

We're in the final stretch of 2017 and we need your help to get the word out about some of our exciting projects. Please read on and share on!

[View this email in your browser](#)



Nothin' but net.

It's been a busy year, but the game isn't over yet!

In the past three months, Natick [testified in a rate case against Eversource](#), completed the first year of our curbside composting pilot, [drafted solar regulations](#), [received a grant to identify and prioritize climate adaptation strategies](#), launched a [curbside textile recycling program](#), completed LED conversions at 5 schools, [greened our electricity aggregation program](#), flipped the on switch for new municipal solar arrays at the DPW and Lilja Elementary, developed a draft set of community-wide sustainability metrics, was [awarded \\$28,800 in funds for best-in-class recycling programs](#), and collaborated with a regional team of grassroots volunteers to inform a new campaign, [MassEnergize](#).

Today many of these projects are at the foul line and **we need your help to make the game-winning shot**. Here's where we need your support:

- [Help Expand the Compost Pilot](#)
- [Join us at TCAN on Oct. 15 for a Screening of An Inconvenient Sequel](#)
- [Ask your Town Meeting Members to Support Article 30](#)
- [Talk to Town Meeting Members about Plastic Bags and Polysterene](#)
- [Advocate for Sustainable Design at Tonight's Kennedy Middle School Forum](#)

- [Check out the Natick Sustainability Committee's Strategic Plan](#)
-

[Help Expand the Compost Pilot](#)

Since its launch in June 2016, Natick's curbside composting pilot has diverted more than 110 tons of food waste from the incinerator and turned it into finished compost. Participants say the program is saving them money on blue Pay-as-You-Throw trash bags, and the Town is exploring opportunities to expand.

If you would like to join the pilot - or know someone who does - please take or share the following survey: <http://bit.ly/ExpandNatickCompostPilot>. Our goal is to identify another 500 addresses that are interested in joining.



[Join us at TCAN on Oct. 15 for a Screening of An Inconvenient Sequel](#)

The Natick Sustainability Committee is partnering with TCAN to host two screenings and post-film Q&As of [An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth to Power](#). The screenings are at 4pm and 7:30pm on Sunday October 15 and you are invited to purchase your tickets using discount code [SUSTAIN10](#).

Panel participants will include Jillian Wilson-Martin, Natick's Sustainability Coordinator; Elissa Landre, the Director of the Natick-based Mass Audubon Broadmoor Sanctuary; and Quentin Prideaux, the President of Sustainable Wellesley. The audience will be asked to help the Town of Natick prioritize a set of climate adaption actions.



[Ask your Town Meeting Members to Support Article 30](#)

Did you know Natick has nearly 600 solar installs – yet the word "solar" does not appear in the Town's Zoning By-Law?

For the past 9 months, Natick has been working with a technical adviser from the [U.S. Department of Energy's SolSmart](#) program to [draft zoning](#) that clearly defines solar as a by-right accessory use for local residential and commercial properties. **The proposed zoning was vetted by area solar photovoltaic and solar thermal developers and received unanimous votes of recommendation by the Board of Selectmen, Planning Board and Finance Committee.**

Only Town Meeting can approve changes to the Natick Zoning By-Law, and they are expected to vote on this language on October 19. If you support it, **please ask your [Town Meeting representatives](#) to vote in support of Article 30.** Passing this zoning will not only solidify solar as a by-right accessory use and ensure future installations follow best practices; it will also qualify Natick for SolSmart gold designation!



[Talk to Town Meeting Members about Plastic Bags and Polysterene](#)

Have you noticed a change in the bags provided by your local supermarket? That's because, on August 1, Natick's [single-use plastic bag reduction regulations](#) went into effect.

The regulations were a long time coming: For several years, environmentalists encouraged Natick officials to follow the lead of other communities and, in 2015, Town Meeting passed an article endorsing an initiative by the Board of Health to develop the regulations that are now in place. Multiple public hearings were held by the Board of Health as they crafted these regulations and input from area businesses was considered.

This fall Town Meeting is deciding if Natick should keep these regulations, after a resident petitioned to have them repealed ([Article 50](#)). It is also deciding if the Town should have the Board of Health develop rules related to disposable polysterene (styrofoam) food containers and to require the use and distribution of Disposable Food Containers made of safer, more sustainable and environmentally friendly materials ([Article 51](#)).

[The Finance Committee provided no recommendation on either Article.](#) We encourage you to speak with your [Town Meeting representatives](#) to share your point of view. You are also invited to learn more by attending a [free screening of Plastic Ocean](#), organized by Keep Natick Beautiful, on Sunday, November 5 at 3pm.



[Advocate for Sustainable Design at Tonight's Kennedy Middle School Forum](#)

You may have heard the Town of Natick is in the process of [planning for a replacement of the existing Kennedy Middle School](#). **Tonight (October 10) at 7pm**, there will be a [Community Forum](#) at the existing Kennedy Middle School to gather input about the project. **Please consider attending and expressing your support for low impact development and sustainable design.**



[Volunteer to Make MassEnergize a Success in Natick](#)

MassEnergize is a grassroots coalition of volunteers from Wayland, Natick and Sudbury who want to better enable their fellow community members (residents, businesses and non-profits) *to take at least one action (but preferably more)* to reduce climate change and raise local resilience.

The group recently launched a website, <http://www.massenergize.org/>, which provides residents with "smart solutions for home and climate" that MassEnergize volunteers have researched. These include recommendations for home energy assessments, solar PV, solar hot water, "neighborhood" solar, renewable electricity, electric vehicle group discounts, home energy

The group is in desperate need of Natick-based volunteers to help manage content and engage our residents in the program. Please email info@transitionwayland.org to get involved!



[Participate in Natick Trails Day on Oct. 21](#)

The Town of Natick relies heavily on the hard work of volunteers to maintain many of its trails, and **they need your help to do some much needed clearing work of the [Cochituate Aqueduct Trail](#).**

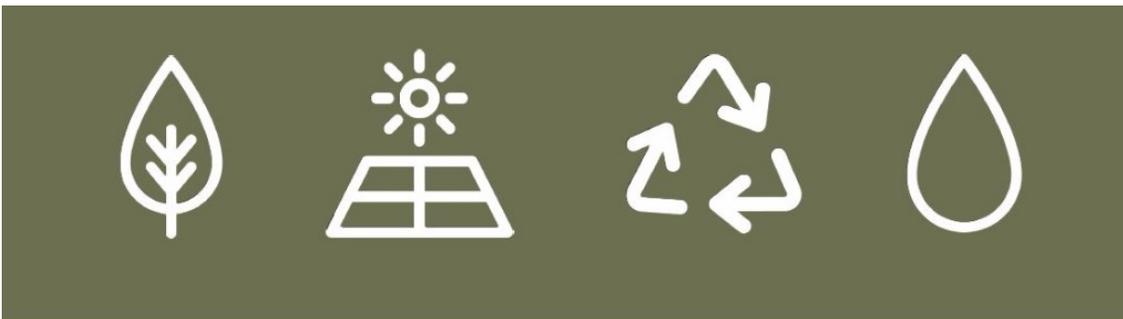
Please consider joining the Natick Trails Committee for a healthful, exhilarating day of trail work and making new friendships on October 21, from 8:30 AM to 3PM. You can come for an hour, part of the day or the entire day – whatever fits your schedule. Volunteers are encouraged to park along Erie Drive at the Natick Industrial Park off Oak Street and walk five minutes to the trail head at Rathburn Road. [Please sign up here.](#)



[Check out the Natick Sustainability Committee's Strategic Plan](#)

The Natick Sustainability Committee was born a little less than a year ago, and has been busy ever since. They've hosted the Town's annual Clean Your Attic Day, advocated for solar development, have been a vocal resource in the Natick 2030+ planning process and more. At the same time, they have been busy reviewing the Town's progress on sustainability initiatives to-date, and recently published their recommended strategy for moving forward.

Committee chair and vice-chair, Leo Ryan and Katie Schindall, presented [this plan](#) to the Natick Board of Selectmen in September and expect to share the report with Town Meeting on October 19. Take a look and email Leo to let the group know what you think and if you have any expertise you'd be willing to share: lryannaticksustain@gmail.com



Natick Sustainability Committee

Research Findings and Recommended Strategy

Subscribe

Past Issues

Copyright © 2017 Town of Natick, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)