



Committee Members

Mary Knittle, Chair
Evelyn Herwitz, Vice Chair
Patricia Austin
Ted Conna
Nathan Fournier
Deirdra Murphy
Mary Leovich

Contacting the Committee

Department of Sustainability and Resilience
Address: 455 Main Street, Room 108,
Worcester, MA 01608 (by appointment)
Email: GreenWorcester@worcesterma.gov
Website:
www.WorcesterMA.gov/GreenWorcester

Department of Sustainability and Resilience

Our Mission:

To implement the ambitious and urgent goals of the Green Worcester Sustainability and Resilience Strategic Plan (GWP), a roadmap for making Worcester the greenest mid-size city in the country.

Our Staff:

John Odell, *Chief*
Jacquelyn Burmeister, *Lakes & Ponds Program Coordinator*
Jessica Davis, *Project Manager*
Robert DeFosse, *Energy Services Manager*
Nick Pagan, *Senior Environmental Analyst*
Sarah Mount, *Energy Analyst*
Luba Zhaurova, *Director of Projects*

Accessibility:

The GWAC is committed to ensuring that its public meetings are accessible to all. Should you require interpretation, auxiliary aids, services, translations, written materials in other formats, or reasonable modifications in policies and procedures, please contact the DSR a minimum of 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Translations:

Hay disponibles servicios de interpretación y otras adaptaciones con solicitud previa.
Avisanos por
greenworcester@worcesterma.gov

CITY OF WORCESTER

Meeting Minutes

Green Worcester Advisory Committee

Monday, March 13, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.
Location: Esther Howland Room, City Hall

Attendance

Present

Mary Knittle, Chair
Patricia Austin
Ted Conna
Nate Fournier
Mary Leovich (online)
Deirdra Murphy (online)

Absent

Evelyn Herwitz, Vice Chair (excused)

Staff

John Odell
Luba Zhaurova
Jessica Davis

Call To Order at 5:42 pm by Mary Knittle, Committee Chair

1. **Welcome**

i. Chair Knittle read out the rules of meeting conduct.

2. **Approval of Minutes – January 23, 2023**

i. The Committee voted unanimously to approve the January 23, 2023 meeting minutes.

3. **New Business**

i. Presentation: Worcester Native Plant Initiative (WNPI), Beth Fleming, Joanne Hart, Leonardo DaSilva and Nikki Howell (*Attachment A*)

- a. Member Fournier and Member Conna expressed appreciation and support for the WNPI's work. They said that GWAC would like to support WNPI's work wherever possible.
- b. Ms. Howell shared that WNPI is working with a city conservation project at Coal Mine Brook to recommend that only native plants be planted at that location. This can be an example project for the city to see how native plants can be beneficial in terms of

maintenance, ecosystem services and aesthetics compared to the status quo of planting grass and mowing. She added that it would be helpful for GWAC to support that effort.

- c. Member Murphy proposed that this topic be added to school curriculum and that native plant gardens should be planted at all city schools. She would also like the city to incentivize native pollinator gardens for landscaping at businesses.

d. Chair Knittle asked if the city will be creating an ordinance to limit the hours that residents can use leaf blowers and other loud yard equipment. Mr. Odell replied that that topic has been brought up in the past and he will bring an update on that to the next meeting. Member Conna suggested that the current noise ordinances could be more strictly enforced to limit noise from lawn mowers and leaf blowers.

Mr. Odell noted that he or a member of staff would reach out to WNPI to review possible future collaboration opportunities.

ii. Planning the 1st Green Worcester Summit – Discussion (15 minutes) (*Attachment B*)

- i. Ms. Davis explained the event proposal for the first Green Worcester Summit. The theme of this event would be Building Community Connections. The summit's purpose would be to create stronger community connections to enhance collaborations and strive towards the goals set forth in the Green Worcester Plan (GWP). The possible event activities could be short presentations, tabling, panels, rounds tables and networking. The invitees could include community groups, non-profits, students, interested individuals, government agencies and small businesses. Ms. Davis said that the Department of Sustainability and Resilience (DSR) is looking for feedback on the concept and ideas.
 1. Member Fournier suggested a festival format with music and food. The goals would be having people sign up on email lists, collaborating with other organizations, and meeting community members.
 2. Member Leovich suggested proposing a very specific goal and topic for the event and holding a more traditional and formal summit. The invitees would include leaders from universities, large businesses and other community leaders. A common goal would be determined, and the stakeholders would work on it together and commit to meeting again. There would be a focus on just one or two topics to keep it focused.
 3. Member Austin suggested looking at the GWP to see how an event can relate to those goals. The invitees could include volunteer groups, such as the Worcester Native Plant Initiative, as this would provide the opportunity for groups to connect.
 4. Resident Paul Popinchalk made a public comment that the event should focus on issues that citizens have a big impact on including waste generation/management and the protection of the Blackstone River watershed. Additionally, he thought this should be an annual event at a consistent date such as lining up with Earth Day or the Spring or Fall equinox.
 5. Resident Deb Cary made a public comment that this event could have a theme or focus on the topics from the GWP or the Now | Next citywide master plan. The goal could be to bring people together and create concrete next steps on how to work together. Mass Audubon would be happy to spread the word and get their members involved once the event is planned.

6. Member Conna said that there are many good event ideas in this discussion but we can't do everything at all once so we need to define the focus if we want a productive event. Additionally, if we want college students involved, then the event shouldn't be hosted in the summer since they are taking exams and leaving town in May. However, there could be a different event in future to include them. Overall, we need to narrow down the ideas and determine a clear goal for the event.
7. Mr. Odell said that DSR will take these ideas, consider other factors such as budgets and time capabilities for the department, and then will report back for the next meeting. In the interim, DSR will welcome feedback and ideas for the event from GWAC over email.

4. Continued Business

- i. Update on Miyawaki Forest Pilot and MVP Grant
 - i. Ms. Zhaurova said that the research for this project is continuing and includes gathering information from other communities, specifically Cambridge. There is an upcoming grant opportunity through the Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program that DSR plans to apply for to fund a pilot of planting these forests in various locations in the city. DSR will update the committee once there is a more concrete plan to propose.

5. DSR Updates (15 minutes)

- i. Energy
 - i. Electric vehicle charging stations
 1. Mr. Odell announced the launch of 18 public electric vehicle charging stations at 3 public garages: Common, Federal Plaza and Pearl Elm. The stations are free to use currently, and people are already using them. DSR will determine the pricing structure for future charging after a month or so, taking into consideration the costs of maintenance and electricity.
 - ii. Energy Advocates and Community First Partnership Grant
 1. Mr. Odell reported that DSR received this two-year grant from National Grid and Eversource, for \$60,000 per year (a total \$120,000) to hire two part time Energy Advocate positions who will work approximately 20 hours per week. Their job will be to market the Mass Save program, with a focus on historically underserved communities. The Mass Save programs provide no cost energy assessments and incentives for energy efficiency work that will help residents be more comfortable and save money in their homes.
- ii. Mobility
 - i. Mobility Plan kicked-off
 1. Mr. Odell explained that DSR has been working in collaboration with the Department of Transportation and Mobility (DTM) to develop a Mobility Plan for the city. It is a subset of the Now | Next citywide master plan. The Mobility Plan will take a year to develop and will be roadmap and guide for DTM, playing a role similar to that of the Green Worcester Plan guiding DSR.
 - ii. Endicott / Bigelow Complete Streets Project
 1. Mr. Odell shared an update on the Complete Streets project at Endicott and Bigelow streets. This project created a design for that area which includes bike lanes, parking improvements, safety measures for pedestrians and green infrastructure. This will hopefully serve as a template to be used for other areas in the city. There will be a community meeting in District 4 to discuss the sustainability, safety, and connectivity benefits of the design and GWAC members are invited to attend. The meeting date and

time are to be determined. The current draft design and information from previous community meetings is on the DTM website.

- iii. Lakes & Ponds Program: State of the Lakes Event
 - i. Mr. Odell reported that the State of the Lakes event was a couple of weeks ago at the Senior Center and was very successful with lots of attendees. The Lakes and Ponds Coordinator, Jacquelyn Burmeister, did an excellent job and many city officials attended including the Mayor and City Manager. The recording of the State of the Lakes will be available to watch this week on the city website. Member Austin attended and said the event was well done and she learned a lot.
 - ii. Ms. Davis shared that the Lakes and Ponds Worcester Cyanobacteria Monitoring Collaborative, a community science program, is hosting a virtual training on April 12 for anyone interested in volunteering. The information can be found on the DSR website.
- iv. Waste: Zero Waste Coordinator Position is opened
 - i. Mr. Odell shared that this is a new position that will sit in DSR but work closely with DPW. It is essential to achieving the zero waste goals set forth in the GWP. Many people, particularly staff in DPW, have been working on zero waste initiatives but there has not been one person whose position is completed dedicated to this work. Once someone is hired, a Zero Waste Master Plan will be developed. Member Conna expressed appreciation for the work of Bob Fiore (now retired), architect of the city's groundbreaking 1993 curbside recycling program, and was pleased that this new position portends collaboration between DSR and DPW.
 - ii. Chair Knittle noted that there is a new textile recycling program available for residents. Mr. Odell recognized the work the DPW did to develop and launch that program.
- v. Collaboration / Partnership: Chamber of Commerce collaboration follow-up
 - i. Mr. Odell said that DSR has met with the Chamber of Commerce to discuss collaboration and will continue to do so.

6. Standing Items

- i. Received Communications
 - i. Mr. Odell noted that there are upcoming public workshops to share feedback on the draft plan recommendations for the Now/Next citywide plan. The topics include housing, job growth, sustainability and more. There will be an in-person event on March 30 and a virtual event on April 12.
- ii. Community outreach
 - i. Chair Knittle provided a review on the Impact event at Arts Worcester on 3/3/2023 as she attended and represented GWAC there. She said it was a positive event, the art pieces were beautiful, the event was focused on climate change and event attendees were interested in GWAC's work. There were tables for Mass Audubon, GWLT and others too.
- iii. Community feedback
 - i. Member Conna shared two pieces of community feedback. The first is that residents have been asking him how they can plant trees and he told them that they can go to city website or call customer service and get on the planting list. The second is the issue of recyclables being blown around streets on very windy days. There are multiple factors that contribute to this issue. Member Conna believes that the bins that the city chose to purchase and give to residents are more susceptible to being blown over in the wind (because they are taller with a smaller base), the lids don't stay on, and the bins and lids are too fragile, maybe because the plastic is too thin. His 30-year old bin is still unbroken, but many of the new bins in his neighborhood were quickly broken. He suggested that if the weather forecast is for heavy winds, then the city could delay the recycling collection to avoid the otherwise guaranteed outcome, a mess of litter in the streets. Member Conna also noted that in 2019, the city proposed to solve the windblown recyclables problem by requiring recycling collection in plastic bags, but that he joined many other citizens in

opposing this idea because it would have added about 135 tons of new plastic waste to the waste stream per year, and about 250 tons per year of new carbon emissions from the production and recycling of the plastic bags. The idea was scrapped, and the city later distributed the bins with lids instead.

- ii. Member Leovich asked if there was a different location for drop off of recyclables if collection was delayed or cancelled due to wind. Mr. Odell replied that recyclables can be dropped off at the Millbury St. residential drop off facility.
- iii. Mr. Odell explained that city trash is collected by city staff and recycling is collected by a third party, Casella, which could complicate changing collection days due to wind. Ms. Zhaurova added that communication can be an issue in terms of notifying residents if collection will be delayed. Member Conna suggested that the city's text/email alerts and the news media could be used, as they are now for holiday postponements and winter parking bans.
- iv. Upcoming events
 - i. Ms. Davis shared that there was an invitation from the library for an event on April 21 for Earth Week and she asked if GWAC would like to table at it.
 - ii. Member Fournier shared that there will be an Earth Day clean up event organized by the Regional Environmental Council on Saturday, April 22 and you can register on their website to participate. It is put on in collaboration with DPW.
 - iii. Member Conna shared that there are two Urban Forestry Commission meetings coming up on March 22 and April 12 at 6pm at Manny Familia Way in Meeting Room A.

Adjournment

The committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:17pm.

Attachments

Attachment A: Worcester Native Plant Initiative Presentation

Attachment B: Green Worcester Summit Proposal

Attachment C: City Council Memo for CFP

Attachment D: Zero Waste Coordinator Job Posting

Attachment E: Now | Next Workshops Flyer

2023 Upcoming Meetings

Green Worcester Advisory Committee meetings begin on Mondays at 5:30pm:

<i>April 3</i>	<i>Meeting Room A*</i>
<i>May 15</i>	<i>Esther Howland</i>
<i>June 26</i>	<i>Meeting Room A*</i>
<i>July 31</i>	<i>Levi Lincoln</i>
<i>September 18</i>	<i>Meeting Room A*</i>
<i>October 16</i>	<i>Esther Howland</i>
<i>November 27</i>	<i>Esther Howland</i>

**Meeting Room A is located at 50 Manny Familia Way.*

DRAFT

Worcester Native Plant Initiative



<https://worcesternativeplantinitiative.godaddysites.com/>



Worcester Native Plant Initiative

Worcester Native Plant Initiative

“Bee Imagine-Native”





HISTORY

HISTORY

- November 2021
- Shared interest in climate change action and biodiversity restoration
- All 7 members had personal experience with native plants
- Began by organizing and creating community
- First program was in February 2022,
- In Spring 2022, visibility and planting projects begin
- Held several programs in 2022, currently 130 on mailing list, almost 700 members on Facebook
- Time is right, people are ready!

MISSION





The Worcester Native Plant Initiative is a community based volunteer organization focused on getting more native plants into the Worcester landscape, advocating for more green policies, and educating the public on the benefits and necessity of native plants for climate change mitigation. With the help of our tireless volunteers, we have partnered with many local churches, Webster Square Business Association, City of Worcester, Jeremiah's Inn, Worcester Garden Club, Regional Environmental Council, Broad Meadow Brook, Greater Worcester Land Trust, Clark University and others to get closer to our vision of Worcester as a restored landscape, a healthy place for all creatures.

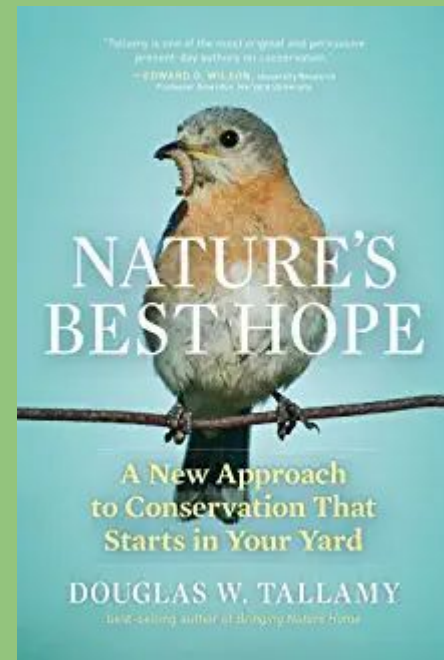
Our Ideas are broadly derived from the work of Dr. Douglas Tallamy.



Doug Tallamy and Homegrown National Park

www.homegrownnationalpark.org

- **Shrink the lawn**
- **Stop use of fossil fuel powered yard tools**
- **Remove invasive species**
- **Plant keystone genera**
- **Be generous with your plantings**
- **Reduce your nighttime light pollution**
- **Network with neighbors**
- **Build a conservation hardscape**
- **Create caterpillar pupation sites under your trees**
- **Stop use of pesticides and fertilizers**
- **Pass the Word!**



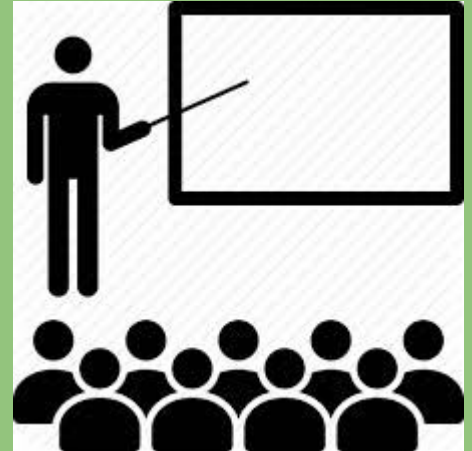


PROJECTS

Projects: Education

- **Winter Sow (times 5!)**
- **Planting workshop in Webster Square with REC and Nathaniel Wheeler Trust**
- **Rain garden workshop in collaboration with Worcester Garden Club and Broad Meadow Brook (May and June 2023)**
- **Bi-weekly articles or educational videos posted on facebook group**
- **Hometown Habitat movie in collaboration with REC and Broad Meadow Brook**
- **Extreme Heat Community Resilience Study (in collaboration with Northeastern University and YMCA of Worcester)**
- **Seed gathering, cleaning, and packaging**
- **Arbor Day Festival Tabling**
- **Butterfly Festival at Broad Meadow Brook Tabling**
- **REC Spring Plant sale Tabling**
- **Garden tours (2 last August, 2 scheduled for August 2023)**
- **No Mow may sign contest (February/March 2023)**

⋮



WINTER SOWING



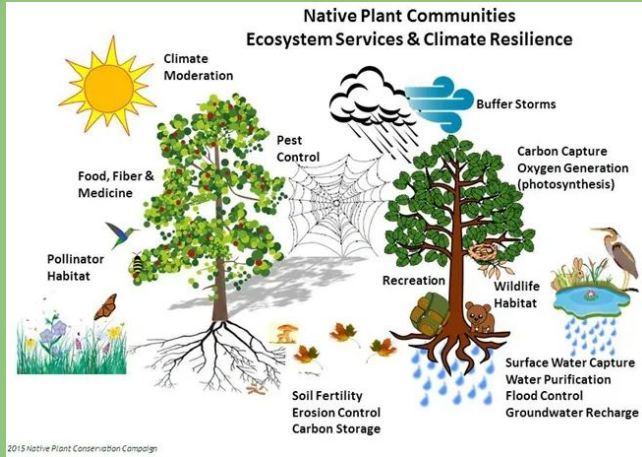
TABLE FUN!





EDUCATIONAL SIGNAGE

COMING SOON:
NO MOW MAY





GARDEN TOURS

SEED CLEANING AND PACKAGING



HOMETOWN HABITAT SCREENING:

(in collaboration with Broad Meadow Brook and REC)



“Award winning director, **Catherine Zimmerman**, and film crew traveled across the country to visit Hometown Habitat heroes, who are reversing detrimental impacts on the land and in the water of major U.S. watersheds, one garden at a time. The stories they traveled to tell touch on all aspects of the benefits of native plants and brings to light a sense of community that makes conservation landscaping possible.”



WNPI held two showings at Broad Meadow Brook and reached 80 people.
The important message is getting out into the community!

Northeastern University Extreme Heat Study



CONCERNED ABOUT EXTREME TEMPERATURES?

- Seeking Worcester residents to participate in a community resilience study
- \$40 compensation for taking part in a 2-hour community workshop

Part of a study to learn about how you and your community deal with extreme temperature events and figure out the types of research and actions that can support your community's efforts to build resilience.

Projects: Planting

- **Webster Square:** in collaboration with Webster Square Business Association, Jeremiah's Inn, Rec, Nathaniel Wheeler Trust, over 300 volunteer labor hours: Includes 4 medians and 4 collections of planters. To be expanded in 2023 to include 11 more planters!
- **City of Worcester Spring Beautification Grants 2022** (times 3): Lake View School Park, St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Unitarian Universalist Worcester church.
- **Colony Retirement Home:** In collaboration with REC and Northeastern University
- **Hadwen Arboretum:** in collaboration with Clark University (Spring 2023)
- **Coal Mine Brook:** in collaboration with Worcester Garden Club (Spring 2023)
- **Shore Park** (Spring 2023)
- **Webster Square expansion** (Spring 2023)
- **Proposed 7 Hills project** (Goddard Memorial Drive) 2023

WEBSTER SQUARE ISLANDS AND PLANTERS



In collaboration with REC. Adding more natives to Webster Square!





Mill and Park Container



Turns out, planting projects also include dumping LOTS of waste soil!



WEBSTER SQUARE ON
MANY DIFFERENT DAYS!



UUCW EXPANSION



COLONY RETIREMENT HOME, GROVE STREET PLANTING



A COLLABORATION
BETWEEN LADY FERN
FARM, WNPI, REC, AND
NORTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY



LAKE VIEW ELEMENTARY PARK PLANTING



ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE ST. JOHN TEMPLE STREET



Worcester Green Plan and WNPI Collaboration

- **Desire for native plants to be part of on-going planning for city projects**
- **WNPI be made aware of any projects where native plants could be utilized**
- **Partner to educate city employees to understand the role of native plants in climate change mitigation/biodiversity restoration**
- **Normalize native landscapes**
- **Funding**

<https://worcesternativeplantinitiative.godaddysites.com/>



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1079048142881378>

***Thanks for watching and
listening.***

Time for your questions!



Event Proposal for the First Green Worcester Summit

By DSR to GWAC; 3/13/2023

Overview

The proposed Sustainability and Resilience Summit will be held in May/June 2023 (TBD), scheduled close to the annual celebration of Earth Day and the two-year anniversary of the passage of the Green Worcester Plan (GWP).

The theme of this event will be ***Building Community Connections***. The summit's purpose is to create stronger community connections to strive towards the goals set for in the GWP. Not one entity or individual can accomplish the ambitious vision of the GWP; we are all in this together.

- Goal: build stronger connections to enhance collaborations for sustainability, resilience, and equity efforts in Worcester
 - Activities: short presentations, tabling, panels, rounds tables, networking
 - When: Thursday 4pm-7pm OR Saturday 10am-1pm ([Discuss](#))
 - Who: community groups, non-profits, students, interested individuals, government agencies, small businesses
 - Location: community location TBD
-

Event Structure

- Introductions
 - John Odell (MC); A Green Worcester Plan Update
 - Guest Speaker ([Discuss](#))
 - A GWAC Member
- Tabling
 - Residents can walk around the tables and learn about Worcester's community groups
- 1-2 Presentations from outside speakers
- Round Tables
- Networking and Continued Round Table Conversations

Mid-summit Interactive Activities

- Thought Cloud activity
- Story Map
 - Ask Groups to mark where they have put in projects on a map during the meeting
- Post summit survey



Eric D. Batista
City Manager

CITY OF WORCESTER

cm2023feb23104644

Attachment for Item #

9.36 C

February 28, 2023

TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILORS:

I respectfully recommend the adoption of a resolution to file, accept, and expend a grant in the amount of One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$120,000.00) from the Mass Save Program, through a Community First Partnership Grant administered by the City's Department of Sustainability & Resilience's "Energy Advocate Program," specifically to fund community outreach activities related to promoting participation in energy efficiency programs.

Respectfully submitted,

Eric D. Batista
City Manager

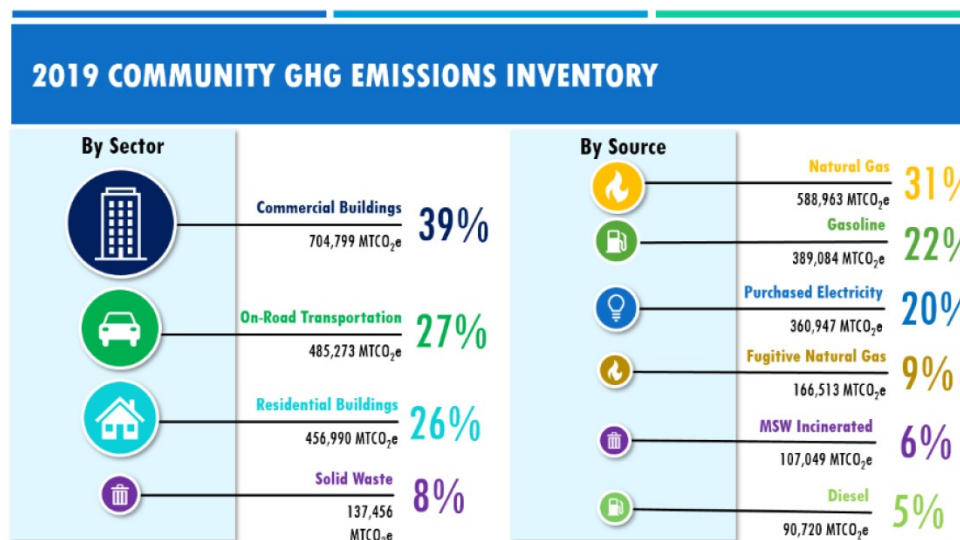
To: Eric D. Batista, City Manager
 From: John Odell, Chief of Department of Sustainability & Resilience
 Date: February 28, 2023
 Re: **Green Worcester ElectricCITY – Smart Energy Advice**

The largest source of greenhouse gas emissions from human activities in the United States is from burning fossil fuels for electricity, heat, and transportation. In Worcester the single largest sector for carbon emissions is from our buildings, as noted in our recently completed greenhouse gas inventory report. Therefore, and not surprisingly, reducing building energy use (both in municipal operations and in the community) is one of the high priority goals for the Green Worcester Plan, and, consequently, my department.



As a result, my department is pursuing opportunities that would assist, advocate for and educate residents and businesses on matters of energy efficiency. Under the umbrella brand of Green Worcester ElectricCITY¹, the program will be called Smart Energy Advice and will include two (2) main sub-programs:

- 1) Energy Advocates, funded by a Community First Partnership grant from MassSave, and
- 2) Energy Coaching Hour, funded by the Aggregation Revolving Fund².



¹ Another program related to this umbrella brand is the Municipal Electricity Aggregation Program.

² Operational adder fee collected from participants as part of the program, with a goal of using the funds to promote the Aggregation Program's goals.



Energy Advocates

The program's goal is to increase awareness and measurable participation in the Mass Save® energy efficiency offerings, particularly from residents and business in Environmental Justice (EJ) areas. The Community First Partnership Grant (\$60,000 for each of the calendar years 2023 and 2024) will fund up to two Energy Advocate positions and associated outreach materials.

The Energy Advocate position(s) (a new part-time municipal position funded by the grant, and supplemented, if needed, by the Aggregation Revolving Fund) will:

- Engage residents and small businesses;
- Develop and implement outreach campaign, using a Community Based Social Marketing Framework;
- Connect residents and small businesses to energy efficiency programs;
- Actively communicate with customers to guide them through process to access Mass Save programs;
- Build local partnerships.

The grant is specifically focused on increasing participation in building energy efficiency work among renters, English isolated communities, small businesses, and low/moderate income populations.

Please find attached a **Resolution** to accept and expend the grant funds.

Energy Coaching Hour Program

This program is still in development. The goal is to provide more comprehensive and in-depth coaching than what an energy advocate could provide. More specifically, it would offer up to one hour of one-on-one, no-cost, customized consultation per electric account owner on energy related topics for Worcester residents and businesses that are not constrained to MassSave program offerings, including, but not limited to the following:

- a) Income Eligibility for programs that assist with energy bill reduction
- b) "Energy Bill Check Up" service
- c) Electrification opportunities (building and vehicles)
- d) Renewable Energy and Energy Storage
- e) Financials and Incentives – Information and Timeline Optimization

The takeaway for participants would be a personalized energy roadmap and an ongoing resource if new questions come up.

The program seeks to address a variety of barriers (not unique to Worcester): fragmentation of information, energy information complexity, rising utility costs, aging and/or poorly maintained housing stock, lack of trust, language barriers, and more.

More information will be forthcoming about this still developing program in the coming months.

**A RESOLUTION TO FILE, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND A GRANT UP TO
ONE HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$120,000.00)
FROM WORCESTER’S MASS SAVE PROGRAM ADMINISTRATORS (NATIONAL
GRID AND EVERSOURCE)**

WHEREAS: The City of Worcester is committed to implementation of the Green Worcester Sustainability and Resilience Strategic Plan, which vision is to make Worcester the most sustainable and climate-resilient mid-sized city in America by 2050; and

WHEREAS: The Green Worcester Plan is committed to the issues of equity, health and prosperity; and has greenhouse gas emissions elimination goals of:

- By 2030: 100% renewable energy for municipal facilities
- By 2035: 100% renewable electricity for the entire community through the Municipal Electrical Aggregation program; and
- By 2045: 100% renewable energy for the entire community, including for building heating and transportation (five years earlier than the State goal); and

WHEREAS: The Mass Save Program is an initiative sponsored by Massachusetts’ gas and electric utilities and energy efficiency service providers – National Grid and Eversource in Worcester; and,

WHEREAS: Mass Save is offering a Community First Partnership Grant to increase engagement with Environmental Justice communities, and reach low to moderate-income customers, renters, landlords, English-isolated customers, and microbusinesses to provide access to and ensure participation in Mass-Save energy efficiency programs; and,

WHEREAS: The City of Worcester has been selected to administer grant funds up to One Hundred Twenty Thousand Dollars and No Cents (\$120,000.00) over two years through its Department of Sustainability & Resilience’s “Energy Advocate Program,” specifically to fund community outreach activities related to promoting participation in energy efficiency programs, through its “Energy Advocate Program;” and,

WHEREAS: The grant funds will be used to fund community outreach activities related to promoting participation in energy efficiency programs, through the “Energy Advocate Program;” with a focus on reaching vulnerable populations; and

WHEREAS: Participation goals include influencing the completion of up to 600 residential weatherization projects, up to 600 residential heating and hot water heating projects, and up to 150 small business turnkey projects each year the city participates;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That the City Manager be and is hereby authorized to accept Mass Save Community First Partnership grant funds.
2. That the City Manager be and is hereby authorized to file information as required by the Mass Save Community First Partnership and to enter into and execute contracts, including any amendments, and related documents thereto, in order to carry out the terms, purposes, and conditions of the grant.
3. That the City Manager be and is hereby authorized to take such other action as is necessary to carry out the terms, purposes, and conditions of the grant.
4. That this resolution shall take effect upon passage.

Title

ZERO WASTE COORDINATOR

Department/Division

Sustainability and Resilience

Apply Start Date

03/02/2023

Apply End Date

03/17/2023

Type

Full Time

Hours

40 Per Week

Wage

\$68,500 - \$76,159 annually

Description

**ZERO WASTE COORDINATOR
SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE
CITY OF WORCESTER**

The City of Worcester's Department of Sustainability and Resilience seeks applicants for the position of **Zero Waste Coordinator** to assist with implementation of Zero Waste goals of the Green Worcester Sustainability and Resilience Strategic Plan (GWP). This employee will work closely with the Department of Public Works & Parks and coordinate the development and implementation of a Zero Waste Master Plan to promote waste prevention, materials reuse, and diversion of food waste, as well as construction and demolition waste. The employee will prepare public educational and outreach materials in various formats and platforms; attend community events to educate the public about initiatives; initiate and/or expand new programs to divert waste and increase awareness of recycling requirements to ensure compliance with state and local laws, in collaboration with residents, public schools, institutions, businesses and community groups. In addition, the position will pursue applicable MassDEP and other grant opportunities to advance GWP zero waste goals; prepare and submit required annual MassDEP reports on solid waste, recycling rates, etc.; and organize and participate in waste collection events. The employee will lead student projects on topics of interest, including developing and piloting behavior change campaigns to promote waste reduction and reduce contamination of recyclables; review and propose changes to the policies, practices, ordinances, and laws governing the collection, recycling, and disposal of household solid waste.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

- Knowledge of the principles, practices, and objectives of different aspects of waste reduction and management
- Demonstrated proficiency with Microsoft Office Suite
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills

- Proven strong project planning and management, organizational, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills
- Willingness and ability to learn and think creatively
- Ability to read, interpret, understand, and apply laws, rules and regulations, policies, procedures, specifications, and guidelines related to integrated solid waste systems and programs
- Ability to understand and communicate complex data analysis and complex sustainability issues in a simple manner to garner credibility and support
- Ability to work and communicate with diverse populations, maintaining professional and helpful attitude while educating stakeholders on resolving issues
- Ability to examine data from different primary and secondary data sources and create meaningful analyses and determine solutions
- Ability to work both independently and collaboratively as part of a team

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Associate's Degree of Environmental Science, Sustainability, Natural Resources, Public Health, or related discipline, OR,

o equivalent combination of education and experience demonstrating the knowledge, skills, and abilities may substitute for the above degree requirement.

- Three (3) years of experience in the field of waste management or coordination of a similar program.
- Two (2) years of experience in public outreach or educational campaigns of a related nature
- Strong computer skills and knowledge of standard productivity software (MS-Office Suite, Adobe Acrobat, etc.)
- Possess a Valid Driver's License

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's Degree of Environmental Science, Sustainability, Natural Resources, Public Health, or related discipline, or equivalent education.
- 5+ years of experience in the field of solid waste management or coordination, or a similar program.
- Relevant work experience in the New England area.

SALARY RANGE: \$68,500 -\$76,159 annually, full-time, with an excellent benefits package.

To apply, please visit: www.worcesterma.gov/employment or send resume and cover letter on or before **FRIDAY, March 17, 2023**, to: City of Worcester, 455 Main Street, Room 109, Worcester, MA 01608. Preference is given to Worcester residents. **The City of Worcester is an equal opportunity, affirmative action employer. Women, minorities, people with**

disabilities and protected veterans are encouraged to apply. Direct inquiries to: City Hall, Human Resources, Room 109, 508-799-1030, HR@worcesterma.gov.

Now | Next

Worcester's Citywide Plan

Public Draft Plan Workshop

Taller público sobre el proyecto de plan

Join us in shaping the future of housing, transportation, and economic opportunity in Worcester! Share feedback on the draft plan recommendations.

¡Únete a nosotros para dar forma al futuro de la vivienda, el transporte y las oportunidades económicas en Worcester! Proveen comentarios acerca de las recomendaciones del proyecto de plan de la ciudad.



In-Person
En-persona

Thursday, March 30
5:30 - 7:30pm

Worcester Senior Center
128 Providence St.

Jueves 30 de marzo
5:30 - 7:30pm

Centro de Mayores de Worcester
128 Providence St.



Virtual
Virtual

Wednesday, April 12 Zoom
5:30 - 7:30pm

Miércoles 12 de abril Zoom
5:30 - 7:30pm



The workshops will be conducted in English with live interpretation in Spanish and American Sign Language.

Los talleres se impartirán en inglés con interpretación en directo al español y a la lengua de signos americana.



Register here
Regístrese aquí