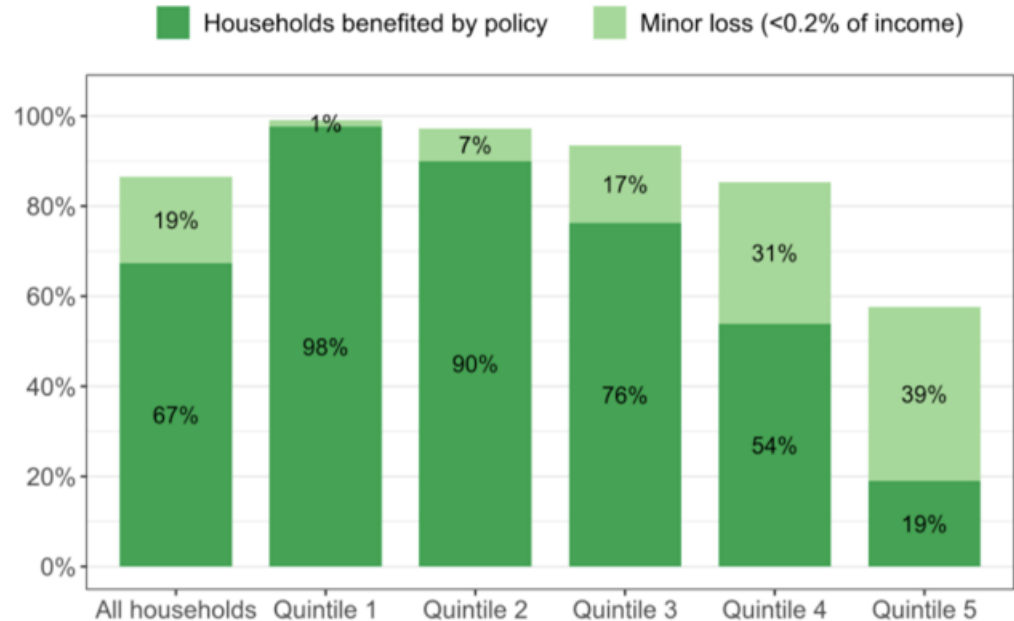


\$15 per Ton, escalating \$10/T/Yr.

**Result: Growing
demand for Low-CO₂
products -> innovation.**

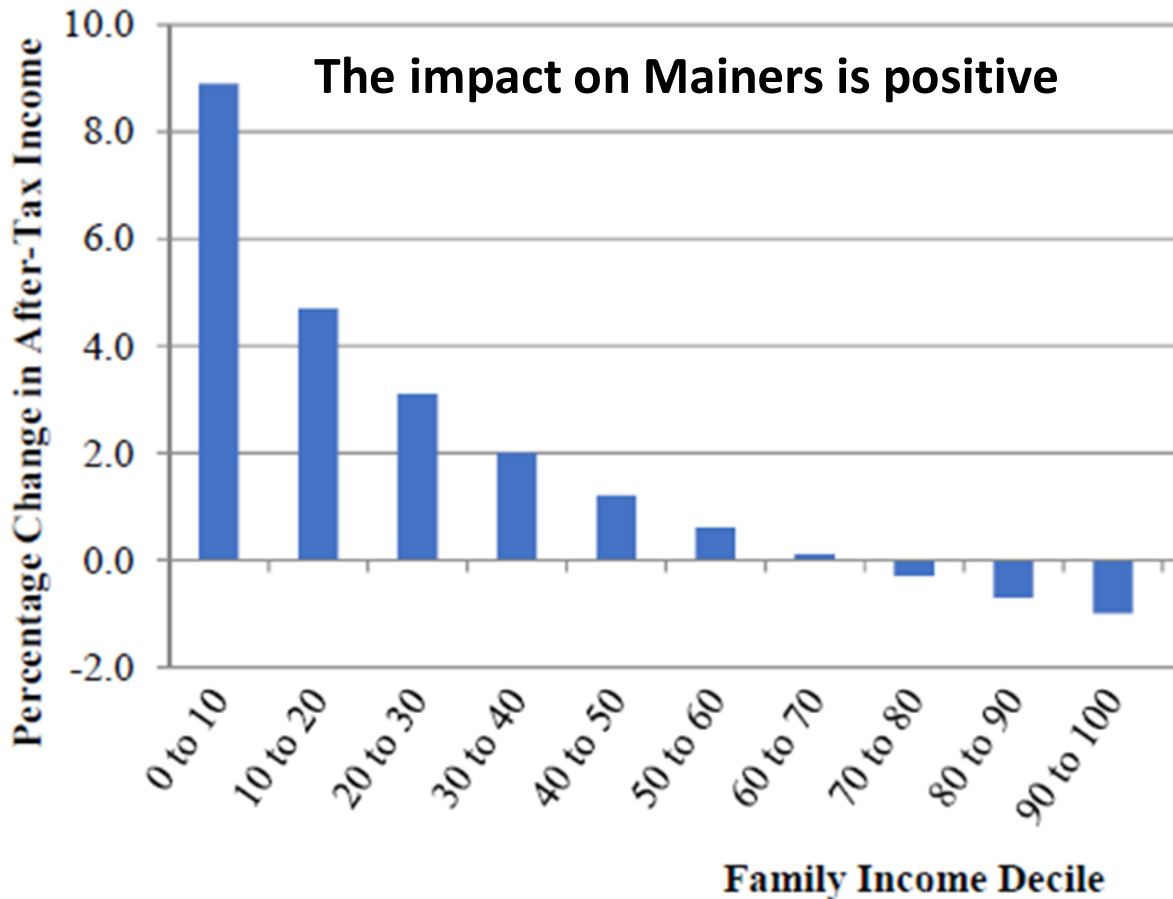
Carbon Cash-Back Promotes Equity

Lower-income households on average have smaller carbon footprints and would be net beneficiaries of a carbon fee and cash-back dividend.

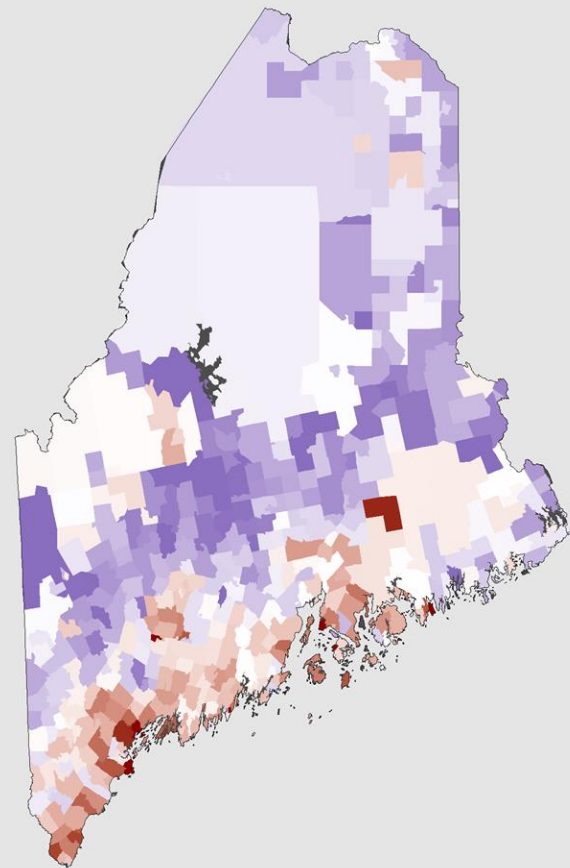
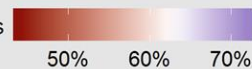


Percent of households whose carbon dividends exceed carbon costs, ranked by consumption quintile. The lighter green denotes a “minor loss,” defined as less than 0.2 percent of income

The impact on Mainers is positive



Percent of households benefited by policy



Source: U.S. Department of the Treasury (2017)

Join Us – Carbon cash-back 4 ME

**28 Cities & Towns have signed on, so far,
including:**

- ✓ Portland
- ✓ South Portland
- ✓ Cape Elizabeth
- ✓ Saco

DRAFT “CARBON CASH-BACK” RESOLUTION FOR THE TOWN of SCARBOROUGH

We, the Town Council of the Town of Scarborough, hereby call upon our State and Federal elected representatives to enact national carbon-pricing legislation like the [Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act, H.R. 5744](#) to protect Maine from environmental risks and costs.

To protect households, we support a [Carbon Tax and Cash-Back](#) approach that charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis. Enacting such a Carbon Cash-Back program decreases long-term fossil-fuel dependence, aids in the economic transition for energy consumers, and keeps local energy dollars [in Maine's economy](#). Carbon taxes are in place in over 40 countries. In the UK, their Carbon tax went into effect in 2013, and the next six years saw a reduction in all fossil fuel extraction, especially coal. A similar policy to ours is returning checks to Canadian citizens this year. It is also projected to have two-thirds or more of Mainers gain more in rebated cash than they might pay in added costs of taxing polluters. Maine citizens would come out ahead, since there is so little coal, oil or gas mining here, yet everyone would get checks.

Carbon Cash-Back has been championed by US economists ([Jan 16, 2019 WSJ](#)) as the most effective and fair way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required for our safety.

We expect our representatives to lead in this critical moment for the health and well-being of our citizens and for the protection of Maine's natural resources upon which we all rely.

The record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to Scarborough’s Congressional Representative and Maine’s two U.S. Senators, and to the President of the United States, informing them of the instructions from their constituents, by the Scarborough Town Council within 30 days of this vote.

Date _____, 2024

Town Clerk _____

RESOLUTION 24-00X

Resolution to support the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act (H.R. 5744)

WHEREAS, Scarborough is a coastal community and highly susceptible to the impacts of sea level rise, storm surge, and other extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, the costs and environmental risks of continued climate inaction pose an increasing threat to Scarborough according to international (IPCC Sixth Assessment Report, 2023), national (USGCRP Fifth National Climate Assessment, 2023), and state (Maine Won't Wait, 2020) experts; and

WHEREAS, a Carbon Fee and Dividend approach has been championed by US economists (*Wall Street Journal*, 1/16/2019) as the most effective and fair way to deliver rapid reductions in harmful carbon emissions at the scale required for our safety; and

WHEREAS, the Carbon Fee and Dividend with Border Carbon Adjustments policy charges fossil fuel producers for their carbon pollution and rebates the money collected to all residents on an equal basis offers strong financial protection to households; and

WHEREAS, enacting a Carbon Fee and Dividend program decreases long-term fossil-fuel dependence, aids in the economic transition for energy consumers, and keeps local energy dollars in Maine's economy; and

WHEREAS, the associated Border Carbon Adjustment mechanism protects US business competitiveness, enables harmonization with other countries' climate policies, and strongly encourages other countries to match our carbon price as we need them to do for our climate safety; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Scarborough Town Council and the Town Manager do hereby call upon our State and Federal elected representatives to enact Carbon Fee and Dividend legislation.

Signed and sealed this **xx** day of **Month**, 2024, on behalf of the Scarborough Town Council and the Town Manager of Scarborough, Maine.

Signed by: _____
/S/Nicholas McGee
Council Chair

Attested by: _____
/S/Yolande P. Justice
Town Clerk

Town of Scarborough

MEMO

To: Sustainability Committee
From: Jami Fitch, Sustainability Manager
Date: January 24, 2024
Re: Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG)

As part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Town of Scarborough has received a \$75,000 formula grant through the Department of Energy's (DOE) [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant](#) (EECBG) program. These funds can be used on a variety of local projects and programs aimed at improving energy efficiency, including energy planning, equipment upgrades, energy audits, renewable energy projects, and more.

It would be helpful to have the Sustainability Committee to provide input on a project to undertake using Scarborough's allocated EECBG funds. The following projects have been previously identified by the Committee and fit within the guidelines of the EECBG program:

Municipal Solar Array

The Town has a 24-acre parcel of land in the industrial zone off Pleasant Hill Road that is a good candidate for a municipal solar array. The array could be used to power municipal buildings and potentially serve as a community solar project. EECBG funds could be used to complete project planning, including site assessment, project sizing and design, identifying the ownership model (e.g., Power Purchase Agreement or municipal ownership), and contracting.

Building Energy Audits

Energy costs make up a large portion Scarborough's budget. According to the DOE, small- and medium-sized state and local government buildings have significant opportunities for energy upgrades that can help save an estimated 20-30% in energy costs. Completing energy audits at municipal facilities will give the Town a better understanding of upgrades and investments needed to improve energy efficiency. This project would dovetail with town-wide building condition audits being proposed by the Community Service Department.

The Committee is also welcome to propose other projects for this funding. The application deadline for EECBG formula grants is 4/30/24.

Goal Statement	Key Actions
<p>Financial Management: Deliver a 2024 Budget, comply with our Financial & Fiscal policy and give more attention to monitoring the financial health of the Town</p>	<p>(PRIORITY ACTION) Pursue a budget that allows for the appropriate amount of investment in our community, improving access and quality of amenities and is mindful of the financial impacts to our residents. The following items will be taken into consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mil rate increase as close to +3% as possible. New mil rate = 15.85 - Gross Budget increase less than +5%. New Gross Budget in Budget Order <\$121.9M - Target taxpayer funded Capital Spending (Overall Debt Service, Net Capital Appropriation and money put into reserve accounts) at 14.4% (\$15.9M) of the overall Town, School & County Gross Budget. <p>Provide a Quarterly Town Council Update/Health Check on Financial Execution at Town Council Meetings</p> <p>Review the Town Financial and Fiscal Policy and assess compliance. Begin to document potential improvements to the budget process and capital planning with a lens to improve our debt rating.</p>
<p>Housing Choice & Homelessness: Study and determine steps to address homelessness in Scarborough, including addressing housing choice for affordable and workforce housing options</p>	<p>(PRIORITY ACTION) Homelessness: Provide public safety the necessary resources to conduct a needs analysis to identify the scope and cause of the challenge in Scarborough and begin to identify strategies and resource needs to address housing and services - with emphasis on leveraging federal, state, regional, outside agencies and foundation grant sources.</p> <p>Establish a baseline and set goals and timing to achieve and maintain a target percentage of affordable and workforce housing (Housing Alliance)</p>
<p>Residential Growth Management: Update our ordinances to better manage the pace and impacts of growth on the community</p>	<p>(PRIORITY ACTION) Review and revise the Growth Management Ordinance (GMO) by June 30, 2023 to enhance the predictability of residential growth in Scarborough and make progress on prioritized elements of the Comprehensive Plan</p> <p>(PRIORITY ACTION) Revise zoning to better align with future growth goals and at a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Update Zoning Ordinance to ensure compliance with LD2003 prior to the law going into effect - Review and make recommendations to update existing Impact Fees and identify new areas for consideration (School, Traffic, Recreation, and new areas - e.g. Environmental)
<p>Strategic Capital & Facilities Planning: Act on municipal and school facility needs to advance the new school and community center</p>	<p>(PRIORITY ACTION) Partner with the Board of Education, School Department and School Building Committee in their pursuit for system-wide facilities needs in 2023</p> <p>(PRIORITY ACTION) Charge an Ad-hoc Committee with advising on Community Center site selection, design, budget estimates/impacts. The committee shall also consider town-wide space needs, including the Library, in their recommendations to leverage economies of scale in the design of the building.</p> <p>Pursue land acquisition for municipal and school purposes</p>

<p>Sustainability, Conservation & Climate Change: Develop a plan to conserve more land in Scarborough and better integrate conservation and sustainability principles into our planning processes</p>	<p>(PRIORITY ACTION) Partner with the Conservation Commission, Parks & Land Conservation Board, & Scarborough Land Trust to define how Scarborough can achieve the "30 x 30" goal with a plan to support it by the end of 2023. The plan may include recommendations in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop a new evaluation system by the Parks & Land Conservation Board to identify and preserve land. - Understands specific actions that can be taken to better manage the Marsh. - Define baseline of what's available + adding wetlands - Evaluate opportunities to incentivize more conservation within subdivisions that has use for public purposes <p>Partner with the Conservation Commission & Sustainability Committee to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Integrate into the Town's planning process, and 2) Provide 2-3 recommendations that identify programs, resource needs and quick wins that lead to a more sustainable Scarborough by June 30th 2023
<p>Traffic & Transportation: Support transportation initiatives that will improve traffic flow in Scarborough</p>	<p>Partner with the Transportation Committee with execution of the Town-Wide Transportation Study, which shall include assess and identify additional access points into school/municipal campus or reconfiguration to improve traffic flow.</p> <p>Continue to support the Gorham Connector to reduce traffic impacts in West & North Scarborough</p>
<p>Public Engagement & Communications: Enhance our engagement with the public to facilitate decision making and build trust in our government</p>	<p>Maintain current levels of engagement including continuing with Councilor Corner and Council Corner Live.</p> <p>Increase Council outreach efforts by conducting one new engagement effort in 2023 (e.g. "door knocking", BBQ)</p> <p>Fund a Town-wide survey in the 2024 budget to continue to monitor resident satisfaction</p>