



Sustainability Commission

Economy • Environment • Society

Think long-term, act now

“Community Sustainability is the commitment to adopt practices that support and balance the social, economic and environmental aspects of our region, now and into our future.”

Groton Sustainability Commission, Winter 2010

Sustainability Commission

Town of Groton, Massachusetts

Sustainability Commission – Preamble, Mission, and Activities

Preamble: Many of the effects of the worsening global climate crisis are already evident in our region and in the town of Groton and are growing. This increases the urgency of our role in helping guide and act as a resource for the Town in a way that balances our environmental sustainability with maintaining our economic and social vitality.

Mission: Our mission encompasses assisting all generations of residents, town agencies and boards in the development, integration, and implementation of our activities for the preservation of natural resources, including climate. That includes raising the awareness of the public and Town officials and boards through outreach, education, and involvement; identifying key resources; influencing Town initiatives & bylaws; and working with neighboring communities to help further our progress toward sustainability, as well as other initiatives.

Activities: Among the actions we participate in across Town boards, commissions, and the Town citizens are the following, and these will continue to evolve and expand.

- finding and developing deep expertise in the key aspects of community sustainability
- advising and teaching of the benefits of efficient use of energy, fossil fuel energy reduction, and increased use of sustainable practices
- providing sustainability materials and advice for Town plans, policies, and operations
- identifying opportunities for improved collaboration with other Town entities to enhance sustainability
- proposing specific sustainability initiatives and actions, including energy efficiency
- developing and maintaining a pollinator habitat, located at the Groton Center
- actively participating in the [North Central Climate Change Coalition](#) (NC4)
- working through the [Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources](#) “Green Community Act” and with the [Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs](#), assisting in and applying for grant funding for our sustainability initiatives

In the course of our work, the Sustainability Commission will establish specific programs and report on an annual basis, for our annual Town Meeting our efforts and accomplishments.