Our Mission

Sustainable Woodstock seeks to inspire, organize and empower community members to integrate environmentally, economically and socially responsible practices in all aspects of their lives. The organization’s volunteer-based action groups encourage a vibrant community, promote a thriving local economy, and educate community members about how to conserve and protect natural resources.

In 2017 Sustainable Woodstock took action on community projects and started new initiatives that support our community so we can live sustainably now and in the future.

OUR ACTION GROUPS:

EAST END – In 2017 the East End Action Group (EEAG) held the first annual Duck Derby; 500 ducks were dropped from the Elm St bridge and floated to the Party in the Park to be greeted by a cheering crowd. We continued planting throughout the summer and kept the area mowed and maintained. The Park is now a destination for strolling and sitting with the views across the river to Billings Farm and the Pomfret hills. Fundraising plans are in place for the build-out of the park over the next two years. The plan includes infrastructure such as irrigation and pathways, amenities such as tables and benches, as well as innovative design elements such as an amphitheater and slide and rock climb.

In other East End efforts a firm was hired with a grant from the Woodstock Economic Development Commission to produce the East End Gateway Conceptual Plan which is an exploration of redevelopment in the East End and is intended to help the community understand the scale of potential development and to visualize new uses and activities in the area.

ENERGY – Our Low Income Weatherization project, funded in part by the Vermont Community Foundation, reached out to the community to offer assistance in navigating energy efficiency programs, and we worked directly with several homeowners to provide home upgrades. In late 2017 we geared up for the Upper Valley Weatherization program which connects homeowners and pre-selected contractors for a free home energy visit. We assisted the Planning Commission with their review of new solar siting regulations and writing of the Town Enhanced Energy Plan.

RECYCLING - At our second community recycling day in April we shredded one ton of paper and collected four tons of electronic waste as well as batteries and CFL lightbulbs. Our facilitation of waste collection at public events typically diverts 75% of the waste and sends hundreds of pounds of compost to local farms.

COMMUNITY GARDENS - Our three community garden sites were home to dozens of families and local organizations this past summer. Our gardens at King Farm, Billings Farm and Chippers in Pomfret are individually maintained by each gardener with help from Cassidy Metcalf, our community garden coordinator who organized several workshops. With a grant from Catamount Solar we installed a solar powered water pump at the Billings garden.

OUTREACH – Through our “Five-Town Sustainability Initiative” we made targeted outreach to our neighbors about our programs. We continue to address sustainability issues in both electronic and print media as well as regular social gatherings like Green Drinks. We organized an eight-month work-study group on managing forests for carbon sequestration. Our activities and programs are always open to the entire community.

PARTNERSHIPS - Sustainable Woodstock works with local, regional and state partners including Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission, Vital Communities, Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network, and the New England Resilience and Transition Network. We gratefully acknowledge support from many individuals and local organizations, including Woodstock Rotary Club, Woodstock Garden Club and Woodstock Foundation, whose generous contributions have allowed us to move forward on our important community projects.

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For updates on our activities, visit our website at sustainablewoodstock.org. Find us on Facebook, too.
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Billings Farm and Museum
Casella Waste Systems
Chippers Inc.
Covered Bridges Half Marathon
Ellaway Property Services Inc.
Eyes on Elm
First Impressions
First Universalist Society of Hartland
Foley Distributing Corp
GE Foundation
Janice Graham and Company
Geoffrey Nichols Partners
Shackleton Thomas

Two Rivers Ottawaquechee Regional
Commission
Unicorn
Vermont Comm. Garden Network
Vermont Farmstead Cheese
Vermont Land Trust
Vermont Standard

White Mountains Capital
Woodstock Economic Development
Commission
Woodstock Farmers Market
Woodstock Garden Club
Woodstock Inn and Resort
Woodstock Insurance
Woodstock Rotary Club

Income 2017
Total Income = $123,702

Programs and
other
20%
Individual/
Business
35%
Foundations/
Nonprofits
42%
Events
3%

Expenses 2017
Total Expenses = $111,989

Programs
67%
Administrative
29%
Events
4%

Plus the many individuals who have volunteered their time and expertise.