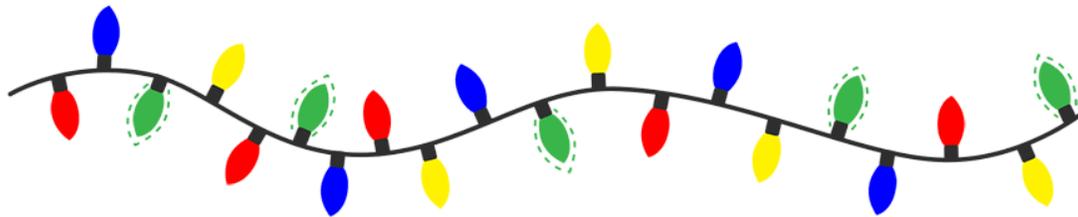

Lub actually 

Town of Natick <jwmartin@natickma.org>
Reply-To: Town of Natick <jwmartin@natickma.org>
To: jwmartin@natickma.org

Thu, Dec 12, 2019 at 9:59 AM



Fa la la la la!

I love the holidays, and I love celebrating with my family. This week we watched Frosty the Snowman, baked sugar cookies and enjoyed the awesomeness that is 22 Surrey Lane.

Don't know about Surrey Lane? Here's your pro tip for holiday-ing in Natick: Every year the owners of 22 Surrey Lane go all [National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation](#), and time hundreds of lights to holiday music. (I don't think about energy efficiency when reveling in it - eh, maybe a little.)

When my five year old and I partook in the Surrey Lane magic, we blinked frequently and caroled terribly until we hit a song she didn't know. "What is a partridge?," she asked. (I'm sure you know the tune.)

Working with you is one of the best “gifts”, I could receive, and so, inspired by eight maids-a-milking, I decided to give you something in return. Drumroll please:



I made you a [holiday countdown calendar chock-full of climate cheer](#). In many ways, it’s like that awkward holiday letter your cousin sends. Each day features something or someone that inspired me in 2019. You can start today (just 13 days until Christmas!) or enjoy it whenever you need a climate pick me up. Save the link and visit it every day, or wait until after December 25 to follow my two-year old’s lead and eat your advent candy all at once. Either way, I hope it’s delicious.

Merry Everything, and Happy New Year!

Your Sustainability Coordinator,

Jillian Wilson Martin

PS: More serious, less sappy sustainability news below.

PPS: Did a friend forward you this email? Sign up to join our mailing list [here](#).

Volunteers Needed on Monday



We are completing a one day cafeteria waste audit at Wilson Middle School on Monday and need volunteers to help students sort their trash into several categories: food for compost, food for donation, liquid, single stream recycling, and garbage. The intent is to identify opportunities for pilot programs and to test hypotheses about different lunch service models.

Volunteers will help direct students to place their waste in the appropriate container, and we need some extra hands on Monday from 10:30-1. If you can help, please email our School Recycling Coordinator, Jane Ellen at jnewman@natickps.org. Thanks!

Natick Aggregation Update

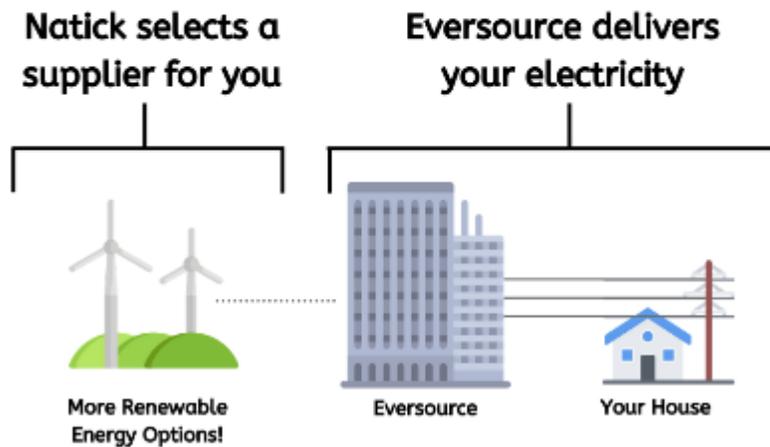
Aggravation? No - I said aggregation! :p

This Monday, 12/16, I'll be presenting an update to the Select Board on the Town's Community Choice Aggregation program - which is a fancy way of

saying where the Town gets its electricity from. Right now approximately 70% of the community uses the electricity supplier the Town chooses and there are opportunities to increase the amount of renewable energy we source for that supply over time. This will be a key strategy to achieving the Town's goal to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions.

If you're interested, please join me on Monday (Town Hall, second floor - the agenda should be posted [here](#) later today) or [tune in online or on TV via Pegasus](#).

How it Works

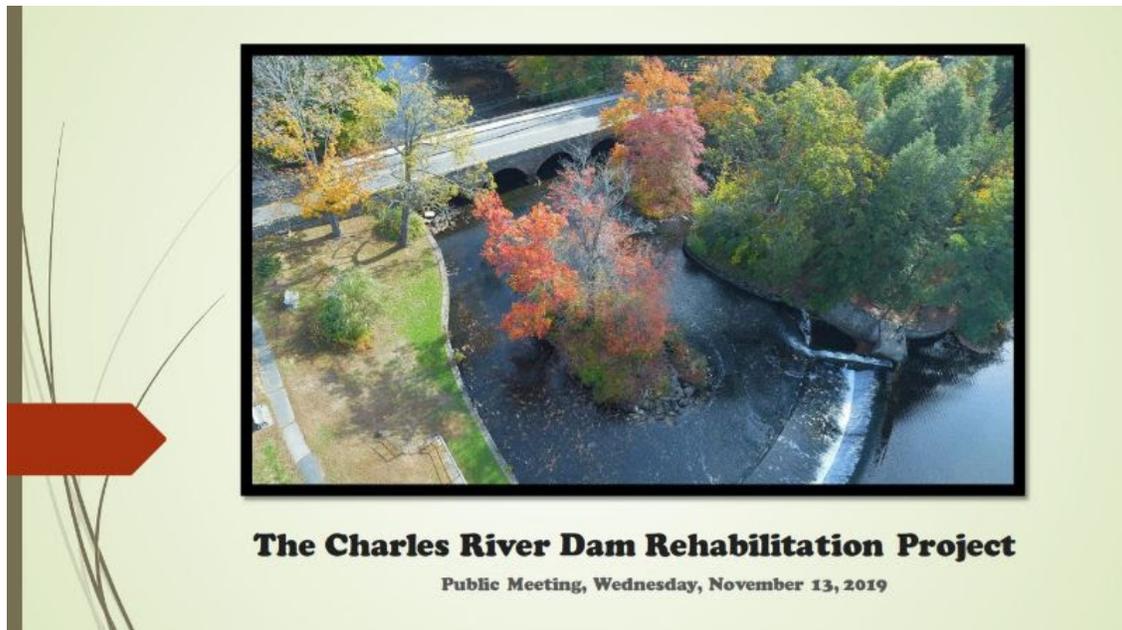


South Natick Dam Update

Have you heard about the South Natick Dam project?

The Conservation Commission is in the process of permitting a project focused on repairing the South Natick Dam, which has consistently been reported as being in "Fair" condition during biennial inspections. Phase I of the project, which is currently being reviewed by Con Comm, would involve the removal of approximately 60 mature trees on the earthen embankment, known as Grove Park. For more on why tree removal would be necessary, please check out the [Office of Dam Safety's policy regarding trees on dams](#).

You can also check out the slides the Town Engineer presented at a public forum on the project in November [here](#).



An alternative to repairing the dam would be to remove or breach (partially remove) it, thereby restoring the river to its natural ecology. Such action would also reduce the Town's long term liability and costs of maintaining a dam. Prior to issuing a permit that would allow the Town to remove the trees and disrupt wetlands on the embankment, Con Comm has asked the Town to take some preliminary steps to explore the feasibility of dam removal. The Town should have additional information for the Con Comm to consider in early January, pending the completion of sediment tests.

Con Comm will be updating the Select Board about this project on Monday, 12/16. Join us at the Select Board's meeting (7pm, Town Hall, second floor) or [tune in online or on TV via Pegasus](#).

Leading by Example



This Tuesday I was honored to visit the Statehouse and receive a [Leading by Example](#) award from the MA Department of Energy Resources. It was a really special moment, and it wouldn't have been possible without all of you. Thank you for making environmental leadership a priority in our Town, for composting, for installing solar on your home, for showing up at late night meetings to advocate for projects and issues as exciting as stormwater management, and for reading these goofy newsletters. I'm grateful to live and work here with you.

Thank you!

Join us!

We are looking for volunteers to help coordinate the annual Earth Day festival (scheduled for April 26, 2020). Day of support is especially welcome. Please email me at jwmartin@natickma.org if you are interested.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Sustainability Committee's monthly meeting. We are scheduled to meet next on Tuesday, 1/7 at the DPW at 7:30pm. Please contact the Chair, Leo Ryan, if you would like to request time on the agenda via email at lryannaticksustain@gmail.com.

Share this newsletter!

Invite all the cool people in your life to get this newsletter via the following link: <http://eepurl.com/cwasAL>.

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You are receiving this email because you've expressed an interest in the Town of Natick's sustainability initiatives. Thank you for your leadership in our community!

Our mailing address is:

Town of Natick
[13 East Central St](#)
Natick, [Ma 01760](#)

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