

Sustainable Belmont 2007 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 (CAP), Sustainable Belmont continued drafting the CAP with input from the Belmont community. Separate surveys were conducted among Town employees and business owners to measure their carbon footprint and gather their suggestions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Also a prototype of a residential "climate saver kit" was developed.

Sustainable Belmont also researched options for less polluting and noisy leaf blowers, which was submitted to the Belmont Board of Selectmen and adopted by the Department of Public Works for municipal use.

Sustainable Belmont continued public outreach on several environmental issues by sponsoring public forums on climate change, how to responsibly raise backyard chickens, and how communities can plan a pedestrian- and bike-friendly community. Sustainable Belmont also increased public awareness on a variety of environmental issues by writing articles/opinion pieces for the *Belmont Citizen-Herald* and energy conservation tips for the Belmont Municipal Light Department (BMLD) quarterly newsletter.

Other major collaborative efforts included working with the BMLD and its Advisory Board on ways to reduce peak demand electricity use; partnering with the Belmont Department of Public Works, Police Department and the Belmont Public Schools on the "Cleaning the Air" campaign; and collaborating with the Permanent Building Committee to draft a Sustainable Building Design Policy (passed by the Belmont Board of Selectmen in March 2007).