



**League of Women Voters of Massachusetts Climate Emergency Action Plan**  
**Approved by the Board on July 26, 2019**

On June 8th, League of Women Voters of Massachusetts members (LWVMA) attending the 2019 LWVMA Convention unanimously passed a [Climate Emergency Resolution](#).

In his keynote speech at the same Convention, Bill McKibben made it clear that global societies have an urgent “action deficit” in terms of the response to date on the climate crisis. He also pointed out that the League has a unique and special role to play as a highly-regarded and respected organization with a 100-year history of championing policies for the public good and strengthening our democracy.

The principles and actions outlined below are meant to establish a framework for decisions and actions related to addressing the climate change emergency and are intended to make the Climate Emergency Resolution meaningful and significant.

**Guiding principle**

All actions taken and written materials produced by the LWVMA and local Leagues that relate to climate change will be based solely on current climate science.

**Goals**

1. Develop an action/mobilization plan for LWVMA to take a leading role in declaring a climate emergency and in developing actions at the local and state level to maintain a sustainable environment.
  - a. All actions will be based on science and reflect the speed, scale, and scope required to avoid uncontrollable climate chaos.
  - b. All actions will be predicated on principles of environmental justice<sup>1</sup>.
  - c. As actors in this global climate emergency, we will collaborate with regional groups on issues such as transportation and renewable energy, and in support of federal climate legislation that will have a significant impact on our actions in Massachusetts.
2. Develop a communications plan to increase dialogue with the public and our legislators and share information and strategies among MA Leagues and state Leagues.

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<sup>1</sup> See "[Racism is about policy as much as words](#)" Rep. Lindsay Sabadosa, *Hampshire Gazette*, July 19, '19. The Northampton league is fighting the proposed Springfield plant and supporting two MA bills that would stop construction of biomass plants, and require all industrial construction plans to consider the impact on environmental justice. This represents a good example of a League-generated action, working closely with legislators.

## Action Plan

1. Issue a press release regarding the adoption of the Climate Emergency Resolution and provide an informational statement about the League's support for the [Youth Climate Strike, September 20, 2019](#).
2. Support and promote the **Youth Climate Strike** (in compliance with the NGO engagement principles outlined [here](#)) through outreach to the League member network, local schools and the public.<sup>2</sup>
3. Support local Leagues' efforts to encourage local governments and community groups to adopt "climate emergency" language, recognize the climate emergency, and take relevant action in their communities.
4. Enlist members from all local Leagues to support the Climate Emergency Action Plan by providing suggested local, state and national level actions and help generating ideas for action. Suggested actions will be channeled through the LWVMA Environmental Action and Advocacy Committee (EAAC), with approval by the Board.
5. Encourage Leagues to include questions related to climate change for candidates at all levels of government in voter guides and candidate events.
6. Adopt and implement Sustainable Practices Guidelines and encourage all local Leagues in MA to do the same. This policy can be a model for other Leagues and community organizations to adopt.
7. Raise awareness and visibility of the climate change issue by establishing a communication plan that would consider the best way to communicate with members and the public. These channels will allow the Environmental Action and Advocacy Committee to share climate news, encourage participation, and provide information on local and state actions in which League members can participate.

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<sup>2</sup> Members of the EAAC are in contact with youth leaders regarding plans for the Strike on 9/20 and follow-up week of action. This initial contact was arranged by Bill McKibben.