

Sustainability Commission

Town of Groton, Massachusetts

Commission Charge

Mission

Purpose: The purpose of the Sustainability Commission is to focus and integrate the Town's sustainability efforts and to inspire it to become a measurably sustainable community.

Responsibilities:

- Raise awareness and educate town officials and townspeople on sustainability concepts and trends
 - Use the insights of all stakeholders to increase our collective understanding
- Provide sustainability materials and advice for town plans, policies, and operations
 - Find and develop deep expertise in the key aspects of community sustainability, including:
 - the environment, the economy, and society
 - the challenges, including the rapidly increasing price of energy and other resources, global warming and climate change, and economic uncertainty
 - the solutions that appear to be working in other communities, increasing community self-reliance and resilience
 - the local impacts of sustainability aspects that are best addressed at the state, regional, national, and/or international levels
 - Provide a clearing house for sustainability information
 - Assist in preparing grant applications for projects that improve Groton's sustainability
 - Provide technical assistance and research on sustainability issues
- Identify opportunities for improved collaboration to enhance sustainability
 - Identify key sustainability metrics for Groton and measure them to establish a baseline for measuring improvements
 - Develop a public, community-wide understanding of local sustainability conditions, goals, target metrics, and approaches
 - Capture this understanding in an update to the Groton 2020 vision (**Planning for Groton's Next Seven Generations**) in coordination with the town's Planning Board. (~~Sustainable Groton 2020~~)
- Propose specific sustainability initiatives and actions, including energy efficiency
 - Prioritize initiatives to focus first on those with a large payback for relatively little effort and expenditures
 - Work with stakeholders to get actions included in stakeholder-specific plans
 - Execute those aspects of the plan that should be addressed directly by the Sustainability Commission
- Regularly review and report on progress toward sustainability
- Prepare an annual report to inform the Town on how well the Town is achieving its goal to become a sustainable community