

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

To: All Media

From: Brattleboro Common Sense

Date: December 28th, 2018

Re: Mandatory Energy Conservation

Contact: Dakota DesRochers, Coordinator of Common Sense Conservation

[dakotadesrochers37@gmail.com](mailto:dakotadesrochers37@gmail.com) (413) 386 1873

**Brattleboro, VT** - Brattleboro Common Sense is seeking public support for a Mandatory Energy Conservation advisory to be voted on by the Representative Town Meeting agenda this March. The proposal is to implement common sense conservation practices, such as turning down thermostats and covering doors and windows in all town buildings. The article also stresses the urgency of hiring a new Energy Coordinator to implement these changes. Finally, the article suggests the Selectboard consider implementing Mandatory Energy Conservation for all residents and businesses in Brattleboro.

We are facing a climate emergency. Localities and individuals must act fast to reduce energy usage. In the past year, carbon emissions in the US have surged 2.5% and the reason for this surge in emissions appears to have been higher energy use to heat and cool homes this year. This increase could have been easily avoided with simple energy conservation practices as we are proposing. Attached is the article text.

1. It is hereby resolved that Representative Town Meeting shall advise the Selectboard that the Selectboard shall not commission additional studies on fossil fuel consumption, carbon footprints or efficiency of insulation, heating or air conditioning systems until the town implements common sense practices to reduce fuel consumption in town buildings, including practices such as:
  - a. Lowering the thermostat setting during the winter to a significant degree, and wearing long-johns, sweaters and other warm clothing.
  - b. Mounting and sealing of doors, windows, and storm windows
  - c. Raising of thermostat in the summer or use of electric fans instead of air conditioning, and wearing cool clothing- avoiding layered suits and blazers.
  - d. Other common sense measures per the discretion of the energy coordinator.
2. It is hereby resolved that Representative Town Meeting shall advise the Selectboard that it is of utmost importance to replace the Energy Coordinator as soon as possible.
3. It is hereby resolved that Representative Town Meeting shall advise the Selectboard that the Selectboard shall enlist the Energy Coordinator in implementing sections 1a through 1d of this ordinance and shall be responsible for submitting a report to the town manager indicating the implementation of these practices and recommending further energy studies if any might be in order.
4. It is hereby resolved that Representative Town Meeting shall advise the Selectboard to adopt an ordinance requiring conservation measures to be taken by businesses and residents of the Town consistent with the above stated resolutions.