

Belmont develops climate action plan

Thursday, April 20, 2006

Over the last several months, as part of a field project requirement, five students from Tufts University's Graduate Department of Urban and Environmental Policy and Planning have helped Belmont achieve a major goal in development of the town's climate action plan: completing an inventory of the heat-trapping gases that Belmont households and businesses produce. This baseline inventory is the first step in developing the town's climate action plan.

Last year, the Board of Selectmen, the Vision 21 Implementation Committee, and the Belmont Municipal Light Department endorsed the development of a climate action plan for Belmont - an effort spearheaded by Sustainable Belmont, a task force of the Vision 21 Implementation Committee. A climate action plan is a community blueprint for reducing heat-trapping gases that contribute to global warming. Another key benefit is improved air quality. Steps in establishing a plan include inventorying a town's emissions of the heat-trapping gases that lead to climate change, establishing a goal for reducing these emissions - with public input - and developing and implementing a plan to achieve the reductions over time.

The graduate students have also assisted Sustainable Belmont in completing the first of a series of public-input forums about this initiative. The forums gathered suggestions on ways in which the community might reduce its heat-trapping gases, which are primarily caused by emissions from heating and cooling systems as well as vehicles.

On Tuesday, May 2 from 7 to 8:30 p.m., the Tufts University students will present the results of their findings to the Board of Selectmen, the Belmont Municipal Light Department, the Vision 21 Implementation Committee, and Sustainable Belmont. The public is invited to attend the presentation, which will be held in the Selectmen's Room at Town Hall.

For more information, contact Sustainable Belmont at sustainablebelmont@gmail.com.