

SUSTAINABLE HANOVER COMMITTEE

What a year it's been for Sustainable Hanover as our members work to stay abreast of the on-going changes in energy technology and recycling markets, as well as the associated regulations and incentives. In February, Ms. April Salas brought her past and current expertise in the field of energy as a new member of SHC. We're especially appreciative of new members as founding member and past chairman Larry Litten stepped down this year.

Larry has donated thousands of hours over the years to SHC and recycling efforts; indeed, his long-term efforts were a major contributor to Sustainable Hanover becoming an official Town Committee. We're extremely grateful for years of his quiet guidance and perseverance. While Larry's no longer officially on SHC, he continues to contribute through his efforts on Sustaining Landscape education. See Section 3 below for a report on his work.

1. Focus on Energy

Last year's unanimous vote by Hanover residents to become a "Ready for 100 Action" community, brought phenomenal challenge and wonderful opportunity. In July, Town officials, accompanied by Dartmouth staff and SHC members, attended the "2nd Annual North American Dialogue on 100% Renewable Cities" held in Golden, CO, at the National Renewable Energy Lab; we were the only Town-Gown team in attendance.

Responding to the challenge of receiving all our electricity from renewable sources by 2030 and the longer-range goal of fueling our vehicles and heating by clean energy in 2050, SHC formed a new Energy Sub-Committee. Included in this group are Town staff, a Dartmouth representative, and members of the *Ready for 100 movement*. We welcomed numerous new volunteers with interest and experience in energy-related fields.

The Energy group will focus on the areas of

- Energy Efficiency –Education, Outreach and Facilitation
- Data Collection and Analysis to benchmark and measure progress
- Community Solar
- Energy Planning and purchase option from renewable sources

Their guiding principles and key strategies are to reduce consumption from all fuel sources, lessen dependence on fossil fuels, and expand the use of renewable energy. Residents can view their Vision Statement on the Town website at <https://www.hanovernh.org/sustainable-hanover-committee>

We recognize that Hanover's 100% goals can only be achieved through support and participation from all segments of our community. Therefore, in addition to regular communication with Dartmouth College, we have hosted roundtables with leading businesses and organizations such as Kendal, the Hanover Coop, SAU #70, Hypertherm, and CRREL. We're working with the Chamber of Commerce and Liberty Utilities to encourage cost-saving, energy efficiency improvements. Additionally, SHC is supporting the effort of local volunteers who have created Neighborhood Action Groups to enable and coordinate grass roots efforts on energy projects.



2017 marks the 4th year that Hanover has been recognized as an EPA Green Power Community. The town now hosts 105 rooftop and ground mounted solar installations totaling 894 kW production capacity. This includes residential, College and Town arrays. We look forward to an increase in solar power with new arrays planned on Municipal property and the Dartmouth campus.

Our Community Solar planning group is conducting a feasibility study of 4 sites within Hanover, taking into consideration topography, utility infrastructure, development costs, etc. The Town has identified at least 2 possible sites that could accommodate over 1000 kW of ground mounted solar.



More good news-- we continued to see a small reduction in total kilowatt hours used town-wide. The total reduction from 2013 to 2017 is 7.1 percent. Seemingly small, this is significant when one considers the ever-increasing use of technology, including electric vehicles, a growing population and larger homes. Thank you to the residents and businesses for consuming less power through conservation and efficiency.

2. Focus on Reduction and Recycling

The Sustainable Hanover Recycling Sub-committee focused on adding a Spring yard sale to our repertoire. The first “Hanover Spring Cleans” yard sale took place at over 30 homes throughout town. It was well attended and allowed us to explore on-line technology with a map showing all locations and listing goods for sale, many with photos.

The 8th annual Fall yard sale, held in the Dewey Field parking lot and sponsored by the Town and Dartmouth College, was again a huge success with 130 spots rented out and a waiting list of people who hoping to sell their useable items rather than send them to the landfill. The sale generated \$1,407 in profits as well.

With high participation rates for both events, we look forward to hosting the Spring and Fall sales again in 2018.

The committee continues to explore ways to make recycling more effective. Overseas markets are drying up for contaminated loads, so education about and compliance with ‘what can be recycled’ needs to improve. Zero sort (single stream) does not mean any and all items can be tossed in the bin.

Composting is another effort we are working to encourage and it’s available to all now that Hanover has a private contractor that provides pick-up service for residential compost. Everyone who uses the pick-up service or composts at home finds that their trash load is significantly reduced and this, in turn, extends the life of the local landfill.

We are also seeking alternative ways to dispose of plastic plant pots (other than the trash) as our previous program ended when we couldn’t find an appropriate processor.

Are you interested in these topics? Would you like to contribute? Please consider joining us.

3. Focus on Sustaining Landscape

The Sustaining Landscapes sub-committee has raised sufficient funds to construct the first of its planned *Sustaining Works Around Town* (SWAT) sites—the School Street Park--where means of addressing environmental issues associated with landscape practices will be demonstrated. Conversations have been held with and letters sent to many businesses, institutions, and residents.

Starting with a very generous donation from the Jack and Dorothy Byrne Foundation, 37 other donors have contributed to the funding of the park. The Mascoma Bank Foundation, Mascoma Bank and the Hanover Improvement Society made substantial donations. Many donors, and others, have expressed an interest in participating in the SWAT teams that will help build and maintain the park.

Additional volunteers are welcome and announcements of opportunities to work in the park will be made via the Hanover listserv as they occur. The Department of Public Works will include the initial site work for School Street Park in their summer/fall schedule. The sub-committee also welcomes suggestions for additional SWAT sites.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolanda Baumgartner, Co-chair
Marjorie Rogalski, Co-chair



School Street Park - BEFORE



School Street Park – Conceptual Design

Sustainable Hanover Committee Active Members: Yolanda Baumgartner (Co-Chair), Stowe Beam, Mary Ann Cadwallader, Mary Donin, Susan Edwards, Julia Griffin (Town Manager), Rob Houseman (Director, Planning and Zoning), Chris Kennedy, Peter Kulbacki (Director, Public Works), David McManus, Jenna Musco, Marjorie Rogalski (Co-Chair), April Salas.

Waste Reduction Sub-Committee: Mary Donin, Susan Edwards (Chair) Carolyn Frye, Joyce Noll, Teresa Oden.

Sustaining Landscape Working Group: MaryAnn Cadwallader, Kelly Dent, William Desch, Mary Donin, Susan Edwards, Chris Kennedy, Larry Litten (Chair), Lyn Swett Miller, Judith Reeves, Susan Salter Reynolds.

Energy Sub-Committee: Yolanda Baumgartner (chair), Stowe Beam, Judith Colla, Julia Griffin, Michael Hillinger, Rob Houseman, Peter Kulback David McManus, Honor Passow, Ian Marcus, Jackie Richter-Menge, Marjorie Rogalski, April Salas, Ally Samuell