



Dennis Robison (robisode@gmail.com) editor

About this Newsletter

We are excited to announce the inaugural issue of *Sustainable Hanover*. In recent years, as our committee has grown in size and scope, with an ever increasing number of residents, businesses and non-profits adopting sustainable measures and renewable energy, we have sought a way to share news of local changes and opportunities happening at an astonishing rate. We were delighted when Dennis Robison agreed to join our committee to launch this newsletter, proving once again that Hanover is blessed with knowledgeable and talented people who donate their time and energy to help sustain the best of our community for present and future generations.

Dennis moved to Kendal-at-Hanover from Edenton, NC where he chaired the Chowan/Edenton Environmental Group for a decade. With that valuable experience and his previous tenure as an academic librarian under his belt, he has generously offered to create and edit this newsletter for Sustainable Hanover.

Sustainable Committee Co-Chairs

Marjorie Rogalski

Yolanda Baumgartner



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What's the Scoop on the Energy Forum?

Hanover's 2nd **Ready for 100 Energy Forum** will be held at the Richmond Middle School on Lyme Road on Wednesday, April 24, 6 to 8 pm. There will be displays, presentations, refreshments and lots of information about the many ways Hanover is transitioning to 100% renewable energy.

Pre-registration is at [this link](#), but walk-ins are also welcome. By pre-registering, you will be eligible for a drawing to win an electric yard trimmer (just in time for spring!).

At the forum you will see how many of Hanover's 140 solar systems you can recognize in the exhibit "Progress in Pictures".

Find the posters for the two Hanover homes which won recent awards - the 2018 "Most Sustainable Building in NH" and the 2017 Drive to Net Zero Competition (3rd place).

Meet Hanover residents at the "Ask Me" tables. They will answer questions based on their personal experience with solar installations, heat pumps, geothermal heating, insulating and sealing, and much more.

Representatives of Liberty Utilities will be on hand to offer their energy saving tips, giveaways, and free LED bulbs (while supply lasts).

Light refreshments will be served. Bring your own mug, please!



Town Hall Meeting, May 14, 2019

Two articles on this year's warrant support solar energy. They will be voted on at the Business Session, which begins at 7 pm at the High School gym.

Article #16 authorizes the Select Board to enter into electric power purchase agreements for solar systems installed on town property. This will permit the Town to consider lease arrangements when they are a more cost effective way to install solar.

Article #17 adopts the State's enabling property tax exemption for solar energy systems. Hanover owners of such solar systems are currently NOT assessed or taxed for these installations. With adoption of RSA 72:61 property owners can apply for an exemption for the value of solar equipment when and if the presence of such improvements is seen as adding to the value of residential and/or commercial real estate.

Read about the warrant articles in the [town report](#).

Highlights From Sustainable Hanover's 2018 Annual Report:

Focus on Energy

- Voters passed the solar zoning ordinance in 2018 to permit more options for solar installation. As of February 2019, Hanover has added enough solar panels to increase our community's solar capacity from last year's 894 kW to 1,550 kW.
- With assistance from renewable energy consultant 3Degrees, we will soon launch a program for residents and small businesses to buy certified green electricity.
- We recently launched a partnership with Liberty Utilities and Resilient Buildings

Group to help business owners save energy and money through efficiency upgrades.

Focus on Recycling and Waste Reduction

- Experienced great frustration trying to keep pace with the lack of stability in the industry.
- More success with re-use with well attended yard sales in Hanover and Norwich.

Focus on Sustaining Landscapes

- Established the physical phase of Hanover's first Sustainable Works Around Time (SWAT) at the School Street Park (site of former community center).



NH House Passes Bills to Restrict One-Use Plastics, Now Awaiting Senate Action

From the Connecticut River Conservancy we learned that plastic trash, including bags and straws are polluting New England's waterways. It was therefore good to also learn that two bills which will reduce plastic waste have passed the NH House. Having cleared this first hurdle, the bills - HB 560 to restrict the distribution of plastic carryout bags and HB 558 to restrict plastic straws - moved to the NH Senate where the Commerce Committee is expected to hold hearings the week of April 22.

To voice their support, residents may contact Commerce [committee members](#) (especially Senate President Donna Soucy who sits on this committee). We hope the NH Senate will act as the House did to enact a statewide ban.

And for a great resource for living a more plastic-free life, check out this website called [No Plastic Pollution](#) from the Upper Valley's Pat McGovern.



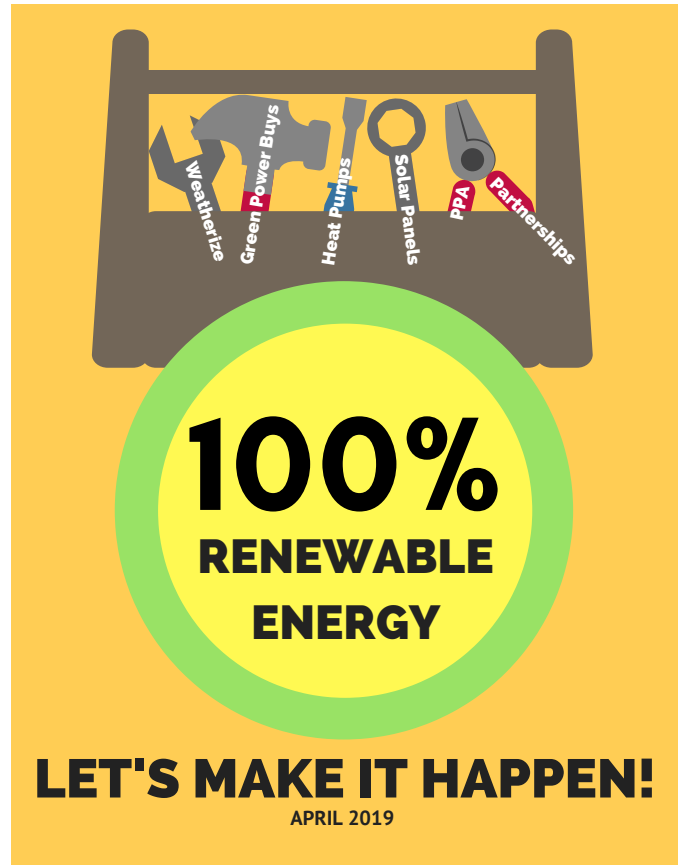
LEDs Light the Way

Sustainable Hanover and the Howe Library are putting together the final touches on an LED light bulb kit to help Hanover residents see how they can benefit from LED lighting. The kit will be available for library borrowers in May. Sustainable Hanover is grateful to Mike Campbell of Hanover Hardware who donated the case and many of its bulbs.

The kit contains 9 LED bulbs of different shapes, brightness, and color. It is designed so borrowers can try out LED lighting in their home or office. It comes with a short explanation of LED bulb terminology, which can be confusing for those accustomed to choosing bulbs by its wattage size.

Money-wise, LED bulbs are a great deal! An LED may cost a few dollars more than a comparable incandescent, but its lower energy draw means most LEDs save enough electricity to pay for themselves in the first year. The savings is even more impressive over the life of an LED which is up to 25 years.

LEDs do not have the mercury safety concern associated with CF bulbs.



Richmond Middle School, April 24, 6-8:00 pm

