



2017 - 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.

In 2016 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 – The East End Action Group (EEAG) continued with park clean up in 2016; the construction of the new snow dump was completed by the Village in late fall and will allow for permanent East End Park improvements in 2017. Preparations were made for a permaculture garden to be planted in 2017.

With the park progressing, the EEAG returned to improving the overall East End area. The East End Economic Opportunities report, a comprehensive information package to help move forward development, was produced with a grant from the Woodstock Economic Development Commission and will allow potential developers to more easily evaluate the functional and economic feasibility of a project in the East End. Meetings were held with property owners, potential developers and other stakeholders.



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ENERGY - In 2016 the Energy Action Group with assistance from Zach Ralph, our outreach coordinator, conducted a “Solarize 2016” campaign with neighboring towns. Solar panels were installed on 18 homes for a total of 141 kW of new solar. For Button Up Day in November we hosted a community workshop and offered hands-on tours of the Home Energy Makeover Trailer. The group also helped facilitate an energy assessment of the Mellishwood assisted living buildings. We set up a solar net metered group, called the “Solar Credit Bank” which allows for solar producers to transfer their excess solar credits to non-profits.

RECYCLING - The Recycling Action Group worked with the community to develop ways to recycle a maximum percentage of our waste. At our first community recycling day in April we shredded one ton of paper and collected 5 tons of electronic waste as well as ink cartridges, cell phones, 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 are home to dozens of families and local organizations each summer. Our gardens at King Farm, Billings Farm and Chippers in Pomfret are open to community members with plots being individually maintained by each gardener. With help from Cassidy Metcalf, our community garden coordinator, a new electric fence was built at King Farm and compost bins were installed at the Billings location.

OUTREACH - With ongoing funding from the Canaday Family Charitable Trust for our program, “Act Now: Community Outreach for Sustainability,” we continued to educate the community through events and social media. We address sustainability issues in our weekly newspaper column, website, Facebook page, email newsletter, films and speakers. Our monthly “Green Drinks” are monthly social events meant to encourage an ongoing conversation around climate change initiatives with a different program highlighted each month. Our activities and programs are 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 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.

Board of Trustees: Barbara Dagger, Jennifer Dembinski, John Endicott, Juan Florin, Janice Graham, David Hill, Andrew McLaughlin, Ron Miller, Elizabeth O’Casey, David Sullivan, Laurel Tobiason

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