



# November Newsletter

*Preserving Our Past by Protecting Our Future*

## Local Actions: Global Consequences



This week, the United Nations Climate Conference COP27 in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, is showing us how our actions here at home affect global climate, impacting countries rich and poor throughout the world.

At this contentious summit, developing countries – where the biggest climate

damages are – have criticized wealthy nations – which caused the problem by burning coal, oil and gas – for not helping to rescue them from the worst impacts of a warming planet. And, although compensation to developing nations is important, critics are also saying that the US and other large polluters should focus on cutting their **own** carbon pollution first.

A recent letter to the editor in the Marblehead Weekly News echoes this sentiment. The letter writer called church bell ringing to sound the alarm about climate change “charming,” but wondered what the churches were doing to actually reduce their carbon footprint.

In fact, communities of faith in Marblehead **are** leading the way to reduce carbon emissions, by such activities as exploring energy efficiency measures, volunteering to improve the tree canopy, and hosting talks like the [one this Sunday](#) cosponsored by Sustainable Marblehead and the Unitarian Church.

But the letter-writer’s admonishment should be taken more generally. What are we as a town, and each of us individually, doing to reduce our carbon footprint?

Marblehead has set a goal of reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2040 (click [here](#) to read the Marblehead Climate Vision Report). But as the UN warns in a recently-released expert report on net-zero commitments, such pledges risk being little more than “greenwashing” if not backed up with robust plans to actually reduce emissions. The Green Marblehead Committee is working on just such a robust Net-Zero Roadmap for our town and depends on feedback from town residents to perfect the document. You can make an important contribution by attending the upcoming public meeting to give your feedback. Keep your eye out for the meeting date.

And, on a personal level, you can contribute by visiting the [Take Action](#) pages on

our website to find immediate ways to reduce your carbon footprint, eliminate waste and protect the health of the planet.

As discussions unfold in Sharm el-Sheikh, we know that actions we take locally have global impact.

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## MMLD Buys into Largest Solar Field in Massachusetts



Marblehead Municipal Light Department is one of six Massachusetts municipal light plants that will draw energy from the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company's Ludlow solar farm, inaugurated on October 17, with MMLD General Manager Joe Kowalik and Light Commissioner Jean-Jacques Yarmoff in attendance. (Kowalik and Yarmoff are pictured here, flanking Marblehead resident and Major, US Air Force Reserve Mike Lewis.)

Located next to the Westover Air Reserve Base and dedicated to Master Sergeant Alexander Cotton, the 32-acre Ludlow project is the largest single solar field in the state, generating more than 13,800 megawatt hours per year, enough to power more than 1,500 homes, and displacing nearly 13,220,400 pounds of CO2 emissions per year.

Featuring bifacial module technology, the panels produce energy from direct sunlight as well as light reflected onto the backside of the panels. This allows for better year-round production, including during the winter, when snow cover on the ground reflects light onto the back of the panels.

Consistent with the state's decarbonization roadmap, the solar project allows the participating municipal light departments to increase the non-carbon generation mix in their power portfolios, while helping them to maintain stable rates for their customers. It will be online in the first quarter of 2023.

Click [here](#) for more information and to view time-lapse and drone videos.

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## Mattress and Textile Waste Ban

Beginning November 1, 2022, landfills, transfer stations and waste-to-energy facilities across Massachusetts are no longer accepting mattresses and textiles for disposal. The ban is part of the state's 2030 Solid Waste Master Plan, which proposes to cut waste disposal by 1.7 million tons annually to reach a 90 percent reduction goal by 2050.

So, how DO we get rid of textiles and

mattresses?

According to the Marblehead Board of Health, mattresses must be recycled and textiles must be donated for reuse or other secondary uses. Both can be taken to the Marblehead Transfer Station. Disposing of a mattress and box spring set costs \$25 and they can be deposited in a special container for that purpose. Textiles – including clothes, shoes, linens, towels, curtains, and cloth accessories – can be recycled in the Transfer Station clothing collection bins for no fee (for residents with facility sticker). Items must be dry and in bags.

You can also drop off textiles at designated local collection bins or donate them to your favorite charity or thrift store, such as the Magic Hat, Good Will, Paradise Plaza or the Clifton Lutheran Church.

Another good resource for finding recycling and donation centers is the [RecycleSmartMA Beyond the Bin](#) search tool. Choose the category of item from a drop-down list and add your location

to find the closest centers. And when you buy a new mattress, check with the retailer to see if the company will recycle your old one.

To learn more about trash disposal, please join us on November 15 at 4pm for a webinar on reducing waste. Click [here](#) to register.



### **Farrell Court Tree Work**

Sustainable Marblehead's Town Trees and Urban Forestry group has partnered with the Marblehead Housing Authority to help improve the life of five prominent trees in the Farrell Court common areas by creating decorative barriers around the trunks of the trees. This will both protect the trunks from lawn mower and string trimmer damage and increase the visual appeal of the trees.

Creating the barrier is a several-step process. First, a non-plastic weed mat is placed within a circle around the

tree trunks. Pavers delineate the circle and hold the stones filled in over the weed mat. Sod is not removed, as digging around the roots could hurt the trees, and the mats will kill off the grass and weeds adding nutrients back into the soil. The non-plastic mat allows air and water to pass through to the roots and helps keep the trees properly hydrated. While Sustainable Marblehead volunteers are providing the labor, the Housing Authority enthusiastically supplied tools and materials, as well as supervisory staff for the project.

This same approach can be applied at your own house using readily available coconut mat or cardboard and newspapers. At Farrell Court, we are using stones as a covering instead of bark mulch to reduce maintenance requirements, weeds and decomposition of the material in future years.

Sustainable Marblehead is working with other civic organizations to beautify Farrell Court. The Driftwood Garden Club has begun regular work



sprucing up and expanding the Old Farrell Court courtyard gardening areas, a major re-focus for the club over the next couple years while Abbot Library is being renovated. Temple Emanuel joined the Driftwood in this activity recently for a Mitzvah volunteer day. We look forward to continued collaboration with these and other groups on projects at Housing Authority properties.



## **Water Welcome at Rotary 5K Midpoint**

Sustainable Marblehead and the National Grand Bank sponsored a hydration station midway through the 5K race organized by the Rotary Club of Marblehead on November 6. Both

organizations provided Igloos filled with cold water, which enthusiastic volunteers passed out in compostable cups. This eliminated the need for single-use plastic water bottles at the midpoint.

The race's mission was to raise support benefitting the mental health and well-being of Marblehead youth. More than 150 runners and walkers of all ages participated, including Congressman Seth Moulton and his daughter, and Marblehead school Superintendent John Buckey.

For race results, click [here](#).



## **Boston Yacht Club Wins Green Boater Contest 2022**

Sustainable Marblehead and Sailors for the Sea have announced that the Boston Yacht Club won the Green Boater Contest 2022. The friendly contest between the six Marblehead yacht clubs, started in the spring of 2022, encouraged clubs to sign up the greatest number of Green Boaters among their members. (Above, BYC Commodore Tom Mager accepts a Green Boater burgee from Sailors for the Sea Skipper for Marblehead and Sustainable Marblehead board member Rob Howie.)

Green Boaters, a program of Sailors for the Sea, are individuals who make a pledge online to avoid single-use

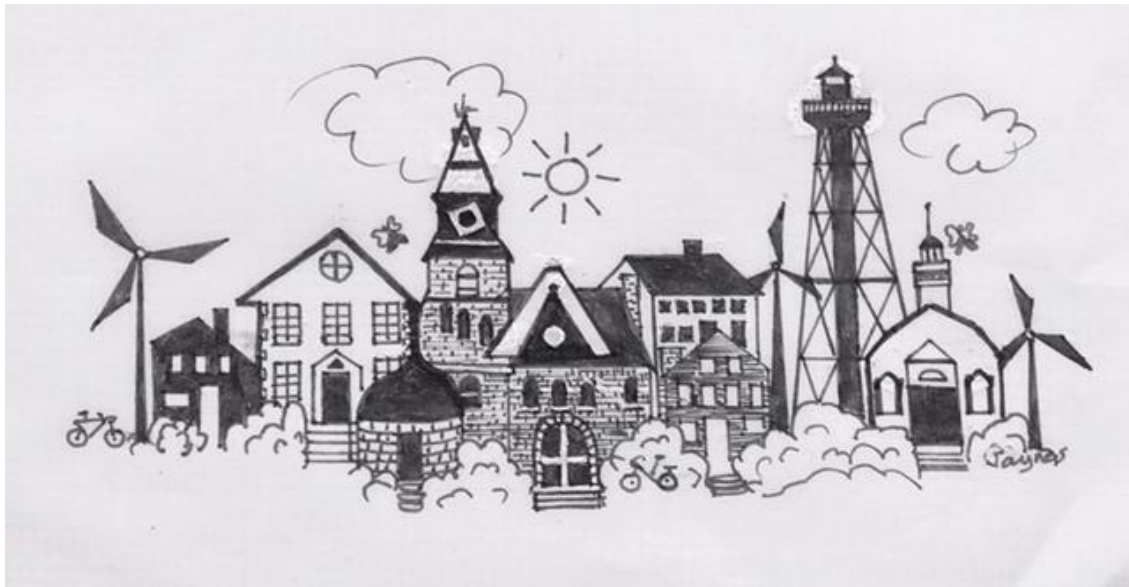
plastic and to be good stewards of our marine environment. It costs nothing to make the pledge; it's about making a commitment to care for the ocean.

More than 90 local sailors and boaters have taken the Green Boater pledge. With 2,800 boats in Marblehead waters, that means just 3% are Green Boaters, so we have room to grow.

To take the pledge, click [here](#).

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## Upcoming Events



**Save Energy, Save Money, Protect the Planet**

Meetinghouse Talk

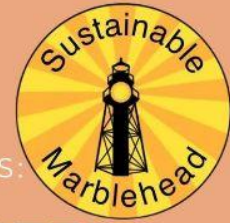
November 13, 2022, 3:00 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church, 28 Mugford St, Marblehead

And Online

As winter approaches, please join Sustainable Marblehead and the Unitarian Church for a hybrid program on ways to save energy and reduce your home energy costs.

Click [here](#) for more information and Zoom link.



SUSTAINABLE MARBLEHEAD PRESENTS:

**REDUCING HOLIDAY WASTE**

# **COMPOST, RECYCLE, TRASH?**

Join us online to learn how to “green” your holiday season  
and what you can compost.

Presented by Andrew Petty, Marblehead Director of  
Public Health and Black Earth Compost

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**NOVEMBER 15TH, 2022  
4 PM ON ZOOM**

<https://tinyurl.com/SMReduceHolidayWaste>



**Compost, Recycle, Trash? Webinar**

November 15, 2022, 4:00 pm

Please join Sustainable Marblehead for our annual webinar on reducing holiday trash.

Click [here](#) to register.

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### Did You Know?

The most common cause of bicycle accidents is getting hit by a car, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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### What Can You Do?

You can't give up driving overnight. But you can start driving in a way that makes sharing the road easier for all.

When you are behind the wheel, work to become more actively attentive to all types of traffic.

When passing a cyclist or pedestrian, ask yourself:

- Do I have enough space not just to be safe, but to make sure they feel safe too?

- Is there less-patient traffic behind me that could threaten a cyclist? And would waiting to pass help prevent an accident?
- Am I communicating clearly with cyclists and pedestrians, so that they know that I see them and that I am looking out for their safety?

Roll down your windows. Make eye contact often. Go slow. Be courteous. Protect those around you.

Click [here](#) for more.

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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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Special thanks to our Community Champion Sponsors





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