



Town of Boxborough Sustainability Committee Charter

Committee Name

The Select Board (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”) shall appoint a committee to be known as the Sustainability Committee (“Committee”) for the Town of Boxborough (“Town”).

Mission and Charge

The core mission of the Committee will be to advise and make recommendations to the Board on developing and implementing Town energy, sustainability, and resilience strategies. This charge will involve research and evaluation of policies and practices to identify, prioritize, and advocate for initiatives to improve our Town’s sustainability and resilience. The purpose of the committee is to support coordinated, ambitious, fact-based decision making and actions across the Town, in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050, as set out in the Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2050, as well as to support efforts to prepare for and mitigate the effects of climate change on the Town.

Vision: To promote a culture of sustainability and resilience that will be fully integrated into our community for the benefit of present and future generations.

Mission: To help develop a culture of sustainability and resilience in our community through a partnership with residents, town government, and businesses using innovation, education, communication, and comprehensive and strategic planning.

Goals and Scope of Work

The Committee’s goals will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Save money for the Town and restrain budget increases by controlling energy costs in three areas: natural gas and electric bills for Town buildings, fuel bills for Town vehicles, and waste disposal costs at the Town Transfer Station.
2. Reduce the Town’s impact on the environment by using energy more efficiently, promoting the adoption of renewable energy sources, and by cost-effectively recycling more waste.

To accomplish these goals, the Committee’s scope of work will include, but not be limited to:

1. Assist Town staff in their work to track, or “benchmark,” current energy use in Town buildings.
2. Identify potential ways to reduce energy consumption and costs. These solutions might include conservation, efficiency improvements, equipment upgrades, and alternative sources of power generation.
3. Propose cost-effective targets for energy-use reductions and submit a draft plan to the Town Administrator and Board for review, evaluation, and approval. Work with Town staff to implement a final plan for achieving those targets.
4. Participate in updating the Town’s Master Plan and other relevant policies and plans as needed.
5. Assist Town staff in their efforts to research the costs and benefits of energy efficiency improvements, writing/processing grant applications and rebates, and identifying funding opportunities for proposed energy and waste management projects.
6. Provide information to Town staff, residents, businesses, and developers through a community outreach program that would encourage conservation and energy efficiency, increase cost-effective recycling, and promote sustainable development. Confer with Town Administrator before working with the DPW Director and the Building Commissioner.

7. Keep Town staff and the public informed of the Committee's progress by reporting periodically to the Board and by holding public meetings.
8. Advise the Board on developing Town budget articles if required for sustainability and resilience projects. Work might include proposing by-law changes if needed to accommodate energy efficiency improvements and/or alternative technology implementation.
9. If the Town pursues the Recycling Dividend Program the Committee will work with DPW Director and the DEP Coordinator to comply with Recycling Dividends Program in order to obtain points for reimbursement to the town for additional recycling work.

Committee Organization, Meetings, and Reporting

The Committee will be comprised of ten members. All voting Committee members shall be Town residents. A non-voting representative of the town's Municipal Light Plant, i.e., Littleton Electric Light and Water Department, shall also serve on the Committee. The inclusion of at least one student representative on the Committee is encouraged, and a Committee mentor shall be paired with any student member to provide support. Said members are to be appointed by the Select Board to staggered terms of up to three years.

Appointees will possess knowledge, experience, and/or interest in identifying ways to help restrain Town energy costs as well as identify and address sustainability and resilience issues. The Committee will remain a permanent standing committee at the discretion of the Board.

The Committee will meet regularly, approximately once a month. A quorum of the Committee shall be half the serving members plus one. A quorum must be present for the Committee to meet and conduct any business. The Committee will annually elect a Chairperson or Co-Chairs to preside over business and will appoint a Clerk to take minutes of each meeting and maintain Committee records. The Clerk will serve as Chair Pro Tem if a Chairperson is unavailable.

All meetings of the Committee will be held in a public location, properly posted, and open to the public, in accordance with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law. Minutes will be approved by the Committee within 30 days of each meeting and will be distributed to the Board. The Committee will contribute a section to the Annual Town Report.

The Committee will report periodically to the Board, which will appoint a Select Board Member as its liaison with the Committee. This liaison and the Committee Chairperson will determine if and when the Committee will make presentations to the Board.

Approved, as revised, on July 8, 2024

By the Select Board:

Kristin Hilberg, Chair	<u>Kristin Hilberg</u>
Priya Sundaram, Clerk	<u>Priya K. Sundaram</u>
Wesley Fowlks	<u>W F</u>
David McKiernan	<u>David A. McKiernan</u>
Robert Stemple	<u>Robert H. Stemple</u>