

## Town wins grants for climate initiatives

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Improving Belmont's quality of life is a core guiding principal adopted early on by Sustainable Belmont, a task force of the town's Vision 21 Implementation Committee. Aware of the town's strained budget, Sustainable Belmont has worked to honor this principal without being a financial burden.

The group has received two grants for climate-related activities that will benefit the town. The first grant, from the Wolfe & Rita Climate Action Projects Fund, offers grants to members of the Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN). Sustainable Belmont's request was for funding to help cover expenses associated with community outreach in development of the town's climate action plan.

"Sustainable Belmont is committed to generating as much public involvement as possible, and that means taking steps to promote public forums. There are expenses associated with creating flyers, sandwich boards, and other materials," explained Jennifer Page, Sustainable Belmont's Vision 21 Committee liaison. "This grant will help defray these expenses and attract townspeople, which is critical to our success."

Sustainable Belmont also wrote a Climate Protection Grant for the town, which was funded by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. These grants are only available to members of ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability. Belmont's grant will pay for the purchase of materials that the town will use as part of a community-based anti idling initiative. Sustainable Belmont will coordinate the effort with town departments to determine the most efficient use of materials purchased by the grant.

"Vehicle idling doesn't benefit anyone and especially hurts children, the elderly, and people with compromised respiratory conditions, such as asthma. It also creates unnecessary noise, air pollution, and climate change gases - and idling for more than five minutes is against the law in Massachusetts," said Jan Kruse, Sustainable Belmont co-chairman. "So we are excited to have this opportunity to get the word out in our community about all the good reasons to turn the motor off when you aren't going anywhere."

If you are interested in helping out with the anti-idling initiative or other Sustainable Belmont activities, please send an e-mail to [sustainablebelmont@gmail.com](mailto:sustainablebelmont@gmail.com).

- Submitted by Sustainable Belmont