

Sustainable Belmont 2006 Key Achievements

Mandate: To develop and implement a variety of activities and initiatives to assist Belmont's government, residents, and businesses in becoming a more environmentally responsible community.

As part of its continuing effort to spearhead the development of the town's climate action plan, Sustainable Belmont secured the volunteer services of five Tufts University graduate students to help establish a greenhouse gas emissions community baseline. The group also began writing the climate action plan with input from the Belmont community.

Sustainable Belmont continued public outreach on several environmental issues by sponsoring public forums on climate change (6), green buildings (1), and organic yard care (1), and also arranged for a tour of a "green" commercial building in Winchester. Sustainable Belmont also increased public awareness of benefits related to sustainable building, energy conservation, and reducing vehicle idling by writing or placing 14 articles/opinion pieces in the *Belmont Citizen-Herald*, the *Boston Globe*, and other media.

Approximately 400 Belmont residents viewed free screenings of *An Inconvenient Truth*, an endeavor cosponsored with the Belmont Religious Council. Other major collaborative efforts included working with the Belmont Municipal Light Department and its Advisory Board on ways to reduce peak demand electricity use; asking the Belmont Health Department to pursue funding to properly dispose of used compact fluorescent light bulbs (which contain a small amount of mercury); and working with the Belmont Department of Public Works and the Belmont Public Schools to roll out the "Cleaning the Air" campaign.