



*Town of Ashland, Massachusetts  
Office of the Town Clerk  
101 Main Street, 01721-1191  
Phone# 508-881-0100 ext. 7127; fax 508-881-0145*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Townspeople of Ashland, MA  
FROM: Cynthia T. Livingstone, Ashland Town Clerk  
DATE: October 23, 2023  
RE: Attorney General Notice of May 3, 2023 Annual Town Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the following are bylaw enacted by Town Meeting and approved by the State Attorney General on October 20, 2023 notice of which was received by me via email and time stamped into the office of the Town Clerk on October 23, 2023. The amendments voted are now posted pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 40, §32. Attached please find a copy of the bylaw and the Attorney General's decision for your review.

**General Articles**

**Article 14: Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by the Town of Ashland  
That the Town will amend the general bylaw as presented in Article 14**

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

Cynthia T. Livingstone  
Ashland Town Clerk

Posted at:

Precinct 1 – Ashland Town Hall, 101 Main Street, Ashland, MA

Precinct 2 - Ashland Fish & Game, 3 Ponderosa Road, Ashland, MA

Precinct 3 – Ashland Convenience Store/Pizza Palace, 72 Union Street, Ashland, MA.

Precinct 4 – Ashland Cable Access Corp. (WACA TV), 200 Butterfield Drive, Ashland, MA

Precinct 5 – Shaw’s Supermarket, 307 Pond Street, Ashland, MA

Precinct 6 – Ashland Community Center, 162 West Union St., Ashland

Constable Signature: \_\_\_\_\_



(Sign Name)

Constable's Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

BARRY SIMS

(Print Name)

Date of posting by Constable: \_\_\_\_\_

10/24/2023

Signature of Town Clerk: \_\_\_\_\_



Town Clerk Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Cynthia Livingstone



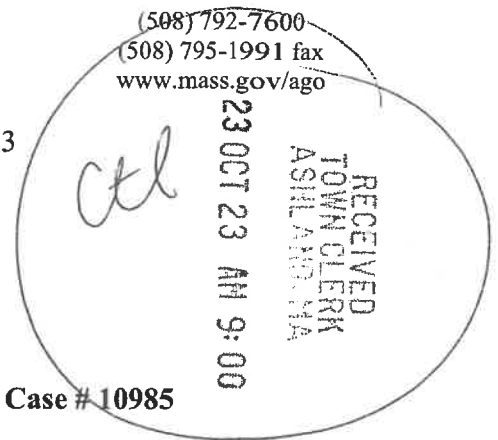
THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

CENTRAL MASSACHUSETTS DIVISION  
10 MECHANIC STREET, SUITE 301  
WORCESTER, MA 01608

ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 20, 2023

Cynthia T. Livingstone, Town Clerk  
Town of Ashland  
101 Main Street  
Ashland, MA 01950



Re: Ashland Annual Town Meeting of May 3, 2023 -- Case #10985  
Warrant Articles # 10 and 14 (General)

Dear Ms. Livingstone:

Article 14 – We approve Article 14 from the Ashland Annual Town Meeting of May 3, 2023.<sup>1</sup>

**Note:** Pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 32, neither general nor zoning by-laws take effect unless the Town has first satisfied the posting/publishing requirements of that statute. Once this statutory duty is fulfilled, (1) general by-laws and amendments take effect on the date these posting and publishing requirements are satisfied unless a later effective date is prescribed in the by-law, and (2) zoning by-laws and amendments are deemed to have taken effect from the date they were approved by the Town Meeting, unless a later effective date is prescribed in the by-law.

Very truly yours,

ANDREA JOY CAMPBELL  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

*Margaret J. Hurley*

by: Margaret J. Hurley, Assistant Attorney General  
Chief, Central Massachusetts Division  
Director, Municipal Law Unit  
Ten Mechanic Street, Suite 301  
Worcester, MA 01608  
(508) 792-7600 x 4402

cc: Town Counsel Lisa L. Mead

<sup>1</sup> In a decision issued August 21, 2023, we approved Article 10 and by agreement with Town Counsel as authorized by G.L. c. 40, § 32, we extended the deadline for our review of Article 14 for 60-days until October 20, 2023.



TOWN OF ASHLAND  
TOWN MEETING CERTIFIED VOTE  
Tuesday, May 3, 2023  
Vote on Article 14

**ARTICLE 14: Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by the Town of Ashland**

**Sponsor: Sustainability Committee/Town Manager**

Chapter 98, Building Construction and Town Power Sources

Article IV Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions by the Town of Ashland, Inclusive of the Ashland Public Schools

**§98-10 Findings and Purpose.**

Greenhouse gas emissions exceeding the capacity of the environment to absorb them leads to accelerated climate change. Accelerated climate change will lead to challenges that will be difficult for many humans to survive. Alternatives to emitting greenhouse gases must be implemented to mitigate this accelerated climate change.

**§98-11 Definitions**

Greenhouse gas emissions – generation or leakage of gases that trap heat in the Earth’s atmosphere including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and fluorinated gases. Though water vapor is a greenhouse gas, it is not generally driven directly by human behavior and is not included in this definition of greenhouse gas emissions.

100% renewable electricity – Electricity generated from renewable resources as defined in the statutes, regulations and guidelines administered by Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Renewable Energy Division.

**§98-12 Vehicles and Equipment**

The Town of Ashland will consider buying or leasing vehicles and equipment that have zero greenhouse gas emissions by comparing total lifecycle costs where a zero greenhouse gas emission option is available. Though this section does not require the purchase of zero greenhouse gas emission vehicles and equipment at this time, the transition to zero greenhouse gas emission vehicles and equipment must begin in order to meet the commitment to Net Zero in 2040.

**§98-13 Buildings**

The Town of Ashland shall only implement zero greenhouse gas emission technologies in new buildings and improvements or retrofits of existing buildings. Examples of building functions using greenhouse gas emitting technologies include space and water heating, cooking, and backup power. Heat pumps and battery storage are examples of zero greenhouse gas emission technologies that can be used in these building functions. Natural gas plumbing must not be added to new buildings or as part of a retrofit to a building.

**§98-14 Electricity Supply**

The Town of Ashland shall only purchase electricity that is from 100% renewable sources. Contracts to purchase electricity that does not meet the 100% renewable requirement, existing at the time of adoption, will continue, but will not be extended.

**§98-15 Exemptions**

Buildings may have equipment repaired and replaced that is functionally equivalent to existing equipment. Improvements and retrofits to existing building equipment are not exempt from the requirement to implement zero greenhouse gas emission technologies.

Buildings may use greenhouse gas emitting technologies for safety purposes if specifically approved by the appropriate building authority.

**§98-16 Effective Date**

This bylaw shall take effect in the fiscal year after the year when the bylaw is approved by the Town of Ashland or July 1, 2024, whichever is later.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:** *The Finance Committee recommends the Town amend the general bylaw as presented in Article 14 with the understanding that future costs are unknown and may affect future budgets negatively.*

Speaker: Ashwin Ratanchandani

**MOTION MADE: That the Town will amend the general bylaw as presented in Article 14.**

The motion was seconded.

A simple majority is required.

**VOTE ON ARTICLE 14: Article 14 passed by a majority**

A True Copy Attest:

  
Cynthia T. Livingstone, Ashland Town Clerk