



# Town Of Concord ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2019

## Sustainability Division

The Sustainability Division works closely with Town departments, residents, businesses, and community groups to integrate sustainability and resilience into all that we do.

In 2019, we focused efforts on municipal energy use, residential home energy efficiency, sustainable landscaping, electric vehicles, and planning for climate action and resilience.

Sustainability Division highlights of 2019 include:

- Began developing community’s first climate action and resilience plan
- Collaborated with Water/Sewer and Natural Resources to publish Sustainable Landscaping Handbook and planted 3 demonstration gardens
- Concord designated a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Community by state
- Received funding for an additional electric school bus
- Deployed 3 additional plug-in or battery electric vehicles in Town fleet
- Provided sustainability expertise to Concord Middle School Building Committee

Energy

Waste

Natural Resources

Transportation

Leading by Example

Sustainability in Concord is a team effort.

Many town departments and divisions, committee members, and community groups contribute to creating a sustainable Concord. We are grateful for their time, energy and support.

The Annual Sustainability Report highlights sustainability stats and successes thanks to many departments, community groups, and volunteers in the areas of energy, waste, natural resources, and transportation, as well as how the Town is leading by example.

Learn more and join the conversation!

➔ [Town Website](#)

➔ [YouTube](#)

➔ [Twitter](#)

➔ [Newsletter](#)

➔ [Facebook](#)

➔ [Email](#)



2019 Annual Sustainability Report produced by Kate Hanley, Director of Sustainability with support from CMLP, Natural Resources Division, Water/Sewer Division, and Public Information Office



# Energy

In 2019, Concord participated in National Grid's Community Initiative to increase participation in home energy assessments, weatherization and other residential energy efficiency incentive programs.

**231** Home energy assessments completed by Mass Save

Mass Save provided rebates for energy efficiency measures in homes.

- ✓ 80 air sealing
- ✓ 75 insulation
- ✓ 81 heat systems
- ✓ 115 wireless thermostats

Concord Municipal Light Plant provides home energy assessments and rebates for energy efficiency and electrification measures such as heat pumps, LED lighting, and heat pump hot water heaters.

**117** Home energy assessments completed by Energy New England (ENE)

CMLP provided rebates for electrification measures that reduce GHG emissions from homes.

- ✓ 43 air-source heat pump
- ✓ 9 ground-source heat pump
- ✓ 4 heat pump water heaters

## Solar and Storage

**358** Small-scale residential and commercial PV arrays in Concord

**10** New solar installations in 2019

**9** Homes with battery storage

**7.57** MW solar capacity of large-scale arrays



A community event hosted at CCHS by CMLP and volunteers about heat pumps was well-attended by residents.

Heat pumps are a climate-friendly and efficient heating and cooling technology. To learn more about heat pumps in Concord, visit the [website](#).



# Waste

### DropOff Events

**930** Households attended the Spring DropOff

**842** Households attended the Fall DropOff



### Paint Collection

**410** Residents dropped off paint

**116** Residents picked up paint for reuse projects



### Recycling

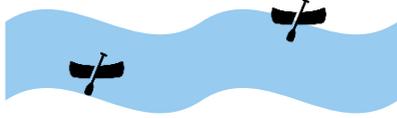
**3,663** Residents use Concord's curbside collection program

**39%** Of materials collected curbside are recycled

**11,000** visits to the Compost Site



# Natural Resources



Completed the Assabet River Boat Launch / Picnic Area at Baker Avenue

28

Miles of trail maintained by Natural Resources Division

3

Pollinator Meadows established

130

Bags of garlic mustard pulled during 1<sup>st</sup> volunteer event



Garlic mustard, pictured above, is an invasive species.

## Sustainable Landscaping

3 Sustainable landscaping demonstration gardens planted with help from students and volunteers

50+ People attended 3 Sustainable Landscaping Workshops and garden tours

150+ Residents attended Sustainable Landscaping Fair  
The 2019 fair was coordinated by volunteers and members of the Comprehensive Sustainability and Energy Committee.

1 Sustainable Landscaping Handbook published  
The Sustainable Landscaping Handbook, demonstration gardens, and workshops were made possible thanks to a grant from MAPC and the Barr Foundation. The handbook and other resources are available at [concordma.gov/greenscapes](http://concordma.gov/greenscapes).



Organizers of the Sustainable Landscaping Fair at CCHS in May 2019.



Members of the West Concord Green Thumbs help to plant a demonstration garden of sustainable lawn alternatives at Junction Park in West Concord.



Review the Sustainable Landscaping Handbook at [concordma.gov/greenscapes](http://concordma.gov/greenscapes).



Watch recordings of the 3 sustainable landscaping workshops on Minuteman Media Network.



## Electric Vehicles

- 400+** Electric Vehicles (EVs) registered in Concord
- 79** New EVs registered to Concord residents
- 3** New electric vehicles in municipal fleet
- 101** EV Miles enrollees (more than double 2018!)  
[EV Miles](#) participants program their electric vehicles to charge off-peak and receive a monthly bill credit for their participation.
- 42** Number of EV Level 2 rebates (up 700% from 2018!)  
[EV Level 2 Program](#) offers owners a rebate of \$250 to help offset the cost of installing some or all components of a Level 2 system for higher speed charging of an electric vehicle at your home.

## Bruce Freeman Rail Trail

The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Phase 2C officially opened in West Concord in September 2019. Concord continues to work on additional phases of the rail trail to continue to provide safe routes for active transportation.



## Concord Drives Electric



*Concord Drives Electric* is a collaborative effort among town and CMLP staff, ENE, and volunteers to promote electric vehicles. For more information, visit [concorddriveselectric.org](http://concorddriveselectric.org)



**9**

Community events attended by EV working group volunteers and staff

**163**

Residents took advantage of the EV support line

**130**

Test drives taken at EV Ride & Drive Event in November



A November 2019 Electric Vehicle Ride & Drive at CCHS drew hundreds of residents interested in test driving and learning more about EVs.

# Leading by Example

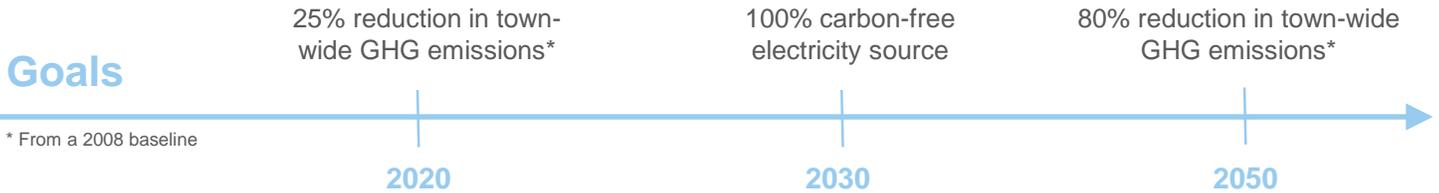
In July 2019, Concord received \$100,095 in grant funds from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program to develop Concord's first Climate Action and Resilience Plan. The plan will be developed as a collaborative effort among town staff, the Climate Action Advisory Board, and community members. For more information and to view the final plan in 2020, visit [concordma.gov/climateplan](http://concordma.gov/climateplan).

## SUSTAINABLE CONCORD

Revolutionary Resilient Ready

*Sustainable Concord is a roadmap to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050 and to address the impacts of climate change on the community.*

### Goals



Thanks to Green Communities grant funds, Concord installed efficient LED lighting at the Police and Fire Station and the Beede Center. At the Beede Center, we also installed a new pool cover that will save used to heat the therapy pool and made improvements to the hot water systems will cut energy use.



Concord installed 2 new electric vehicle charging stations in West Concord available for public use.

Concord added 3 new electric vehicles to the town fleet including 2 police vehicles and 1 new Nissan Leaf driven by the Natural Resources Division.

Town electric vehicles were on display at the EV Ride & Drive in November.

Concord received over \$700,000 in total grant funds in 2019 to support sustainability projects.

**\$150,000**

Massachusetts Green Communities

**\$250,000**

Massachusetts MVP Action Grants

**\$295,000**

VW Open Solicitation for Electric School Bus



Concord hosted a summer intern through the UNH Sustainability Institute. Kortni Wroten, a graduate student at Clark University joined the Sustainability Division for the summer to investigate and make recommendations for reducing emissions in commercial buildings.



Concord Select Board declared the week of Sept. 23-27 Climate Preparedness Week. The Sustainability Division collaborated with Concord Free Public Library staff on three events, including a teen solar car activity, a showing of the film Paris to Pittsburgh, and a children's story time and activity about bees and sustainability.