



November Newsletter

Preserving Our Past by Protecting Our Future

Making Our Voices Heard



In Glasgow this week, the Biden administration is joining other nations to fight climate change on a global scale. Back in Washington, Congress is hashing out the details of President Biden's proposed infrastructure and climate change and

social support legislation. Compared with these high-level negotiations, it's easy to feel that we as individual citizens have relatively little power to affect these big issues. But that's wrong.

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) passed by Congress this year to aid Covid recovery, billions of federal dollars have already arrived in Massachusetts and billions more may soon become available if the infrastructure bill and the Build Back Better budget reconciliation measure are passed by Congress and signed by the President.

To ensure that this money is spent appropriately, government leaders – including our local Marblehead officials – are asking us to identify our priorities. We urge you to do so.

First, find out more about how Marblehead might spend its \$6 million in Covid recovery monies and respond to a survey on the town website that will help shape our ARPA spending priorities. One eligible area for ARPA spending is climate change mitigation. The Marblehead Reporter has a good [overview](#). Click [here](#) for the town's press release and [here](#) to take the survey.

The Marblehead Open Space Committee is updating the town's Open Space Plan and would also like your input. The 2012 Marblehead Open Space and Recreation Plan can be viewed [here](#). Click [here](#) to take the survey.

And soon the town will start updating its 2009 Harbor Plan. Sustainable Marblehead will have a seat on the working group in charge of that revision. Stay tuned for more about this plan and how you can weigh in on the future of our harbor.

Please don't miss these important opportunities to make your voice heard.

Sustainable Marblehead Receives Chamber Harbor Award



The Marblehead Chamber of Commerce has presented its 2021 Harbor Award to Sustainable Marblehead in recognition of our work to protect the waters and coastline of our town.

Two of our six working groups concentrate specifically on our harbor and beaches.

Our Harbor Group, led by Steve Wolf, focuses on issues like promoting green boating practices, encouraging fishing line and shrink wrap recycling and raising awareness about the importance of keeping pollutants out of storm drains that empty directly into the harbor.

Last June, the Harbor Group organized the town's first-ever Marblehead Ocean Week, providing information on microplastics, oyster restoration and technologies like solar, hydro and wind power. The group installed 100 storm drain markers to raise awareness. Many thanks to Nerissa Cooney who designed the markers and to the volunteers who helped install them.

Under the leadership of Jenny Morton, our Conservation Group works to keep our beaches and local waters clean, among many other initiatives. Member Pam Roberts leads teams of volunteers in our weekly beach cleanups, an effort that began soon after Sustainable Marblehead was

founded five years ago. In September, we collaborate with SPUR for our annual end-of-summer land and sea cleanup.

Sustainable Marblehead's overarching mission is to reduce carbon emissions in line with the town's goal of achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2040. This is critical for a community like ours, which is surrounded by water and is particularly vulnerable to sea level rise, coastal flooding and extreme weather events. If we care about protecting our harbor and beaches, we have to care about reducing and eventually eliminating our carbon emissions.

We are honored to receive this award.

Looking for a New Treasurer



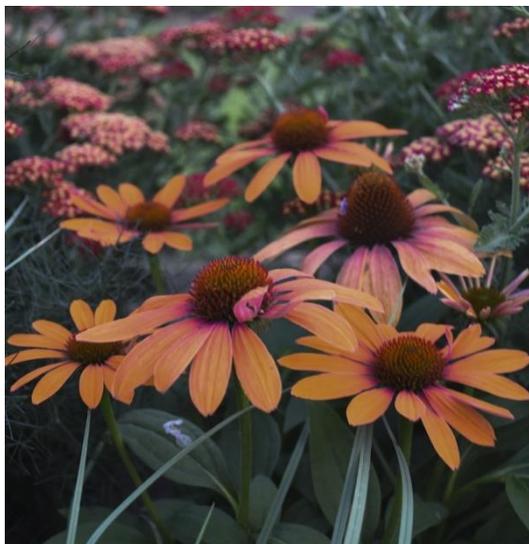
Are you good at handling money? Do you know how to plan a budget? Have you got experience preparing financial reports?

Sustainable Marblehead needs you!

Our Treasurer needs to move on after three and a half years, and we are looking for a qualified replacement to provide the financial information that supports decision making.

If interested, please contact Louise Yarmoff,
Executive Director

at sustainablemarblehead@gmail.com.



What Should I Cut Back in the Fall?

Gardeners often ask, “Should I cut my perennials or leave them standing for the winter?” The answer depends on the plant and where you live.

In cold climates, some plants benefit from leaving foliage standing to protect the crown, or the area where the stem meets the roots. The standing foliage provides insulation and shelters the crown from snow. Another benefit is that most bees and other beneficial insects nest in the ground and a covering of plant matter over the winter offers them a secure place to live.

Not every plant needs this extra protection during winter, however. Some even benefit from being cut back in the fall, whether to prevent disease or remove obstacles for spring growth. Here are some tips on which plants to cut and which to leave.

Flowers to Cut in the Fall:

Phlox and Beebalm are susceptible to powdery mildew which increases the chance of infection. Cut them in the fall, remove debris and then disinfect your pruners. Do the same for Columbine.

You may want to cut some flowers to tidy the garden. Yarrow, Salvia and Veronica have new green crowns that start in the fall. You can either leave the whole plant or cut these back to their crowns. Astilbe foliage turns brown and you can leave it or cut it away for tidiness. The spent flower spikes add interest to the garden in winter, though. It is not necessary to cut Daylilies back, but like Astilbe this is a personal choice.

Leaving Hosta during the winter protects their crowns, but slugs lay their eggs in the leaves, so you may

want to cut them back for that reason.

For Catmint, if you do cut it back, leave four to six inches standing to protect the crown over the winter.

Flowers to Leave for the Winter:

Coral Bell foliage protects the crown. Just tidy them up in spring.

Birds like the prominent center cones of Coneflowers and Black-eyed Susans, and they provide interest in the garden during the winter.

Ornamental Grasses add height, color and movement to the landscape. Cut them in the spring.

Ferns are best left standing to protect their crowns until new fiddleheads appear in spring.



Help Wanted! Be A Part of the Change

Bike Marblehead is looking for a few (or many) good people to help us continue our mission to promote safe and accessible bicycling and walking in our town. Do you ever wonder why our neighbors, Salem and Swampscott, have so much more cycling infrastructure than Marblehead? We do too! Please help us make cycling and walking a realistic alternative to the automobile.

Have you noticed more bicycle racks around town? Over the past year, we've worked with the town, other service groups and private donors to increase the number of bike racks in parks and at schools and businesses. Formed three years ago, Bike Marblehead has done a lot, but there is much more to accomplish. Click [here](#) for a glimpse of some of our activities.

Our newest initiative is outreach to the Marblehead Police Department. The town recently received a \$35,000 grant for bicycle and pedestrian safety education. This dovetails nicely with our objectives, and we are exploring ways for Bike Marblehead to be involved.

The popularity of cycling and walking has surged over the past few years and shows no sign of tapering off. Marblehead has some catching up to do in the areas of safety education, infrastructure and encouragement. Efforts like these often take a partnership between the town and its residents to be successful. Join our group of advocates to be a part of the change that bikers and walkers in our town want and need. You will get back more than you give.

To sign up, or for more information, please contact Tom Regan, head of Bike Marblehead, at Thomas.regan@me.com or email us at bike@sustainablemarblehead.org.



Riverhead SOS

Sustainable Marblehead member Christine Cudihy heads out nearly every morning to clean Devereux and Riverhead Beaches before work. On the morning of October 28, a day after hurricane-force winds battered Marblehead overnight, Christine sent out an SOS: “Riverhead is in peril. If anyone can get out here today, please do.”

Many of Sustainable Marblehead’s dedicated beach cleaners heeded the call and collected “lots of interesting stuff,” according to one, including a boat cover, a large thick plastic bag for peat moss along with the plastic ties, bottles, beer cans and even a sail still in its bag.

Christine removed, among other refuse, a surfboard, a life jacket, a crate, a seat back, four buckets of recyclable cans and bottles, four garbage bags of plastic bags, a channel marker and a mooring.

“For 18 years I have routinely cleaned these beaches, after summer holidays and other hurricanes and nor’easters, but I have NEVER seen such a mess washed up as I have today,” she said.

The Recreation and Park Department stepped up to the challenge. After being called, the crew arrived within an hour with bags, a dump truck and even a backhoe. The pile of large pieces of Styrofoam broken off docks filled the back of the truck.



Marine Propulsion Goes Electric

With our boats hauled and prepped for storage, some of us might spend the winter planning for a power upgrade for next season. Whether it's a new outboard for your dinghy, new auxiliary power for your sailboat, or even a new powerboat (like the one pictured above at the 2021 Newport Boat Show), there's never been a better time to consider a green power solution. Available horsepower and range for marine applications have steadily increased along with the potential for recharging by solar and hydro turbine.

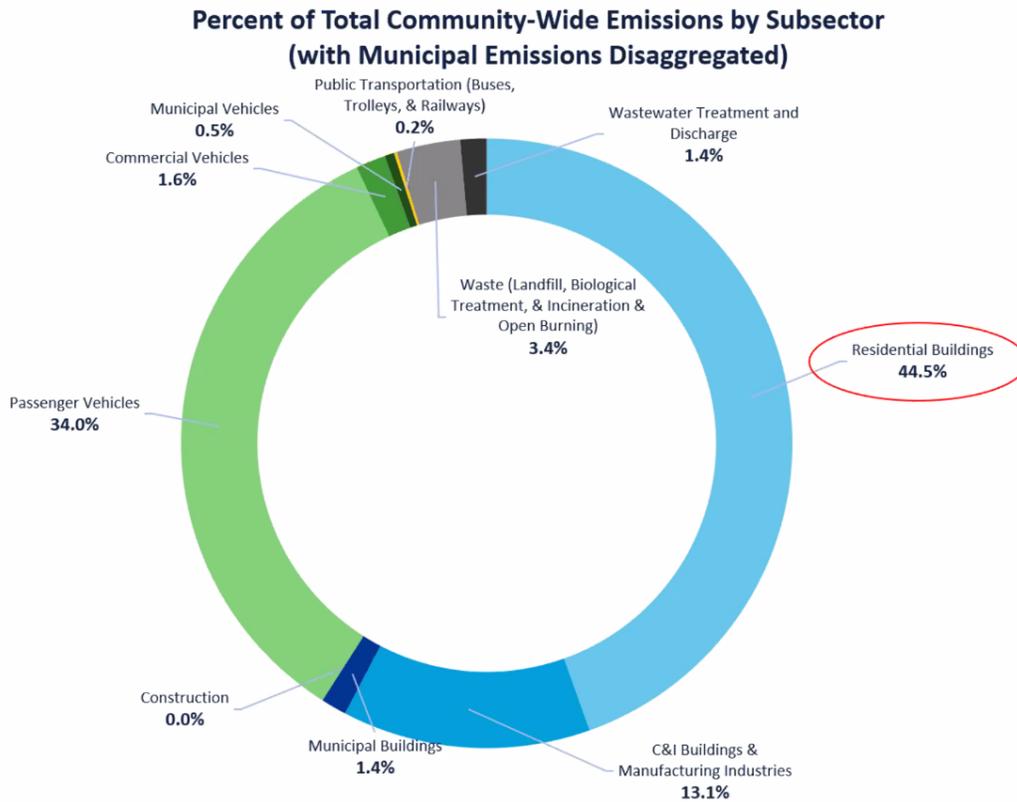
Imagine never again having to change your oil, winterize your engine, or cross your fingers for the first start in the spring. Best of all is the sound, vibration, and exhaust an electric motor doesn't make. Here are some links for your winter reading.

Click [here](#) for information on an electric outboard for your dinghy.

Click [here](#) for information on electric propulsion for your sailboat.

Click [here](#) for information on electric powerboats.

Net Zero Workshop



More than 50 people attended the town's October 5 Net Zero Workshop, hosted by

the Green Marblehead Committee (GMC) and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC). In his introduction, Town Administrator Jason Silva reminded us that the climate vision adopted by the Board of Selectmen sets a target of reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2040. Net zero means that any residual emissions from fossil fuels still present in 2040 will be offset by strategies that sequester carbon, such as planting trees or developing offshore kelp farms.

MAPC's Brooks Winner chaired the meeting and set the context by explaining Massachusetts' new legislative environment. The Next Generation Roadmap bill that Governor Baker signed in March and the administration's document, "Mass 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap," both have a goal of reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050, with an interim goal of a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030. For the first time, municipally-owned light departments such as ours will need to meet this goal as well.

Attendees talked in breakout sessions about the need for individual versus collective action. Currently, the Town's municipal buildings, vehicles and town-wide waste account for only 3.3% of Marblehead's greenhouse gas emissions, while home heating accounts for 45% and passenger vehicles account for 34% of total emissions. MAPC data shows that 55% of Marblehead residents and businesses heat with gas, 23% with oil and 22% with electricity.

At the end of the meeting, Winner said data from the workshop will be collated and further outreach will be made to town residents and individual stakeholders who may not have attended the workshop. Winner will then draft a climate action plan to reduce our emissions, submit it to GMC and then present it to town residents in early 2022. After further feedback, the report will be finalized and submitted to the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board for adoption in spring 2022.

The Green Marblehead Committee will continue meeting on the first Thursday of every month at 3:00 PM. This is a public meeting, posted on the town website. GMC has two new members, Select Board member Alexa Singer, who replaced Select Board Chair Jackie Belf-Becker, and Town Finance Director Steven Poulos.

Upcoming Events



Compost, Recycle, Trash?
Monday, November 15, 2021
4:00 – 5:00 pm
(Time to be confirmed. Check website for updates.)
Online

In honor of America Recycles Day on November 15, Sustainable Marblehead invites you to join us online to find out how to create less holiday waste and what to compost.

Hear from Andrew Petty, Marblehead Director of Public Health, and Andrew Brousseau, Co-Owner BlackEarth Compost, how to “green” your holiday season.

Click [here](#) to register.



Story Stroll
Saturday and Sunday,
December 4 and 5
Lee Mansion Gardens

Sustainable Marblehead is pleased to announce that we will present a “Story Stroll” in partnership with the Abbot Public Library during Marblehead’s 50th Annual Christmas Walk on December 4 and 5. The community is invited to the gardens of the Jeremiah Lee Mansion to enjoy the beauty of nature while reading a wonderful winter-themed children’s picture book, each page posted to a different location in the garden. Thanks to the Marblehead Museum for making the space available for this festive family event. Visitors can enjoy the Story Stroll at no cost throughout the month of December during the garden’s regular hours from dawn to dusk.



Did You Know?

Each year, more than one third of food produced in the world goes to waste, and it is responsible for 10% of all greenhouse gas emissions.



What Can You Do?

- Make sure to use all the food you buy.
 - Encourage local restaurants, supermarkets and schools to donate food.
 - Compost.
 - Click [here](#) for six tips to avoid food waste in your home and to download the Too Good To Go app, which connects you and your household to stores and restaurants that have unsold food.
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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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