

2050

Andover's Sustainability E-Newsletter

February, 2022



Please save the dates, April 8-9, 2022 in the calendar! The **Andover Climate Summit** will be held in person at the Old Town Hall. This event is sponsored by the Town of Andover, through collaborations with Andover Working to Educate on Climate Action Now (WECAN), Andover High School, Andover Green Advisory Board and other partners.

On April 8th, policy, business, municipal and youth leaders from the Town and neighboring communities will share their vision and progress on climate change. On April 9th, the Andover community will be able to outline their priorities in workshops on reducing carbon emissions and becoming resilient to climate impacts, all while addressing social justice and equity. The Town will share the recent community wide greenhouse gas emissions inventory results as well as discuss progress on the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant. These community dialogues will be critical inputs for the Town's first Climate Action and Sustainability Plan.

We are thrilled to announce that Dr. Sarah Dooling from the Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN) has accepted our invitation to be the keynote speaker! Other panelists and program details will be announced soon, along with event registration information, on the main [Climate Summit 2022 website](#).

To help with broader public outreach on climate change, and to give a unique platform for the young artists of the Merrimack Valley to share their perspectives, a **Youth Art Contest** will be held in the days leading up to the event. Winners of the Art Contest will be recognized and presented with their awards at the Climate Summit. Details on the youth art contest will also be posted on the climate summit website.



Design by J. Nair. Concept by Z. Stinson

Town Updates

Three Things You Didn't Know About Albert Pless Jr., New DEI Director

Joyce: Welcome, Albert! It's been so quiet here on the third floor of the Town Offices since Ann Ormond was abducted by Community Development and Planning. I miss Ann of course, but I'm so glad to have you as my neighbor! The ties between environmental stewardship and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) are becoming tighter everyday so it's awesome to have you next door for collaborations and brainstorming.

Albert: Thanks, Joyce. It is good to be here, and I look forward to working with you, too!

Joyce: The recent Andover Townsman coverage gave folks a good idea of your role. I'm aiming for an informal interview. Since few have dropped by your office (yet), I have to share one of the first things I learned about you. Tell us about this curious black and yellow item on your desk.

Albert: Yes. This is indeed a very important item, and more black and yellow items to come! I'm a HUGE Pittsburg Steeler fan. I know I'm deep in Patriots country here and risky to admit but it's true.

Joyce: Hold on. You're not even from Pittsburg.
Albert: No, I'm not. I'm from South Carolina. I've actually only been to Pittsburg once and it was not to see the Steelers play.

Joyce: So how did you become a die-hard fan?

Albert: I had a junior varsity basketball coach in high school who was a deeply committed Steelers fan. I really looked up to him, so it stuck.

Joyce: Talking about football always makes me hungry. We toured the staff lounge and the revamped vending machines recently. I went straight for Cheetos of course, but readers are dying to know what snack from the vending machine is the most irresistible for you?

Albert: Easy! I worked in Public Health before coming to Andover, so I'm really into healthy eating. Those Kind bars are up there. But my favorite is definitely M&Ms.

Joyce: Right, really healthy choice, Albert.

Albert: Peanut M&Ms have a good amount protein!

Joyce: Of course, protein! Alright, you get to decide what one last thing you want to share.

Albert: Okay! Something people probably don't know about me is my passion for theater. It's close to a first love. Whether it's acting on stage, or working backstage, I love how theater arts is so expressive, and so much about community, and how it serves to bring people together. I always end up learning a lot about others through the process.

Joyce: That's so cool, Albert! Thank you so much for being willing to put it all out there! I'm going to channel Bogart to say I think this is going to be the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Albert: Me too!

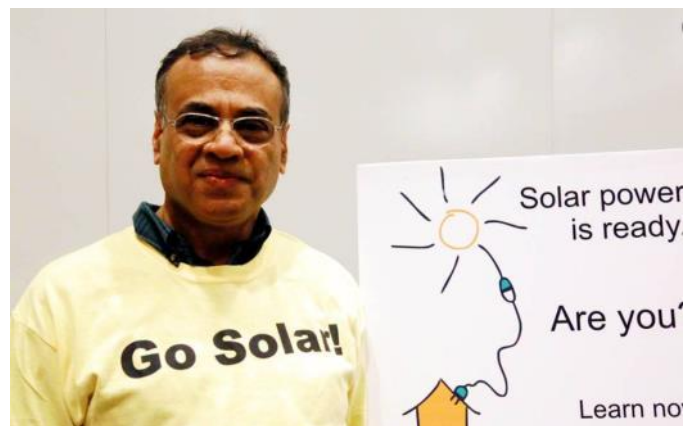


Sustainability Heroes

Nominee: Anil Navkal

Nominator: Melanie Cutler, Andover Green Advisory Board (AGAB) member

Achievement Summary: AGAB nominates Anil Navkal as the inaugural **2050** Sustainability Hero. Anil was instrumental in organizing the [Solarize Andover](#) effort in 2014, which reduced carbon emissions from 78 Andover homes adding 654 kilowatts (kW) solar capacity. Assuming a conservative estimate of 2,500 sunlight hours per year, the 1.63 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of clean energy produced from the Solarize Andover effort reduces carbon emissions by 1,155 metric tons per year, according to the [EPA](#). Anil was also instrumental in getting the Andover Community Power (ACP) off the ground as a grassroots organizer, website designer, ([andovercca.org](#)) and later ACP Design Committee member in 2021. The [ACP program](#) default electricity product is expected to provide at least 15% additional renewable electricity above state requirements. When ACP is active, a conservative estimate of 1,000 kWh per home will be served by local renewable energy producers. If only 5,000 Andover electricity customers participate, then the program will reduce emissions by a whopping 3,500 metric tons per year. Anil has also been an invaluable mentor to numerous high school students in



the past as the [Energize Andover](#) lead in partnership with the Andover High School. His enthusiasm and talent is infectious: Energize students have gone on to become innovators much like their mentor. Last but not least, Anil has been a vocal champion of energy efficiency technologies, teaming up with Andover Facilities on numerous transformative building projects. As he departs AGAB in 2022 as a board member, we know that Anil will not abandon his climate warrior ways. Anil has already begun to make inroads in assisting the City of Lawrence on energy efficiency and other projects. Thank you for all that you do, Anil. You are our February 2022 Sustainability Hero!

Contact

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Tweet me @LosickYang | Website <https://www.andoverma.us/Sustainability>

Manage your 2050 subscription at <https://andoverma.gov/list.aspx> (scroll down to News Flash)

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
February 23, 2022, 7 PM
Virtual meeting
See [Town Calendar](#) for more information
Contact: Joyce Losick-Yang, Sustainability Coordina-

tor | joyce.losickyang@andoverma.us

Robb Center Fix it Clinic

Feb 28, 2022, 1:00 PM

Mar 14, 2022, 1:00 PM

In-person, Robb Center, Arts/Crafts Room
30 Whittier Ct. Andover MA 01810

Don't junk it, Andover! Bring your lamps, toasters, or wooden furniture needing to be repaired to the fix-it wizards of Robb Center instead!

Contact: Kelly Mackay, Program Coordinator
Kelly.mackay@andoverma.us

Community Share Space

Provide Your Thoughts for the Tewksbury Flooding Survey

By Susie Bresney, Susie@merrimack.org

The Town of Tewksbury and the Merrimack River Watershed Council (MRWC) are working together to address flooding that affects the homes, businesses and roads within Tewksbury. This is part of a project funded by the state's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant. As part of this project, through a survey, the Town of Tewksbury and the MRWC would like to better understand how people who live, work and travel within Tewksbury experience flooding and what they think about using nature-based solutions (such as green infrastructure) to alleviate flooding issues. We are also investigating potential flood-resilient locations suitable for affordable housing.

The project team is working with engineering consultants at Weston and Sampson who are developing models and designing potential solutions to these issues. By collecting feedback with this survey, Weston and Sampson can ensure the models accurately represent the issues people experience, and that solutions are prioritized based on community input. The survey should take about 15 minutes.

The survey can be found at: bit.ly/TewksburyFloodingSurvey.



bit.ly/TewksburyFloodingSurvey

TAKE OUR SURVEY!

Scan the QR code above or visit bit.ly/TewksburyFloodingSurvey

Or pick up a hard copy at the Tewksbury Public Library, Department of Community Development, Senior Center, Housing Authority, or email lauren@merrimack.org

¡TOME LA ENCUESTA!

Escanee el código QR o visite bit.ly/TewksburyFloodingSurvey

Encuentre una copia impresa a la Biblioteca Pública de Tewksbury, el Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario, el Centro de Mayores, la Autoridad de la Vivienda, o envíe un email a lauren@merrimack.org



Scenes Around Town



Serpentine Shawsheen, Subject of Andover's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant

(J. Cary, Town of Andover GIS Coordinator)

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 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.