



Active Projects

- **Community Compost Drop off Site Pilot** – In partnership with the Facilities Division and Concord Public Works, we are aiming to start a pilot community compost drop off site. This will allow residents to drop off food compost at a designated site for free. More details will be available in the new year.
- **Municipal Fleet Electrification Study** – All of the data has been collected. Each vehicle has been assigned vehicle options and ranked by condition, age, mileage, and other factors to give an indication of replacement priorities. Meetings with departments will occur over the next several weeks to discuss the results. Next steps include a charging infrastructure needs assessment and a financing analysis.

Ongoing Projects

- **UNH Fellowship Application** – The Town submitted an application requesting a fellow to increase the Division's community engagement capacity by building tools, protocols, and content that will support efforts beyond the 10-week fellowship.
- **SuAsCo Climate Coalition** – The SuAsCo Climate Coalition is a regional group supported by OARS and an MAPC Accelerating Climate Resiliency Grant. I have submitted information about the Town's historic sustainability efforts and have requested information on next steps.
- **Concord Middle School Building Project** – I submitted several sustainability grant and rebate possibilities to the Select Board and Finance Committee for the CMS project. None of these opportunities are guarantees and will need to be carefully tracked.

Upcoming Projects

- **2021 Annual Report** – Previous annual reports can be [found online](#). The 2021 report will aim include a progress update on Sustainable Concord including an effort to synergize the tracking of metrics between the annual reports, dashboard, and indicators of success in Sustainable Concord.
- **CSEC Sustainability Series** – CSEC is preparing a suite of engagement events for 2022. More details to come. The series will be a topic of discussion at their meeting on Dec. 16th, 2021.

Highlights from Other Departments and in the Community

- **Concord Public School Sustainability Committee** – The CPSSC was on hold during the pandemic but has recently restarted. The four more meetings will occur throughout the next year. CPS had a 2019-2020 Sustainability Plan that will likely be updated based on progress and priorities.
- **CMLP Smart Meter Rollout** – To begin in 2022 through 2023 to all customers.
- **CMLP Time of Use Pilot** – To begin in 2022 with a subset of customers.

Grant and Technical Assistance

- **NEW- MVP Action Grant** – The Expression of Interest (EOI) form is live. Priority will be given to EOIs submitted prior to January 22nd. I have been meeting with departments about possible applications. I have also reached out to the SuAsCo climate coalition to see if there is interest in a regional application.
- **NEW - USDN Nexus Guidance** – We have been approached to consider participation in a two-year pilot program to transition into true equity-centered climate practice (*see attached*). I have sent this information to the Town's newly developed DEI Commission, the school, CSEC, and CAAB for consideration.
- **NEW – MAPC Technical Assistance on Climate Adaptation** – We have been given positive feedback that limited support will be available to integrate climate adaptation into local policies and regulations through a program funded by the Barr Foundation.
- **MassEVIP Fleets**– Concord Police applied to the MassEVIP Fleet grant (\$7500) for a new vehicle in November 2021.
- **Green Communities** – Applied in Fall of 2021 to disconnect four classroom pods from the Ripley School and Administration Building's main boiler and install air source heat pumps for each pod. A new grant round, if not awarded, will be available in the Spring.
- **MassEVIP DC Fast Charger** – The Town has applied to the MassEVIP DC Fast Charger program for installation of charger at Rideout Playground parking lot.
- **GAP III Financing**

State Legislation to Track

**All legislation is subject to change until final bill/policy is voted on and adopted.*

- **Green Futures Act** - H.3292 establishes a green infrastructure fund. The Town has been approached by the North Central Climate Change Collaborative (NC⁴) to provide feedback and potentially sign a petition (*see attached*).
- **The Better Buildings Act** - H.3366 and S.2232 includes components such as large commercial will need to report energy use to DOER annually, establishes an energy performance standard for different building types, cities and towns can establish their own energy disclosure requirements.
- **Home Rule Petition** - Senator Barrett came to the [Nov 22, 2021 Select Board Meeting](#) in Concord and spoke to the current standing. It seems like the home rule bill is on "standby" while a statewide net zero building code is being proposed as required under climate bill (see minutes 23:50-29:30 of the recording for this recap). He hopes that a draft/outline of the statewide code will be available by the end of the year. Then five public hearings will occur with the goal of having a final code ready by end of the 2022.

Events and Engagement

- **NEW - Winter Heating with Air Source Heat Pumps Webinar (30 minutes)**- Can heat pumps keep your home warm all winter? Abode Energy Management, the administrator of the Concord Clean Comfort Program offered by CMLP, explains how this cost-competitive & climate-friendly home heating choice works. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_II9Ixm18s&t=582swebinar
- **NEW - Try the Drive & saVe Wizard by Dec 31st for a chance to win a \$76 gift card.** Why \$76? It's the average amount a driver in Concord saves each month on fuel by driving an EV. <https://concorddriveselectric.wattplan.com/ev/>

- **Special Town Meeting Public Hearing on the Concord Middle School Building –**
12/16/2021 at 7:00
- **Director Speaking Engagements**
 - Dec 28th – Planning Board Meeting
 - Jan 4th - Fenn School Sustainability Plan Summit
 - Jan 18th - ConcordCAN in partnership with Mothers Out Front and League of Women Voters
 - April 4th – Seeds and Weeds
- **CAAB Monthly Meeting** - third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 PM
- **CSEC Monthly Meeting** – third Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM
- **Light Board** – second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 AM
- **Have a special interest?** Contact Amanda Kohn for information on how to join groups working together on EV adoption (Concord Drives Electric), expanding the use of air source heat pumps (Concord Heats Electric), and more!

APPLYING THE USDN NEXUS GUIDANCE

2022-2023 Northeast Pilot

What is the Nexus?

The Nexus guidance is for local government practitioners who are working to fundamentally transform the traditional approach to climate action planning and practice. It focuses on altering the process in which local government approaches climate work and centers on two main objectives:

1. Acknowledging the inequitable history that designed governance in North America and
2. Actively working to shift power throughout the entire process to people in the community prioritizing Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) who have suffered most from centuries of racist policies and practices.

Why Should Local Governments Apply the Nexus?

As change agents, local government practitioners have the opportunity to center humanity and respect by being open and honest, listening with empathy, building trust, and demonstrating accountability. This Nexus guidance challenges the status quo by facing the suffering of many that has allowed for higher quality of life for others, simply based on skin color, country of origin, gender, sexual orientation, ability, and class. This paradigm shift can be a complex, emotional process and local government staff need permission and support to engage in their personal and professional process shift.

What Are the Key Points in the Nexus Guidance?

This Nexus recognizes three core injustices and seeks resolutions to disrupt them. Each person comes to these realities with their own lived experiences, privilege, power, and understanding. These facts may be difficult to acknowledge and talk about; however, it is critical for local government practitioners to accept and face these realities in order to be effective change agents and meaningful center racial equity in our practices.

Three Realities

1. This country is founded on racist systems.
2. People have different lived experiences based on their skin color in this country.

Three Actionable Shifts

1. Acknowledgement of historic and current power structures.
2. Dedicated effort to shift power throughout each stage of the process.
3. Consistent and respectful check-ins,

3. BIPOC communities are not forgotten, they have been intentionally ignored and devalued. internally and with community partners.

How Will This NortheastPilot Project work?

USDN has secured funding from the Barr Foundation over the next two years (2022 to 2023) to support local government *and* Community Based Organizations in their jurisdictions in applying to nexus framework. The funding will come in the two core forms:

1. **Technical Assistance for Local government partners:** Kristin Baja (Project Director) and Peyton Siler Jones (Northeast Project Coordinator) will provide facilitation, project management, and climate planning support while Victoria Benson (Justice Alchemy) will provide racial equity technical assistance to USDN member participants.
2. **Direct grant funding to Community Based Partners:** Part of the grant funding is designed to go directly to the local governments community based partners.

USDN is seeking to work with at least five governments in the greater Boston region.

What are the next steps in 2021?

- Step 1:** Select a project (planning or policy based) for this two year pilot. USDN staff will support this selection process.
- Step 2:** Identify local Community Based partners. USDN can also support this process.
- Step 3 -8 :** Begin the six stage cycle within the Nexus framework in the context of your selected project in partnership with CBO(s).

How Will Work At the Nexus Improve My Community?

The Nexus Guidance will help your community transition into true equity-centered climate practice. It provides step-by-step guidance to transform climate planning and practice by acknowledging North America's real history, our current racist and prejudiced policies and practices, and the need to actively work towards deep individual and institutional change in order to achieve the transformation we seek - where everyone benefits from climate action. This guidance gives local governments the tools to acknowledge the power, privilege and biases of government and provides specific actions to shift power for healthy and equitable collaboration between communities and local government.

From the Director: The Town has been approached by the North Central Climate Change Collaborative (NC4) to potentially sign a petition (draft below) in support of the Green Future Act. Feedback on the letter was requested by early this week (12/14), but I was only connected with this group over the last few business days. A new draft will likely be sent around for consideration of signature. I don't have a specific timeline for when the petition will move forward, but I would like to gauge our community's support for this bill. I don't want to monopolize the CAAB meeting with discussion given our current agenda, and with the potential turnaround before CAAB's next meeting, I would welcome thoughts from Board members or the public via email within the week (by 12/23). Reminder that these should be sent directly to me and not the whole board as not to deliberate out of session.

Letter from North Central Climate Change Coalition (NC4)

We, the undersigned representatives of the North Central Climate Change Coalition (NC4), write in support of immediate passage of the Green Future Act (H.3292). NC4 is comprised of municipal and civic leaders across NN communities (number to be added once signatures received) who are working on the frontlines of climate change resistance, resilience, and adaptation. We see first-hand climate change's impacts to the health and well-being of our communities, and to our natural and built environment. We support achieving a carbon-free future by directing green investment and decision-making to communities, which are best positioned to address these challenges, while also recognizing the potential benefits of regional collaboration.

The Green Future Act meets these objectives by providing a dedicated, green investment fund that will provide on average \$3.4 million to every city and town in Massachusetts by 2030. It places decision-making at the local level over how and where to spend these funds (within the definition of "Local green Investment"), while also permitting municipalities to aggregate funds and collaborate regionally.

We respectfully ask that you support the passage of the Green Future Act in the current legislative session (2021-2022), and unlock this critical funding so that we can invest in the wellbeing of our citizens and the protection of our natural assets.