



October Newsletter

Preserving Our Past by Protecting Our Future

Input Needed for Net Zero Planning Project

A green circular graphic with the text "Net Zero Workshop" in large blue font. Below the text are five icons: a building, a plug, a bus, solar panels, and a leaf. Below the icons is the date and time: "Tuesday, October 5, 2021" and "7:00 PM - 8:30 PM".

Net Zero Workshop

Tuesday, October 5, 2021
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Marblehead is leading the way on local climate action. The [Marblehead Climate Vision](#) adopted unanimously by the Board of Selectmen last November aims to get us to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, a decade earlier than the goal set by Massachusetts' [new climate law](#) but in line with what climate scientists are saying is necessary to avoid reaching a climate tipping point.

To help drive that action forward, the town is participating in a net zero planning project led by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council and funded by a grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. To make your voice heard about what our town needs to do to get to net zero by 2040, please join us for a community workshop on Tuesday, October 5 from 7:00-8:30 pm on Zoom. Click [here](#) to register.

This project will help four communities with their own municipal light plants develop net

zero roadmaps and engage community members in discussions about how to reach their community's climate goals. Other participating communities are Belmont, Ipswich and Peabody. The Green Marblehead Committee, made up of town leaders and department heads, members of Sustainable Marblehead and staff from the Municipal Light Department, will oversee the process.

According to Sustainable Marblehead's [Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report](#), our major sources of carbon emissions come from the cars we drive (29%), how we heat and cool our homes (19% from oil and 18% from natural gas) and how much of our electricity is powered by fossil fuels (18%). Clearly, we have a great deal of work to do to reach net zero emissions by 2040, and it will take all of us pulling together — locally, nationally and internationally — to protect our community and our planet for future generations.

Townwide Tree Inventory Launched



Sustainable Marblehead and Town Tree Warden Jonathan Fobert are partnering to conduct an ambitious inventory of all of Marblehead's town trees, using specially equipped iPads. Potential volunteers gathered in late September to learn about the new initiative.

The town has obtained an \$8,000 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation & Recreation, which it has matched with \$8,000 of its own money to fund the project. An environmental planner from Bobrek Engineering & Construction has built a Marblehead-specific, GIS-based tree inventory app, through which volunteers can log such information as tree diameter and health, as well as sidewalk condition. Inventory volunteers will also take a photo of each tree.

The app will load all the information into Bobrek's cloud server and then eventually into Marblehead's GIS map. The Warden will use the information to plan where to plant new trees, as well as where trees need to be trimmed. The Municipal Light Department will also have access to this data for their planning and electric line maintenance. With more accurate information about Marblehead's tree canopy, the Warden will be able to target tree planting to neighborhoods that are potential heat islands, for example, and estimate the monetary value of the town's trees.

This fall while the leaves are still on the trees, small groups of volunteers will practice using the new app in targeted areas. Next spring, more volunteers will fan out in additional neighborhoods.

Unlike the paper-based tree inventories of the past, this digital inventory will be stored online, so the data will be easily available for future use.



Compost for Carbon Drawdown

The average American carbon footprint is 16 tons per year, one of the highest rates in the world, according to the Nature Conservancy's carbon calculator. This fall, Black Earth Compost is offering a way to reduce your carbon footprint by spreading compost in your yard. During the first week of October, the company's compost truck will deliver a cubic yard of half-inch screened compost to homeowners, sufficient for trees and a small lawn. According to Black Earth, an annual application of compost will both benefit soil health and reduce your overall carbon footprint by increasing healthy plant growth and thus carbon sequestration.

Black Earth's Compost Truck will be rolling through town October 4th to 8th.

If seven homeowners were to spread just a half an inch of compost over their lawns, it would be enough to draw down nearly one metric ton of carbon emissions over a span of three years, says Black Earth.

To order compost and learn more about how compost is good for carbon drawdown, check out Black Earth's "[Great Suburban Drawdown Challenge](#)."



ECOBRIKKS — What are they? How are they made?

Two years ago, Sustainable Marblehead's Conservation Group started partnering with Nathan Gray of [ecobrick.us](#) in Newbury, MA, to make ecobricks – plastic bottles stuffed with “scrunchable” plastic film, to be used in buildings and furniture construction. To date, we have contributed 450 bricks, keeping 450 plastic bottles filled with 160 pounds of plastic out of landfills. This was especially important during the height of Covid, when supermarkets were not accepting plastic bags for recycling. (Click [here](#) for a video.)

To ensure usability, strict specifications must be met. The plastic bottle has to be between 16 and 20 ounces, 7-9 inches tall, and be empty, clean and dry. The plastic to be stuffed can be any clean plastic that can be compressed, including newspaper bags, bread bags and plastic wrap. All plastic must be clean and dry. Heavier plastic (for example, mailing envelopes and frozen food bags) needs to be cut into smaller pieces.

Here's how to make an ecobrick:

1. Start with a colorful light-weight plastic for the bottom. Use a stick, such as long-handled wooden spoon to tamp down the plastic as tight as possible, filling in any gaps, especially near the base. Remember, you're making a BRICK.
2. Continue filling and compressing. Save some of the softer plastic for the top for a tighter fit.
3. Weigh the brick. A 16-ounce bottle must weigh at least 5 ounces (and heavier is better).

4. Cap the bottle.
5. Drop it off in the Transfer Station collection bin (in the recycling area).

Or you can just collect and donate clean plastic film and clean bottles.

Or you can just do the stuffing. We will supply you with a kit (bottle and plastic ready to stuff).

McRae's Sustainable Goods on Washington Street in Marblehead actively supports ecobricks by hosting brick-making gatherings, and is adding a collection bin. If you're interested in joining us, email

info@sustainablemarblehead.org.



Light Department Creates Strategic Planning Committee

At its most recent meeting, the Marblehead Municipal Light Commission supported the establishment of a Strategic Planning Committee, made up of Commission Members Simon Frechette and Lisa Wolf. The committee will develop long-term department goals through 2030 and a formal strategic plan to ensure that these goals are met.

The committee will start with a review of existing strategic plans for comparable municipal light plants and identify a consultant to help with the work. The plan will address supply and demand projections, decarbonization goals, resiliency measures, safety, and customer satisfaction and education.

For more on the Light Department, click [here](#) to visit its newly redesigned website.



Update from the Advocacy Committee

The three members of Sustainable Marblehead's Advocacy Committee – Judith Black, Lynn Nadeau and Ed Futchter – have been meeting weekly for more than a year sifting through and discussing legislative and regulatory policies that affect our mission. The Committee works collaboratively with other like-minded organizations and public officials to better understand the proposals and how best to advocate for them.

The Advocacy Committee is sending each of our working groups selected pieces of legislation or proposed regulations that members think will forward the working group's objectives. They hope that group members will discuss the impact of the proposed legislation and how best to advocate for the bill and, ultimately, help get it passed. Where appropriate they will also suggest some approaches that they feel are effective in advocating for a particular bill. In addition, we will keep you informed about how you might help



Land and Sea Cleanup

On Saturday, September 11th, more than 300 volunteers, including over 120 children, from Sustainable Marblehead and SPUR helped clean 31 parks and beaches in the communities of Lynn, Marblehead, Salem and Swampscott. Participants filled over 100 bags of trash! A special thank you to all the team leaders for grabbing the supplies, keeping track of what was picked up, and serving as extra support at each site.

Here's a list of some of the most interesting items that were found and discarded from our local parks and beaches: A pocket knife, a coffee filter, Christmas ornaments, a bow and arrow, lobster traps, a small plastic Snoopy head, a dog bed, a mattress, fishing lures, bandanas, a wine glass and many, many cigarette butts.

us advocate for bills and regulations that advance our mission.



The Indispensables Author Talk

According to Patrick O'Donnell, author of the recently published book *The Indispensables*, Marblehead patriots and Glover's Regiment saved the Continental Army multiple times during the Revolution, and in so doing enabled the birth of a new nation. They created the first American navy, flew the first flag and secured vital powder and supplies at the most critical time. "Over 150 years before their time, this group of men of various races and socioeconomic conditions came together to defeat one of the greatest armies on the globe," writes O'Donnell.

About 300 people gathered in Abbot Hall on September 30th to hear O'Donnell talk about his book at an event co-sponsored by Sustainable Marblehead and the Marblehead Museum. The visit was underwritten by the Hassett family, whom we sincerely thank for their generosity.

As we face the fight to save the planet from the ravages of climate change and remembering our motto "Preserving Our Past by Protecting Our Future," we would do well to emulate the "ardent and unflinching" character traits of our Marblehead forebearers, as described by O'Donnell.

Upcoming Events



Indigenous Peoples' Day Program

Wednesday, October 6, 2021
3:00-4:00 pm
Abbot Public Library

Children in K through 5th grades are invited to a storytelling event with Sustainable Marblehead in honor of Indigenous Peoples' Day. Come to the children's area of the Abbot Public Library and hear indigenous "trickster" tales from award-winning professional storyteller, Judith Black, followed by a weaving craft activity. Learn more about Judith [here](#). Please register in advance by calling the library at (781) 631-1481 ext. 217.



Dedication of the Judy and Gene Jacobi Community Center

Wednesday, October 6, 2021
5:00-7:00 pm
Community Center

The Board of Selectmen, the Recreation and Parks Commission and the Council on Aging Board have voted to rename the Community Center in honor of Judy and Gene Jacobi. A dedication ceremony will be held on October 6, 2021.

In her role as the Board of Selectmen's representative on the Green Marblehead Committee, Judy Jacobi was an important supporter of Sustainable Marblehead's vision. She contributed to the Marblehead Climate Vision, which is our blueprint for reaching net zero by 2040. She once said that when she opened an email from us, our yellow logo always made her smile. We are grateful for Judy's support and encouragement of our many initiatives.

For more on the Jacobis' contributions to Marblehead, click [here](#).



Oceana Plastic-Free Advocacy

Workshops

3 sessions, October 12-26, 2021
7:00-8:00 pm
Virtual

Oceana is hosting a free, virtual workshop series about the problems with single-use plastics and how to turn that knowledge into action. The workshop series will include expert presentations covering national policy and local actions, including passing local ordinances and creating plastic-free zones.

- Session 1: Passing policies on the local level – Tuesday, October 12, 7:00-8:00 pm
- Session 2: Building support for national legislation – Tuesday, October 19, 7:00-8:00 pm
- Session 3: Turning your institution into a “Plastic-Free Zone” – Tuesday, October 26, 7:00-8:00 pm

To register, click [here](#).



Nature Arts & Crafts

Wednesday, October 20, 2021
3:00-4:00 pm
Marblehead Arts Association

Children in K through 6th grades are invited to join Sustainable Marblehead at the Marblehead Arts Association for an hour of crafting some beautiful fall décor with pinecones to make a small wreath. Let's teach our children that they don't need to purchase pre-made plastic craft kits to be creative when there is so much we can do with natural materials and upcycling. Crafting while surrounded by all of the lovely art at the MAA at 8 Hooper St. will be a special treat! Please register in advance at [Nature Arts & Crafts](#). If you have questions, please email education@sustainablemarblehead.org.



Did You Know?

Bikes are one of the lowest carbon-emitting modes of transportation. Private vehicles emit 0.96 pounds of carbon per mile, buses emit 0.64 pounds/mile and bikes only emit 0.03 pounds/mile — taking into account the emissions from manufacturing the bike and the food required to “fuel” the rider. Because electric bicycles require less “fuel” (calories burned) to ride the same distance as traditional bikes, they come in at an astoundingly low 0.02 pounds of carbon emitted per mile.

What Can You Do?

According to a study conducted in Europe, if 10% of the population were to replace one car trip a day with a bike



ride, overall carbon emissions from transportation would drop an equal 10%. So, consider pedaling to your next errand, to go out to eat, or to shop at one of our fine local retailers. Learn more about [tackling climate change one ride at a time](#) at PeopleForBikes.org.

Support

Sustainable Marblehead is a community organization working to reduce waste and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. Our work is important, and we can't do it alone. Please join us by donating today.

[Donate Today](#)



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