

My name is Leslie Bliss and I am speaking on behalf of Mothers Out Front, a growing grassroots movement addressing the climate crisis.

MOF was founded almost exactly two years ago, right here in Cambridge, upon the following premises:

- * Climate change poses a real and grave threat to our children's future
- * We must transition swiftly and completely off fossil fuels to clean energy
- * The technology and expertise exist
- * What's missing is the political will
- * Social movements historically have brought about massive shifts in societal thinking, and mothers bring a unique and powerful voice
- * We are building a grassroots movement in MA, and have just expanded to NY State. We will continue to expand nationwide
- * We are mothers, grandmothers, and others with a deeply personal vested interest in the future and we are emerging as a constituency behind the necessity to switch globally to clean electricity -- starting in our own homes and in our community

*Starting two years ago mothers began meeting in local homes, churches, and schools to share their concerns and ideas and to mobilize to address the climate crisis

* We have hosted 36 of these gatherings, or house parties, here in Cambridge, have engaged more than 300 people, and have succeeded in helping 100 Cambridge folks/families switch their homes to clean electricity.

* I have switched my home to clean electricity and I urge you (City Council) to do the same for our municipal buildings

I leave you with this thought from last week's news.

According to CNN, the world is closer to doomsday.

That's the message from the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, which moved its iconic Doomsday Clock up two minutes recently. The clock now stands at three minutes to midnight, the "latest" it's been since 1984,

when the Cold War between the U.S. and Soviet Union was a major issue.

Unchecked climate change was one of the two reasons listed as posing "extraordinary and undeniable threats to the continued existence of humanity. And world leaders have failed to act with the speed or on the scale required to protect citizens from potential catastrophe," according to Kennette Benedict, executive director of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists.

"These failures of leadership endanger every person on Earth."

I urge you to be the leaders we need to assure us of a clean energy future by moving our city to clean electricity.