

Green Community Report for Marlborough, MA

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On September 4th, 2009 I submitted a Leading by Example Award application for Marlborough, Massachusetts to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. It listed the following achievements in Marlborough and although Marlborough did not win, it is worth sharing this notable list of achievements with the public. These successful measures are the result of collaborations among many residential, municipal and business groups and individuals who are working hard together to protect our environment. Many thanks to everyone who contributed in large and small ways, directly and indirectly to Marlborough's achievement. Our work does not stop here. We must pat ourselves on the back and keep working hard to protect our environment.

Climate Protection and GHG Reduction, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

- In 2007, Green Marlborough, a group of residents and businesses, was formed and began to promote environmental sustainability education and practices in the city.
- *The 2006 Energy and Environmental Inventory* was published to benchmark energy and water consumption and waste. (see www.GreenMarlborough.org)
- A 2008 Marlborough Energy and Environmental Taskforce was created with 14 members from municipal, residential, business, and energy sectors to review the Sustainability Action Plan draft.
- *The 2008 Sustainability Action Plan* was published. (see www.GreenMarlborough.org)
- Marlborough hired a full-time city planner in 2009 to review urban development, smart growth, and sustainability opportunities.
- A DEP grant partly funded the replacement of municipal owned traffic lights with energy-efficient LED traffic lights in 2008. This saves thousands of dollars and reduces tons of carbon emissions each year.
- The library and schools were retrofitted with energy efficient lighting in 2006-2009.
- Energy efficient windows were installed in the senior housing building in 2008-2009.
- The city applied to MA DOER for funds to purchase hybrid vehicles for the municipal fleet.
- Two new clean energy businesses, Brookfield Renewable Power and Qteros, moved their headquarters to Marlborough in 2008.
- In early 2007, Green Marlborough began public education and outreach efforts on environmental sustainability. Their purpose is to inspire and educate people about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and sustainable practices *to provide people with ideas and tools for change*. Successful events and activities include include:
 - “Green Marlborough” monthly TV series on local access TV
 - Annual Earth Day Fair exhibits from local businesses and organizations

- Exhibits at local venues, festivals and fairs
 - PowerPoint presentations for community groups/organizations
 - Guided monthly nature walks for local residents at conservation lands and parks
 - Local events: Solar Tour, Bike Marlborough
 - Low Carbon Diet groups
 - Supporting regional efforts in Acton, Maynard, Ashland, Bolton, Cambridge
 - Website at www.GreenMarlborough.org
- Although commercial and industrial electricity consumption was nearly the same in 2007 and 2008, residential electricity consumption decreased nearly a full 1% in 2008.

National Grid Data	Jan-Dec 2007	Jan-Dec 2008
Residential	106,565,409	104,072,127
Residential Heat	18,310,569	17,657,369

- The City of Marlborough received a DOER-Green Communities Planning Assistance Grant in order to qualify for funding under the Green Communities program in August of 2009.
- A local Marlborough business hosted the first Massachusetts Green Career Fair on October 2, 2009 at the Marlborough Holiday Inn. This conference brought together stakeholders and resources in the emerging green economy. Leaders from Massachusetts college education/training sustainability programs, clean energy businesses that are hiring and government; and people transitioning into green careers attended. Workshops, exhibits, and networking opportunities addressed interests in green careers, and related needs and resources that are emerging from the growing green, clean energy economy.
(www.MassGreenCareers.com)

Green Building Design and Construction

- Three local manufacturing/business buildings were turned into condominiums by local developers in the past 3 years. One example is Renaissance Lofts at www.rlofts.com. The architect/developer turned a historic brick mill building into an Energy Star condominium complex.
- Marlborough has at least six LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified business buildings.

Waste Reduction and Recycling

- Marlborough has had curbside recycling since 2000.
- A recycling program in all municipal buildings was started in 2008.
- A Swap Shack was built at the municipal transfer station in 2008.
- Mandatory cardboard curbside recycling began to be enforced in 2009.
- The recycling committee and DPW conducted a study of Pay-As-You-Throw, Automated-Collection, and Mandatory recycling for city council review in 2009.

Purchasing of Recycled and Environmentally Preferred Products (EPPs)

- The Chief Procurement Officer City of Marlborough does consult the state bid list which includes Environmentally Preferred Products (EPP's).
- The Marlborough IT Department does recycle ink & toner cartridges for printers.

Reduction or Elimination of use of Toxic Chemicals and Products

- The city of Marlborough has bi-annual hazardous waste collection days for residents and all municipal buildings including schools.
- The city has had clean ups at the High School and the Middle School from Science Departments in the past. About 3 years ago Marlborough received a \$5,000 DEP grant for assessment and clean up at the high school.

Water Conservation

- The DPW received a \$38,000 grant for water leak detection to reduce the 20% leak rate to 10%.
- The DPW provides rain barrel incentives and free low-flow water devices to residents.

Natural Resources Protection

- Stream Teams were organized to check the health of Marlborough's streams as part of the Mass. Dept. of Fish and Game Riverways Adopt-a-Stream Program. See Stream Team reports at http://www.marlborough-ma.gov/Gen/MarlboroughMA_ConCommisn/StreamTeamReports or www.GreenMarlborough.org
- The city has conservation land management for seven parcels of land for wildlife protection and walking trails
- Nature walks were organized on conservation lands in 2008 and 2009
- Clean Ups
 - The mayor's "Clean Sweep" has annual litter pick up events in neighborhoods on Earth Day
 - Residents participated in Organization for the Assabet River (OAR) river clean up in 2008-9
 - The Marlborough Litter League spearheaded public park and event recycling in 2007
 - An invasive-species removal of bittersweet vines was conducted by volunteers at Ghiloni park one day
- Storm Drain marking and education to prevent dumping in brooks, streams and lakes was conducted by boy scouts.
- Two ordinances to protect streams and lakes and wetlands were approved in November 2009. They are:
 - Stormwater Management
 - Detection and Elimination of Illicit Discharge to Municipal Storm Drains

Comments and inquiries about this report may be forwarded to Jen Boudrie at Jen@GreenMarlborough.org .