

Resolution Towards Becoming a Carbon Neutral District

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools is committed to providing safe and healthy teaching and learning environments; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and supporting and promoting sustainable practices within their school buildings and school grounds that will lead to healthier school environments; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville's Climate Forward Plan, first introduced in 2018, established a goal of carbon neutrality by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville has made great progress in advancing its Climate Forward Plan, including but not limited to establishing net-zero and resilient new building standards, supporting a rapid transition to electric vehicles by purchasing and installing new EV charging stations and permitting additional new EV charging stations across the city, expanding bicycle infrastructure, installing Blue Bike stations, and piloting staff incentives for Blue Bikes as an alternative mode of transportation; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville set a SomerVision2040 goal of 80% decrease in carbon emissions from 2014 levels with related indicators including the percent of buildings' energy use coming from sustainable sources and the share of buildings with solar panels; and

WHEREAS, the new Somerville High School building is a LEED-4 certified building and includes several energy-efficient features such as windows that harvest daylight, a solar panel array that operates year-round, a wind turbine, a green roof that filters rainwater, efficient mechanical systems, LED lighting with smart sensor controls that are integrated within the building systems, bike storage access to encourage alternative modes of transportation, and preferred parking/easy access to a charging station for electric and battery-powered vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somerville also recently installed a solar array panel at the East Somerville Community School that operates year-round; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville Public Schools works with a number of other city departments to ensure that all efforts are made to reduce carbon emissions in and around our schools through sustainable efforts, "no idling" signage, energy-efficient equipment purchases and building improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Somerville School Committee has also resolved to work in partnership with the city to facilitate parking access for staff around school buildings and to reduce parking demand by incentivizing alternate modes of transportation;

THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, that the Somerville School Committee commits to work in partnership with the city towards becoming a carbon neutral district.

Voted: Unanimously

Date: December 19, 2022

By: Somerville School Committee