

Sustainable Marblehead's Sustainability Fair on tap

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Drive an electric car, track a shark and hear from the experts at Oct. 6 event

Have you been wondering, “What’s all this talk about our changing climate? What does it mean for me, my children, and my grandchildren? Can the actions of any one person, family, or community really make a difference in ensuring that we all have a healthy future?”

Answers to those questions along with some grounding, and practical ideas to address climate change will be available Saturday, October 6, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sustainable Marblehead’s first community-wide Sustainability Fair at the Marblehead Community Charter Public School, 18 Lime Street. This free event has five arms that promise something for everyone of every age and interest.

In partnership with MASS DRIVE CLEAN, visitors will have an opportunity to test-drive an electric vehicle and see first-hand BMW, Chevrolet, Nissan, and possibly other manufacturers have to offer. Drivers are invited to bring a driver’s license and take a car out for a spin. Those who don’t or can’t drive are welcome to simply go for a ride in one, or try out an electric-powered bike. Information on federal and state subsidy and rebate programs for the vehicles will also be available. ReVision Energy will also be at the fair to educate area residents about no-carbon options for your home and business, including solar power and geothermal heat source air pumps.

There will also be a Speaker Series that will feature John Livermore, Northeast Director of the Center For Sustainable Energy, who will talk about how to bring your home to net zero. Net zero homes create enough renewable energy on-site to power them on an annual basis. Brian Helmuth, professor of Marine Biology

and Public Policy at Northeastern University, will speak about the impact of climate change on the North Shore specifically. State Rep. Lori Ehrlich (D-Marblehead) will address what climate-related legislative initiatives have succeeded, failed, and are still on the table in Massachusetts and participants will also hear from a panel of Marblehead town department heads about local sustainability initiatives. Panel members will include: Public Health Director Andrew Petty, Marblehead Municipal Light Department General Manager Joe Kowalik, Water and Sewer Department Superintendent Amy McHugh, and Harbormaster Mark Souza.

In addition to information the fair will also offer some serious entertainment, also for all ages. Storyteller Jackson Gilman, singer/songwriter Amanda Maffei, Alex the Jester, and the Marblehead High School a cappella choir, under the direction of Andrew Scoglio, will perform throughout the day. Recycling queen and musician Pam Roberts will also teach songs of the earth and offer a recycling workshop.

Other activities include:

- Change is Simple — Aimed at mobilizing elementary and middle school students, transforming classrooms into ecosystems and construction zones, kids into scientists and engineers. They'll bring activities and games including solar and hydroponics demonstrations, wind turbine building, and "green chemistry" to create safe household and care products.
- Build a Fairy House — An accomplished builder of fanciful fairy houses, Linda Weltner will offer participants the opportunity to build their own fairy house, using recycled and earth-found materials.
- Tiny Seas: The Video Game — Brian Helmuth and his team from the Northeastern Marine Science Center will engage participants in a video game he developed to raise students' awareness about the impact of rising sea levels.
- Follow That Shark! — The Charter School's Marblehead Shark Club and its instructor, Bryan Burns, will talk about the network of shark buoys

deployed and maintained by the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy. Hear from students about the MH1 buoy that helps them study the habits of sharks and the new Marblehead Upwelling Program designed to support the health of our ocean.

- Be a Trash Wizard — Join Sustainable Marblehead member Christine Cudihy to sort through the trash she picks up at the beach every week and help her figure out where it came from, how it ended up on our shores, and come up with innovative ideas on what we can do with it.
- Play and Create — Morgan Timmerman-Helmuth will be offering games and art projects, all grounded in environmental concerns and sustainable practices.
- Calculate Your Carbon Footprint — Participants will have the opportunity to determine their own or their family's carbon imprint with Swampscott math teacher, Russell King.
- See a Solar Backpack — Anne Weymouth will demonstrate her solar backpack and show you how easy it is to borrow the sun's power to light a lightbulb or charge your cell phone while off the grid.
- Map a Safe Route to School — A representative from the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program will demonstrate how it is helping local communities get children to school safely and sustainably.
- Be a Safer Driver/Biker — Sustainable Marblehead's Transportation Action Team will premiere its BIVER (Biker/Driver) educational videos to help our town become a safer place to walk, bike, and drive.
- OLLIE Ocean Lab - Will bring the ocean to the people, through immersive virtual field trips and collaborative, hands-on explorations of ocean science and technology.

There will be a variety of workshops, including Mary Klug of the Pachamama

Alliance who will offer “Finding Ourselves in the Evolution of Earth” for participants ages 8 to adult; Jocelyn Cook of SPUR who will teach us how to make raised bed gardens like the fantastic ones on the front lawn of St. Andrews Church; Salem Sound Coastwatch staff who will lead us in a discussion of ways to keep plastic trash out of our oceans; Russell Wells of the Tower School who will help participants make mini wind turbines, and a Bell School organic gardener who will show us how to create a mini worm composter.

Lastly, there will be a variety of advocacy organizations and vendors who will have tables at the fair. Vendors include companies that provide non-toxic carpet cleaners, sustainably sourced meats and chocolates, cosmetics, growing towers, heat source air pumps, and much more.

There will be food trucks with local food, an awards ceremony to recognize the winners of Sustainable Marblehead's poster contest, and a silent auction with everything from \$100 gift cards to Whole Foods and the Marblehead Garden Center to compost bins.

The Sustainability Fair is being made possible by the generous support of Sustainable Marblehead's Visionary Sponsors, which include National Grand Bank, Whole Foods, Dr. Jack Weltner, and the Rotary Clubs of Marblehead and Marblehead Harbor, Atlantic Veterinary Hospital, and other generous contributors.

For more information about the Sustainability Fair, go to <https://www.sustainablemarblehead.org/about-the-fair>.

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