



2015 - YEAR IN REVIEW

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.

Act Now: Community Outreach for Sustainability

With ongoing funding from the Canaday Family Charitable Trust, Sustainable Woodstock continues to focus on community education through film events, Green Drinks and social media. In 2015, our films included "The Suzuki Diaries", "What's the Economy For, Anyway?", "The Economics of Happiness" and "Farmland". Our monthly Green Drinks encourage casual conversation with a different focus each month including a local investing discussion during New Economy Week. We are also proud to partner with other organizations for forums on timely issues such as Glacial Melting and Soil Carbon, and we actively partner in community events like Trek to Taste, Bookstock, the Naked Table and Summerfest.

Updates on ACTION GROUPS:

East End: In 2015, the East End Action Group (EEAG) saw incremental progress on the snow dump move: The archeological dig on the new site passed, and the State approved the environmental site assessment paving the way for the Village to move forward on the purchase of the site. Our late May work day in the new park cleared debris left by melting snow, and a Knotweed Crew provided ongoing, non-chemical treatment throughout the summer.



The EEAG started a broader discussion about East End development and invited a diverse group of interested parties to share their vision of that area with a goal to provide and update to the 2000 East End Master Plan. The landowners and long-time stakeholders were in the room – for the first time. To facilitate discussion with potential developers, the EEAG received funds from the Economic Development Commission to produce a Developer Package which will include a comprehensive base map and well as market information, site restraints and other studies.

Energy: Outreach continued in 2015 with a focus on weatherization and home efficiency. In June we brought together experts on federal, state and local incentives and regulations with local auditors and weatherization contractors. Neighborhood Energy Open Houses in the fall had owners discussing their energy upgrades. Throughout the year, special presentations were held on PACE, heat pumps and Button Up. We learned about putting a price on carbon pollution from Energy Independent Vermont and provided feedback for the Vermont Comprehensive Energy Plan update.

Final numbers for Solarize 2014/15 were 123 site visits requested with 25 contracts signed for a total of 166 kW solar in our communities. A second round of Solarize was planned for spring 2016. The Energy Group continued to explore ways to make community solar available in our community. We educated ourselves and the community about all the aspects of large solar projects including the limitations of the Public Service Board and Renewable Energy Credits. Over 50 people attended the meeting that we coordinated with the developer of the solar project in Taftsville.

Recycling: Our recycling outreach consultant prepared handouts on Act 148 regulations, local recycling options, "How to Recycle Almost Everything" and guidelines for food scraps. She reached out to 50 local businesses to help solve their recycling issues, and she also presented at public meetings throughout town. We provided our regular services for recycling collection at public events like the Covered Bridges Half Marathon. This year for the Road to the Pogue race we used compostable tableware and captured 90% of the waste for composting. The Recycling Group finalized the policy for Events on the Village Green and put together a proposal for new recycling/trash bins in the Village.

Partnerships: Sustainable Woodstock works with local, regional and state partners including Two Rivers Ottauquechee Regional Commission, Vital Communities, Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network, the New England Resilience and Transition Network and the Donella Meadows Institute.

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For updates on our activities, visit our website at www.sustainablewoodstock.org. Find us on Facebook, too.

THANK YOU FROM SUSTAINABLE WOODSTOCK

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