



www.hanovernh.org/sustainable-hanover-committee

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Hanover's 2nd Annual Energy Forum

Over one hundred residents attended Hanover's 2nd Annual Energy Forum on April 24th at the Richmond Middle School. The event, hosted by Sustainable Hanover's Energy Subcommittee, shared progress to date toward Hanover's goals of 100% renewable energy for electricity by 2030 and for transportation, heating, and cooling by 2050.



Before the formal presentation, residents had a chance to interact informally with community members who had prepared poster presentations on topics such as energy efficiency, residential solar and community solar. Poster presenters included: the Co-op Food Stores, Hanover Friends Meeting House, Hanover Parks and Recreation, LED Design & Defiance Electric, Neighborhood Action Groups, NH Saves & Liberty Utilities, Robin Kaiser and Peter Gish, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Twin Pines Summer Park, UK Architects, and 7th Graders from the Richmond Middle School.



During the formal presentation, Hanover Town Manager, Julia Griffin, outlined the Town's strategy for providing universal access to 100% green power by 2030. The Town is soon launching Solarize Hanover 2.0 — a program to encourage the installation of **more rooftop and ground mounted solar panels**. Currently, Hanover has over 140 solar installations with a total capacity of 1.6 MW. Near term projects being planned include a 3 MW installation on municipal property, the potential development of additional private community solar sites totaling 4 MW, and a large ground mounted solar array being pursued by Dartmouth College.



Resident viewing map of solar installations in Hanover

For homeowners, renters, and small to medium sized businesses for which solar is not an option, the Town is researching access to green power via renewable energy certificates. For large users, the Town is exploring competitive power purchase agreements that support the development of large scale renewable energy projects within ISO-New England and have the advantage of locking in 12-20 year prices equal to or less than those currently offered by Liberty Utilities.

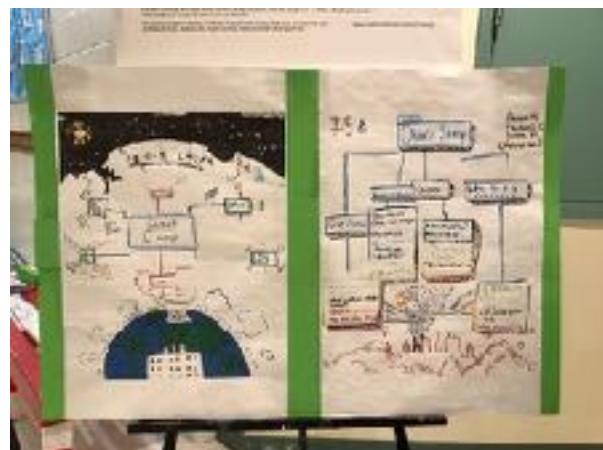
Julia noted that **efficiency is a priority for the town.** In collaboration with Liberty Utilities, Hanover is reaching out to local businesses regarding grants, credits and loans for increasing energy efficiency and moving towards renewables. Finally, Griffin stressed the importance of the town “leading by example;” she summarized the many energy efficient and renewables projects that the municipality has completed and planned for the near future.



Panelists: Dartmouth Director of Sustainability, Rosi Kerr; Sustainability Hanover's Co-chair Yolanda Baumgartner; Hanover Director of Sustainable Hanover April Salas; Hanover's Town Manager Julia Griffin.

Hanover's Director of Sustainability, April Salas, provided the larger context for our local energy saving efforts. She noted that Hanover is part of the New England Regional Grid that is moving increasingly towards a less centralized system with greater reliance on renewable energy sources. The mix of wind and solar comprises 78% of the new proposed resources. She summarized the values underpinning the work of Sustainable Hanover and assured us that Hanover is not alone. One network of local government & sustainability professionals connects us to nearly 200 member cities and counties across the United States and Canada, representing over 87 million residents! She recognized the **value of these partnerships to our overall success.**

Dartmouth College's Director of Sustainability, Rosi Kerr, described efforts of the Sustainability Office both to implement the College's 2017 Sustainability Plan and to educate students during the process. The Office is providing internships for students to help track energy use on campus -- no small feat. Interns estimate that current energy consumption at the College breaks down as follows: 72% from using number six fuel oil, 26% from the electric grid, and 2% from solar. The College intends to change this mix by constructing more energy efficient buildings, replacing inadequate and dated equipment, heating hot water with biomass instead of heating steam with number six fuel oil, and purchasing wind power. If successful, the composition of Dartmouth's energy use by 2025 will be 64% biomass, 14% grid electricity, 14% wind, and 8% solar.



Climate Change Posters by Richmond Middle School 7th Graders

Finally, Sustainable Hanover's Co-Chair, Yolanda Baumgartner, stressed the need for each of us to contribute to this effort. She noted an 8% decline in town-wide electricity use from the grid between 2013 and 2018, summarized the growth of solar, and highlighted the importance of energy efficiency. She announced the opportunity to “check out” an **LED light bulb kit** from Howe Library to experiment with LEDs at home or in the office. She also described our pilot project with NHSaves and Liberty Utilities to help small and medium sized businesses identify opportunities and receive incentives to become more energy efficient. Yolanda closed with a quote by Paul Hawken from *Drawdown* that resonates with her experience as Co-Chair, **“Climate solutions depend on community, collaboration and cooperation.”**



April Salas explaining to residents her family's effort's to make their home more sustainable.

By all accounts, Sustainable Hanover's 2nd Annual Energy Forum was a big success. It certainly was for Devora Gronauer who won a Black & Decker 40V Cordless String Trimmer! April Salas reported another heartening outcome. In describing steps her family has taken to make their 1960's home more sustainable, she thinks she might have been able to convince several folks on the fence to take the "sustainability plunge!"

What about you? Ready to Take the Plunge? Let's Make it Happen!

*Reporting & Editing - Judith Colla, Robin Gish
Photos courtesy of Lyn Swett-Miller*

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Solarize Hanover 2.0 Launches!

Do you own a home or small business? Are you interested in installing rooftop or ground mounted solar panels? Would you like to take advantage of federal tax credits scheduled to decline in 2020 and expire at the end of 2021? Looking for reputable installers? If so, **Solarize Hanover 2.0** is for you! For more information, go to: hanovernh.org/solarize.

Go Solar Now: Good for you! Good for the Earth!



Complete Energy Forum Report - Links

CATV video of entire presentation including some views of poster sessions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcOmfgJbqjE>
Slides of Forum on Town website:

https://www.hanovernh.org/sites/hanovernh/files/uploads/2019_forum_slidesfinal_042419.pdf

