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