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Weatherize Hanover Campaign Update

As of Jan. 26th, 51 Hanover households have signed up with the Weatherize Hanover Campaign to schedule an energy audit and learn how they can make their homes more energy efficient, comfortable and healthy.

Weatherizing your home saves money and helps reduce one's carbon footprint. Weatherize Hanover has taken the guess work out of the process and made it as easy as possible for homeowners. **In addition, if you schedule an energy audit by March 13th, you will be entered in a drawing to win \$100 toward the cost of your weatherization project.**

Our four pre-selected contractors are approved by both Vital Communities and NH Saves. They are all qualified specialists in auditing and weatherization techniques, and they charge the same amount for the energy audit and the various weatherization projects. All our contractors are subject to periodic review by NH Saves and Vital Communities.

For information about where to start on a home weatherization project, check our website: hanovernh.org/weatherize. There you will find general information about weatherizing, how to apply for weatherization rebates, and information about the contractors involved in our program. In addition, we are holding three informal **drop-in sessions** where you will be able to talk with Weatherize Hanover volunteers and individuals who have weatherized their homes.

Drop-in dates are:

**Thurs., Feb. 27th, 10-12 noon, Umpleby's
Bakery
Wed., March 4, 5:30-7:30 pm, Still North
Books**

Interested Hanover residents are encouraged to contact Weather Hanover's co-chairs:

Robin Kaiser: robinkaisergish1@gmail.com

Barb Callaway : bcallaway65@gmail.com

Now's the time to "Button Up" your home!



Energy Audits and Weatherization How to Get Involved

By Judith Pettingell

This year the Sustainable Hanover Committee's Weatherization Campaign is helping us save energy, decrease our energy bills, and reduce our CO2 emissions.

I have signed up. The possibility of \$4000 in rebates to help me afford to weatherize was the impetus to begin the application process.

Here are the steps I took:

1. I Googled NH Saves and clicked on the Energy Audits & Weatherization choice. (I could also have gone to hanovernh.org/weatherize to start the process.)
2. The information they needed to tell whether my house qualified was: a) heating usage over the most recent 12 months (how much electricity, propane, etc. used), b) square footage of my house, c) the utility provider(s), and d) my zip code

3. Getting my heating usage was easy: I called both my propane and electricity providers who gave me the information I needed over the phone and also mailed me my usage print outs.
4. I didn't know the actual "conditioned" square footage of my home but a quick trip to Hanover's Town Hall and a question about where to look up my property information was quick. It may also be possible to do this on line.
5. The zip code was the easiest part!
6. When I initially applied I did not qualify because I only entered my propane usage. Later I realized I heat several rooms with electricity. When that information was added to the application the energy meter's hand made a rapid trip from green (low energy use) to red (very high energy use), so I qualified for help.

Now I am an accepted applicant for the New Hampshire Saves program. I'll be assigned a contractor who will do an energy audit on my house and suggest weatherization strategies. Then I'll decide what I want to do to tighten up my house!



Sustainable Initiatives at the Co-op Food Stores

By Emily Rogers

Hanover COOP Member Education Manager

Here at the Co-op we're focusing on ways to reduce our environmental impacts. We're taking on some big challenges from eliminating plastic shopping bags at the registers to auditing our Co-op packaging. Single-use and reuse are topics many are talking about and working on in the Upper Valley.

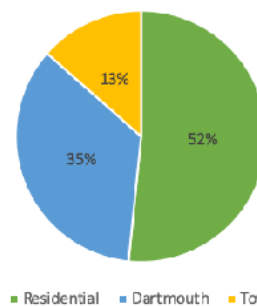
For the Co-op, making sure that our customers can responsibly dispose of Co-op packaging is one challenge we're tackling this year. We are building and implementing systems so our customers can either participate in Co-op programs to responsibly dispose of shopping waste, or use municipal programs that accept waste from Upper Valley residents. For example, anyone can recycle #5 rigid

plastic through Preserve Ware's "Gimme 5" program at any of the Co-op Food Stores. Just drop off clean #5 plastic at the Member Services Desks and we'll ship it back to be remade into Preserve Ware.

So how do we start the work of building and implementing waste reduction systems? By auditing the types of packaging we're offering and evaluating strategies around reducing packaging, while upholding the utmost expectations for food safety. Also looking at opportunities to build reusable programs into the shopping experience. These are just a couple of the strategies we'll be implementing to continue reducing the environmental impacts for the Co-op.

We invite community members to join us in efforts to reduce waste. We plan a Community Conversation regarding this topic on Tuesday, February 25, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Kilton Library.

Local Solar Generation by Sector
Community Wide Solar = 2.2 Megawatts



Hanover's Local Solar Power Surpasses 2 Megawatts

By Yolanda Baumgartner

Sustainable Hanover's 2019 Solarize campaign and continuing installations by the Town and Dartmouth College have pushed the total local solar capacity in Hanover and Etna to 2.2 megawatts. Local solar generation now offsets more than 1,500 tons of CO₂ annually. Slightly more than half of this capacity is contributed by the rooftop and ground-mounted PV systems on residential properties.

Hanover residents have led the way with solar adoption. The first solar panels in Hanover - a small 2.97 kw system - were put up by a farsighted resident in 2005. Five more residential systems were added

over the next nine years. Then in 2015 Sustainable Hanover conducted its first Solarize Hanover campaign. Residents responded enthusiastically. 50 new residential PV systems came on line, and the Town installed Hanover's first non-residential PV system on the Public Safety Building.

Solar capacity has continued to grow since 2015, driven in part by three local events.

- Town voters adopted *Ready for 100* renewable energy goals in 2017;
- Dartmouth College issued its "Our Green Future" statement expressing renewable energy goals consistent with Hanover's *Ready for 100* goals;
- Sustainable Hanover initiated *Solarize Hanover 2.0*, a three year campaign beginning in 2019 to support and promote continued growth of rooftop and ground-mounted solar.

2019 was the biggest solar year for the community, setting a record with 862 kilowatts of new capacity, pushing the town-wide total past the 2 megawatt milestone. Residents accounted for 37 percent of this new capacity. The Town and Dartmouth contributed the balance at 31 percent and 32 percent respectively.

Sustainable Hanover will launch the 2020 Solarize campaign in the spring. Watch for announcements through the Town E-News and the SH Newsletter!



Students Report - HHS Climate Action

By Members of the HSS Environmental Club

The Environmental Club is a group at Hanover High School that promotes awareness of environmental issues such as climate change and

works to make our school more sustainable. We recognize that the climate crisis is one of the greatest issues facing our nation and the world. Climate change is time-sensitive and some believe it will be irreversible in 12 years. So, a Climate Action Plan (CAP) was created by students at HHS with the goal of reducing carbon emissions from the HHS community by 6% by 2025 and 77% by 2050.

The Climate Action Plan Implementation Team (CAPIT) consists of a group of teachers, students, and community members. In addition to our large group meetings, this year, student representatives of the larger CAPIT work every Monday to discuss integrating the plan into the HHS community. Recently, we have been pushing for the school to take advantage of the NH SAVES program which provides incentives for schools to purchase LED lights.

After narrowing down a list of projects that would help increase our school community's energy efficiency, we spoke to the Dresden School Board on December 17, 2019 informing them about energy reduction measures cited in the energy audit performed for HHS this past fall. We plan to return to the school board once we have a more specific outline of the costs necessary to implement some of the aspects of the Climate Action Plan. The Climate Action Plan can be found on the Hanover High School sustainability webpage. Please feel free to contact us at hhs-environmental-club@hanovernorwichschools.org with any questions or ideas.

