

2050

Andover's Sustainability E-Newsletter

March/April, 2022

Climate Action Planning Launched as Part of Andover Climate Summit



The Town of Andover hosted the first Andover Climate Summit on April 8th and 9th. Over 130 people from Andover, Lawrence, North Andover and other surrounding communities registered to participate at the event, including state lawmakers, Select Board members, School Committee members, leading businesses, municipal officials and student and faculty leaders from Andover High School, Phillips Academy, Brooks School, Esperanza Academy, Pike School, and the Abbott Lawrence Academy. Dr. Sarah Dooling from the Massachusetts Climate Action Network provided the keynote address, highlighting the linkages between climate change and social justice. The subsequent event panelists noted key areas of collaborations between state and local government, showcased best practices in building energy efficiencies, discussed municipal efforts to reduce flooding impacts and improve the performance of the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District. Last but not least, youth leaders delivered a powerful joint statement on climate co-written by the students of Merrimack Valley region schools.



The first day Climate Summit closed out with an award presentation for the winning youth art submissions on the topics of climate change, personal action and social justice. The entire audience was on their feet after a live performance of an original song titled “Songbird” by Andover High School junior, Sadie Rooney. Andover TV recorded the Friday event, and the recording can be accessed [here](#).

The second day of the Climate Summit event began with a youth science, technology engineering, art and mathematics (STEAM) exhibit. The student exhibits highlighted passive house technologies, the sustainability feature of the new West Elementary Shawsheen Preschool, and a mural by the Andover Animal Advocates focused on the endangered Blue Spotted salamanders (*continued on next page*).



Top: Select Board chair, Chris Huntress discusses Climate Act with Sen. Barry Finegold and Rep. Tram Nguyen. **Middle:** Youth leaders from across Merrimack Valley discuss joint climate statement and initiatives underway in their schools. **Bottom:** Andover High junior, Sadie Rooney, performs her original song, “Songbird”. **Right:** A passive house exhibit presented by Andover High senior, Courtney Duffy (photos by J. Losick-Yang and J. Unger)

(continued from first page) The Saturday afternoon session kicked off the Andover Climate and Sustainability Action planning effort. Over 50 participants provided input on both ways to reduce Andover's carbon emissions as well as ways to improve resilience against climate change.

Fuss & O'Neill Engineering company spearheaded the discussions on community resilience by revisiting the 2018 Andover Community Resilience Workshop findings, and presenting on the Town's current Municipal Vulnerability preparedness grant project.

John Snell, contractor working for the Merrimack Valley Planning Commission, discussed findings from the draft Andover Community Net-Zero plan report, funded as a part of a regional technical assistant award from the Green Communities grant program, and highlighting the key strategies on the path to decarbonization.

Members of the Andover Green Advisory Board (AGAB) moderated each of the carbon mitigation breakout groups focused on Residential, Commercial & Industrial, Transportation as well as Land and Water Use sector carbon emissions.

Andover WECAN member, Jacqueline Salit, who was an integral member of the organizing team closed the event by debuting the [Climate Emergency Declaration and Mobilization Declaration](#) slated for Town Meeting 2023.

The Climate Summit resulted from many months of collaboration between the Sustainability Coordinator and volunteers from Andover WECAN, AGAB, Andover High School, Community Development and Planning Divisions, Andover Facilities Team, and the Andover TV. Attendees expressed how moved they were by the commitment of local youth leaders to climate mobilization, and looked forward to the upcoming Climate Action Plan community input and drafting process.



Top from left to right: Dennis Richard, Amy Janovksy, Chelsea Zakas, Becci Backman, Alex Maxwell and Steve Fink discuss resilience tactics. **Middle from left to right:** Melissa Danisch, Amy Latva-Kokkos, Bob Banta, Joe Halpern, and Bob Douglas provide ideas for commercial and industrial carbon mitigation. **Bottom:** Jackie Salit debuts the Climate Emergency Declaration initiative for Andover WECAN (photos by J. Unger)

Contact

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Upcoming Events

This column features sustainability related events in and around Andover over the next 3 months. If you have an event you would like our readers to know about, please send details by the 5th of each month to joyce.losickyang@andoverma.us.

Andover Green Advisory Board
April 27, 2022, 7 PM
In-person, 2nd Floor Conference Room Town Offices
See [Town Calendar](#) for more information
Contact: Joyce Losick-Yang, Sustainability Coordinator | joyce.losickyang@andoverma.us

Taking Action: Structural Racism, Inequities & Climate Change

May 11, 2022, 7:00 PM

In-person, Memorial Hall, Memorial Hall Library

Join Andover resident, Nia Keith, Vice President of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Justice for [Mass Audubon](#), and Lesly Melendez, Deputy Director of [Groundwork Lawrence](#), as well as community youth, for a conversation about how structural inequities and structural racism show up in environmental issues and why inclusive solutions are so important.

Community Share Space

Joint Climate Statement

By: Students of Andover High School, Phillips Academy,
and the Abbott Lawrence Academy as read at the Andover 2022 Climate Summit

We, the Youth of the Merrimack Valley, believe substantial and rapid action is required to combat climate change. Action must be taken by legislators, corporations, and individuals in order to prevent otherwise catastrophic effects not just on our future, but on our communities right now. We recognize that the only way to foster significant progress is to work together, as our joint action is far more impactful than the actions of the individual. We recognize the role of corporations as the primary contributors and demand further regulations surrounding emissions. Ignoring the climate crisis will not make it disappear. It is time we take action. Acting alone will only carry us so far, but if we join together, we are powerful and can make a difference. We demand a switch to renewable energy and departure from fossil fuels. We demand social justice in the realm of climate change, providing every member of our communities equal and adequate opportunity to their future. It is time to take a stand for our lives and our futures. Take a stand and educate those around us. It is our duty to protect our town, our community, and our world. Thank you.

Scenes Around Town



“Climate Change” by Sean Kim, Pike School

Co-winner of the 2022 Youth Art Contest

Submission Guidelines

2050, Andover’s Sustainability E-Newsletter welcomes your submissions for the following content. Below please find the specific guidelines for each type of content.

	Sustainability Heroes	Community Share Space	Events	Scenes Around Town
Send all submissions to Joyce.LosickYang@andoverma.us				
Content Sought	Nominations for heroes to include full name(s) or individual or team and organizational affiliations. Spell out all abbreviations. Preferred dates and times for a 30 minute interview if selected also helpful.	Sustainability tip or project; Recipes that reduce food wastes or other re-use advice; Product reviews (must review at least 2 other competitor products); Other resources also welcome. Other ideas? Contact Joyce to discuss	Event title, date(s) and start time(s); host organization; location; whether event is held in person or virtually; registration and website link; fee or cost	Original photograph taken in Andover or original artwork that pertains to sustainability; place photo taken; date photo taken; 12 words or less caption
Contact	Full name, email or phone contact information for the submitter. Also required is your Andover street address which will not be printed			
Requirements	300 words or less summary of the emissions reduction (>100 CO2 equivalent tons per year) or resilience achievement	300 words or less original article that is factual and unbiased. Opinion and editorials as well as political commentary are discouraged.	Event to take place up to 3 months in advance of the publication; must be appropriate for general audience	300 dpi or better resolution original photograph
Preferred Electronic Format	Microsoft Word (.docx) or Email	Microsoft Word (.docx) or Email	Microsoft Word (.docx) or Email	.jpg or .png file format; Do <u>not</u> compress or optimize
Due Date	None (Year-Round)	By the 5 th of month	By the 5 th of month	None (Year-Round)

Disclaimer: The views, thoughts and opinions expressed in submitted content are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the Town of Andover or the Sustainability Coordinator. All content submitted for publication are subject to editing. The Town of Andover reserves the right to edit or remove any post for any reason.