



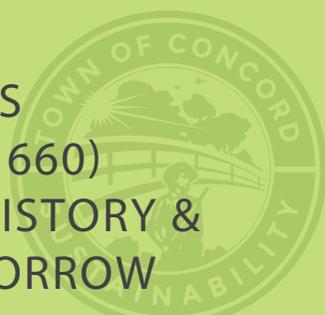
Town of Concord Sustainability
@concordclimate



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Orchard House #sustainable #living #goals

LOUISA MAY ALCOTT'S ORCHARD HOUSE (C.1660) IS PRESERVING OUR HISTORY & PREPARING FOR TOMORROW



AND SO CAN YOU!

Orchard House – where Louisa May Alcott famously wrote Little Women – is leading the way in sustainable innovations that will ensure the house is enjoyed for generations to come. While the top priority is preserving Orchard House’s historic character and collections, property managers are implementing a wide range of initiatives to boost energy and water efficiency, reduce its carbon footprint, and make sure it is physically resilient. Find out what Orchard House has been working on, what lessons we can learn from the Alcotts themselves, and what you can do at home!

The ALCOTTS

Early Sustainability Pioneers

The current initiatives of Orchard House are very much in line with the innovative and sustainable spirit of the Alcott household.



The Alcotts valued preservation and reuse. Instead of tearing down the nearly 200-year-old house as many urged Mr. Alcott to do, he chose to preserve the historic nature of their new home, saving valuable natural resources in the process. In doing so, he repurposed an old farmhouse into an addition on the home, moved a staircase from the front to the back of the house, and reengineered an old screen door into a drying rack.



The Alcotts created a set-kettle to provide a constant source of hot water, reducing the fuel needed to boil water.

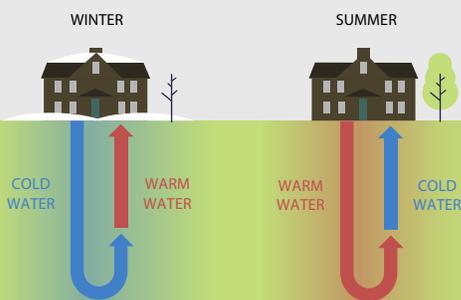


The Alcotts utilized sustainable farming practices and maintained vegetarian diets.

We're hopeful that the people who come here will understand the lessons of the past - including sustainability - and see how we can preserve that legacy by taking action today.

Jan Turnquist
Executive Director at Orchard House

Geothermal heat pumps are highly efficient technology that take advantage of the moderate temperatures in the ground to act as a heat source in the winter and a heat sink in the summer.



SUSTAINABLE INITIATIVES AT ORCHARD HOUSE



Installed geothermal heat pumps

- Burning no fossil fuels on site
- Reducing electric bills 60-70%
 - Reducing noise pollution
- Maintaining historical character

Updated bathrooms with WaterSense Toilets

Using 20% less water than standard toilets

Went Paperless

Utilizing digital memberships and e-newsletters

Transitioning to LED Lighting

Replacing old bulbs and fixtures, inside and out

WHAT'S NEXT AT ORCHARD HOUSE?

Plans are underway for an accessible interpretive pathway and a re-creation of the Alcotts' Kitchen Garden, both of which will become community educational resources that build upon the Alcott legacy and promote sustainable living. To learn more about Orchard House, visit www.louisamayalcott.org or stop by for an unforgettable walk through time!

WHAT CAN YOU DO NOW?

If a historic site can take steps toward a sustainable future, anyone can! Here are some actions you can take in your own home to bolster your sustainability efforts and save money:

- 1 Upgrade your home heating and cooling. Find out more about heat pumps and rebates available from Concord Municipal Light Plant.
- 2 Schedule a free home energy assessment to learn how you can save energy and money.
- 3 Make sure you know what can be recycled in Concord.
- 4 Practice sustainable landscaping by using native plants and lawn alternatives. Learn more about saving water outdoors and irrigation systems in Concord.
- 5 Reduce the miles you drive alone and opt to ride your bike, take the commuter rail, or join a carpool.



For more information on these actions and what you can do to be sustainable at your home or business, visit: concordma.gov/sustainability