

Black Lives Matter Statement, Select Board's Climate Action Committee

(voted 8/24/2020)

The Brookline Select Board's Climate Action Committee stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. We must look to the history of racism and exclusivity within Brookline, the killing of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and countless others to help us recognize and understand how racism has increased the vulnerability of Black Lives, to not only police brutality, but also to the threats of climate change.

Too many Black Lives in Brookline bear the burden of increased vulnerability to environmental harms, whether through substandard housing, lack of access to resources or increased health impacts from pollution. These disproportionate impacts must be mitigated.

It is our responsibility to speak and act to end racism and repair the harm it has done to individual lives, to communities, the country, and to the planet. We cannot create a sustainable world without justice, social equality, economic opportunity, and a healthy environment.

There is no climate justice without racial justice.