



May Newsletter

Preserving Our Past by Protecting Our Future

With All Deliberate Speed



At Town Meeting earlier this week, we were reminded of the phrase “with all deliberate speed.” This was the wording of the Sustainable Marblehead-sponsored 2018 Town Meeting warrant article, overwhelmingly passed by town voters, setting a goal of “using 100% carbon-free energy in Marblehead, including in energy production, building energy use, and transportation, and moving with fiscal responsibility and *all deliberate speed* to achieve this goal.”

In the four years since that article was passed, we have made significant progress toward that goal – including setting a target date of 2040 – but there’s still a long way to go. At times, all deliberate speed can be frustratingly slow.

This year, we were pleased that many of the articles we supported passed at Town Meeting, but it took time to get them approved by voters and the process was not always easy. As we were amply reminded, it took five tries to pass some version of a ban on the use of gas-powered leaf-blowers. The version that passed earlier this week prohibits the use of such blowers from Memorial Day to Labor Day. It took more than a year of work to come up with a plan for an off-road bike park for our young people at the town-owned property across from the Community Store. Sustainable Marblehead supported both these articles because, in addition to the obvious health benefits, they will also reduce carbon emissions.

Creating solutions to identified problems requires thought and negotiation. Sustainable Marblehead advocates for energetic, urgent action to counter climate change, but we realize that solutions must be worked out with all interested parties. Patience is necessary. And perseverance pays off. Just as it did for those who sponsored the above-mentioned articles this year.

Other 2022 Town Meeting votes that move us closer to meeting Marblehead’s 2040 net-zero emissions goal include Article 10, which will allow the Police Department to purchase two new hybrid police cars; Article 11, which provides funding for a new roof at the High School that will be solar ready and improve roads and sidewalks for bikers and pedestrians; and Article 46, which includes funding to hire an additional bus driver, which if passed by voters at a town-wide election on the school override on June 21 will allow the School Department to extend the current “pay to ride” program to more K-6 children and reduce the number of cars on the road and their resulting emissions.

We were excited to hear that the town is buying hybrid vehicles. We were happy to hear residents reminding the Public Works Department that while fixing the sidewalks is essential, saving mature trees should also be a priority, because a tree takes a long time to grow.

We still have many items on our to-do list, including encouraging the town to hire a sustainability manager, speeding the electrification of transportation and home heating, reducing single-use plastics and creating a pollinator corridor in Marblehead by planting native plants, to name a few. The list of issues we are fighting for is long, and we need everyone’s help to accomplish them.

Click on the [Volunteer](#) button on our website to let us know how you can help.

Promote Clean Energy by Signing Up for MMLD's "Go Green Now" Program



GO GREEN NOW!

The *Boston Globe* recently featured an [article](#) on its front page about the clean energy portfolios of the state's 40 municipal light plants, including the Marblehead Municipal Light Department (MMLD), finding that they have less clean energy in their portfolios than their larger for-profit counterparts.

The article was based on a new [report](#) from the Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN) that rates the municipal plants on their progress. The report found that in 2020, only 37.25% of Marblehead's electricity came from non-carbon emitting sources, including nuclear power.

While MMLD has made progress since 2020 (43% of our electricity is now non-carbon emitting with more than half coming from nuclear power contracts with the Seabrook and Millstone plants in NH and CT, respectively), according to

its [website](#), more progress is needed to meet our town’s goal of achieving net-zero carbon emissions. One promising development is MMLD’s plan to participate in a new solar PV farm being planned for Ludlow, which when operational is expected to supply 1.3% of the energy consumed by Marblehead residents in 2021, according to MMLD General Manager Joe Kowalik.

But there’s more all of us can do. If you want carbon-free electricity now, you can sign up for MMLD’s voluntary “Go Green Now” program [here](#). By participating in the program, you can significantly reduce your own carbon footprint while sending a strong message to the Light Department and Light Commission that we want MMLD to purchase more clean energy. Residents who participate in the program pay an average monthly surcharge of \$14.56 per household based on an average bill of 662 kilowatt hours of electricity used (2.2 cents more per kilowatt hour). Households using more electricity pay more; households using less electricity pay less. **Please sign up today!**



Grant Funding Boosts Elementary School Gardens

Sustainable Marblehead Education Working Group Leader Kaya Frechette has received grant funding from Friends of the Marblehead Public Schools to begin a Glover School Organic Garden and Harvest of the Month Nutrition Program.

The garden will offer enriching outdoor experiential learning opportunities to Glover School students. Programming

will encourage a sense of environmental responsibility, instilling a deepened respect for nature.

Massachusetts Farm to School's Harvest of the Month Program encourages healthy food choices by increasing students' exposure to seasonal fruits and vegetables while also supporting local farmers by showcasing a selected vegetable or fruit each month. The Harvest of the Month Program will begin in September and provide continued exposure to sustainable eating practices during the winter months when students will not be able to actively work in the garden.

Sustainable Marblehead's Education Working Group is also collaborating with the Brown and Village Schools on garden programming, environmental education, and enrichment for elementary school students. Please contact kaya@sustainablemarblehead.org if you would like to be added to our email list for updates and volunteer opportunities to support the implementation of these programs by the start of the 2022-23 school year!



Town Tree Planting

On April 30, in honor of Arbor Day, Sustainable Marblehead volunteers of all ages turned out to help Tree Warden Jon Fobert plant more than 20 street trees along Sevinor, Ralph, Auburndale, Sharon and Glendale Roads.

First, Fobert demonstrated how to correctly plant the bare-root trees. He explained that it is important not to bury the "flare" (point where a tree's trunk broadens and roots start) and showed how to turn the tree so its best face is directed towards the street. After the training session, the nearly 30 volunteers spread out in small groups, and completed the job in record time, ending with watering and mulching.

Tree varieties chosen will increase the diversity of the tree canopy and are appropriate for our climate. They included Sweet Gum, Turkish Filbert, Tree Lilac, Locust, Hornbeam and Kentucky Coffee trees.

When you're out for a walk, make a detour to admire the new arrivals.



Marblehead Ocean Week with the Rozalia Project

Please join us for Sustainable Marblehead's Second Annual Marblehead Ocean Week, in honor of World Ocean Day on June 8th. This year, we are delighted to be partnering with the Rozalia Project, returning to Marblehead with their famous Ted Hood-designed American Promise sailboat, which they use as a platform for educating us about the importance of protecting and cleaning up our oceans.

Fun and informative community events during Ocean Week will include:

Thursday, June 2

Ocean Week Kickoff Event: An evening with Rich Wilson, Vendee Globe Around the World Sailor, Old Town House, 7 pm.

Saturday, June 4

Outdoor Film Screening of *Around Alone*, Dodge Morgan Documentary, Lee Mansion Lawn, 7 pm.

Sunday, June 5

Community Beach Clean Up and Sorting by Rozalia Project, 9-12 am. Harbor Fair (2-5 pm) and American Promise Public Tours (2-4 pm) at Tucker's Wharf.

Follow us on social media and visit our [website](#) for more information and to sign up.



Marblehead Harbor Past & Future

Bill Conly and Hugh Bishop addressed a standing-room-only crowd at the Old Town House on April 28, educating us about Marblehead Harbor's past and sharing their visions for its future, based on their respective books, *Marblehead's Waterfront* and *Marblehead's First Harbor*.

Although Bill and Hugh said some weather events, like nor'easters, have always been with us, they recognize that weather patterns are changing and sea levels are rising. They support building a breakwater as a necessary step to prevent catastrophic damage to the Harbor and its surrounding areas.

Marblehead is actively exploring ways to protect the harbor for future generations. The town commissioned the Woods Hole Group in 2020 to carry out the [Marblehead Harbor Vulnerability Assessment](#), accessible on our website.

Following the release of that report, Marblehead secured continued funding from the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management to help mitigate the effects of climate change near the Municipal Light Department's headquarters on Commercial Street and neighboring Hammond Park. Salem Sound Coast Watch is overseeing that work and will report out in June. For details about the ongoing work, visit Salem Sound Coast Watch's [website](#) and scroll down to "Marblehead's Coastal Resiliency Efforts."

Finally, Bill Conly and Sustainable Marblehead members Rob Howie and James Ashton sit on a working group that is updating the town's Harbor Plan. The group would like public input. To let the town know *your* thoughts on the future of Marblehead Harbor, please attend the Harbor Plan public meeting on May 16 at 6 pm at Abbot Hall. See Upcoming Events below for more information.

Upcoming Events



Green Home Heating Webinar

May 11, 6 – 7 pm online via Zoom

Postponed from last month to May 11, this webinar will teach you how, as a homeowner, you can reduce your carbon footprint by installing air source heat pumps and mini-splits, and what incentives are available to help with financing.

Presented by: Stephen Shinopoulos of HomeWorks Energy and Mike Cappucio of N.E.T.R. Inc. Heating and Cooling Systems, with a case study by Sustainable Marblehead member Mark Adams.

To register, click [here](#).



Chamber Spring Celebration

May 14, 12 – 3 pm at the National Grand Bank parking lot

The Marblehead Chamber of Commerce and Discover Marblehead are hosting a Spring Celebration on May 14 to showcase businesses and nonprofits throughout town. Come visit Sustainable Marblehead's table from noon to 3 pm in the National Grand Bank parking lot to learn more about our activities. We'll have a craft project for children, too!



Public Forum on the Harbor Plan

Monday May 16, 6 pm in Abbot Hall

Tell town officials how you value and access the water, how the Harbor contributes to Marblehead's economy, and what we need to consider as sea levels rise and impact our Harbor over time. Share your thoughts and hopes for Marblehead's Harbor!

For more information about the meeting, please email Becky Curran at rebeccac@marblehead.org.

Can't make the meeting? An online survey and an online meeting will be announced soon!



Did You Know?

Common plastic items shed trillions of nanoparticles when exposed to hot water.

The average coffee cup released more than a billion nanoplastic particles per milliliter. When you drink hot tea or coffee from a plastic cup, you could be swallowing trillions of bits of plastic so small that 1,000 of them could fit on a human hair.

For the whole story from Treehugger, click [here](#).



Do?

Bring a reusable cup to the coffee shop and ask to

Although some Marblehead coffee shops serve hot beverages that are consumed on site in reusable, washable cups, others provide disposable cups for both take-out and in-store consumption. Bringing a reusable cup will reduce trash and keep you safe from nanoplastics, too!

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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