

Shakira's hips and these numbers don't lie. 2015 was an awesome year for sustainability in Natick! Check out last year's wins and next year's goals in this month's newsletter.

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SUSTAINABLE NATICK

DECEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

Has it been a year already?!

2015 was jam-packed with oodles of exciting sustainability initiatives for the Town of Natick and we had a great time collaborating with you on a variety of projects. This month's newsletter features highlights from our collective efforts in a "by the numbers" take on our year in review (prepare yourself - there are quite a few). We hope you feel proud to live in Natick when you scroll through it - we do!

But there's no rest for the wicked. There is **SO MUCH MORE** we want to accomplish next year! We've drafted a few goals for 2016 and would love your feedback, support and even your vote (more below). We look forward to working with you soon.

Until then... **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

2015

by the numbers

1.5

megawatts

...of new solar projects explored

We are in the process of negotiating a contract to add panels to the Ice Rink, DPW buildings and Lilja Elementary School, and plan to issue an RFQ to explore the development of solar carports (similar to the system at REI) in January 2016.

PS: Wanna see something cool? Watch the Town's existing solar panels generate power in real time [here](#).

...are going organic

Thanks to a sweet grant from the UMass Lowell Toxics Use Reduction Institute (TURI), we are transitioning the grounds of the Bacon Free Library, the Memorial Elementary School soccer field and the new J.J. Lane park to organic turf care.

Want your landscaper to go organic too? [Invite](#) them to a FREE training for local turf professionals on 1/21.

3

properties

...featuring sustainability in the newspaper

You guys, getting the word out about sustainability is HUGE. We were pumped to get great coverage in outlets like *The Boston Globe*, *The Metrowest Daily News* and *Natick Bulletin*

& Tab.

20

articles

...in our energy use since 2008

Did you know **Natick is 1 of only 7 communities in the entire state (!)** that has reduced its energy use by 20%? In 2015, despite a record-breaking winter, we knocked the ball even further out of the park - reducing our usage by another 1% against our benchmark. Our Facilities team is truly the MVP of this project - they've implemented **60+ conservation measures** since 2008. These not only save energy, they also **save the Town \$387,000 a year in gas and electricity bills.**

21%

reduction

\$425k

awarded

...in grants (in 2015 alone!)

Sometimes, it's all about the Benjamins. In 2015, we applied for and were awarded more than \$425K in grants - **5x the budget of this office.** Grants came from entities including MassDEP, DOER, TURI, New England Grassroots Fund, Beyond Pesticides, and more. It's money we are spending on projects from energy conservation and electric cars to student-led environmental initiatives and recycling equipment.

...to our curbside composting survey

Yippie! Thanks to your help, we were able to prove residents are interested in a curbside food waste collection program. We are finalizing our grant contract with the state and will be emailing you soon with a request to sign up for the program. It will likely begin in May and will require participants to pay a small fee. **Stay tuned because we will need your help!**

1,093

responses

GOALS FOR 2016

Check out our big goals for 2016. Are there any you think we should add?

- 1. Launch curbside composting pilot**
- 2. Complete construction of new solar projects**
- 3. Engage students in energy saving behavioral programs**
- 4. Benchmark municipal and community-wide greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with COP21**



How You Can Help

- 1.** [Join a sustainability-related board or committee.](#) We have openings on the Recycling and Trails Maintenance Committees.
 - 2.** Run for Town Meeting! Your vote can make a difference on environmental issues. [Nomination papers for new members are due Feb 9.](#)
 - 3.** Be one of the first people to sign up for the curbside composting pilot (coming soon!).
 - 4.** Take surveys or volunteer for special projects as they come up throughout the year.
 - 5.** Spread the word! Tell your friends and neighbors to sign up for the monthly newsletter [here.](#)
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As always, thanks for reading and for your support on sustainability initiatives. Please have a safe and Happy New Year's.

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