

Nov 2, 2018

TO: Mayor Martin

FROM: Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee (SGIC)

RE: SGIC ANNUAL REPORT - JULY 2017-July 2018

SGIC Purpose. The Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee shall be the entity responsible for coordinating the implementation of Sustainable Greenfield, the Town's master plan. Additionally, the Sustainable Greenfield Implementation Committee's purpose is to assist the Town in meeting its Green Community obligations and 250 goals by identifying, recommending, and implementing programs that foster a vital, sustainable and resilient community, by addressing the oil depletion and climate change crisis, and the three interlocking aspects of sustainability: the economy, the environment, and society.

Strategies:

1. Keep residents engaged
2. Track progress
3. Listen to the community
4. Prioritize and endorse projects
5. Celebrate success

WHAT SGIC DID:

1. **Keeping residents engaged:** Our strategy to keep residents engaged was to hold community gatherings where they could meet key staff and volunteers who could update them on progress and answer their questions, as well as report on progress through My Turns and news releases.
 - a. **Community Gatherings:** SGIC held three community discussions that aimed to offer an opportunity in an informal setting where community members can engage with City staff and volunteers in leadership positions can hear about and discuss progress made and next steps. Forty to 60 people attended each gathering. Discussions were lively, evaluations were very positive, and everyone appreciated the opportunity to get to know one another, hear about progress and be heard. The Recorder carried announcements about the meetings, and several gatherings were also covered by the paper. Following is a list of the gatherings:
 1. Livability: Housing and Downtown. *Panelists: John Lunt & MJ Adams (January 25, 2018)*
 2. Quality of Life: Recreation & Transportation. *Panelists: Christie Moore & George Touloumtzis (March 22, 2018)*
 3. Moving toward a Fossil Fuel Free **Future**. *Panelists: Carole Collins & Eric Twarog (May 24, 2018)*
 - b. **My Turns:** Several SGIC members wrote My Turns as a way of keeping the community informed of progress made, and keeping the master plan in the public eye.
 1. Before updating trash collection process, a cost-benefit analysis is overdue for Greenfield by *Michael Pattavina (4/4, 2018)*
 2. The potential of downtown by *MJ Adams (7/22, 2018)*
2. **Track Progress:** The committee heard reports, updated the Implementation table, and identified top three priorities as noted below. We also had several discussions on how best to track progress.
 - a. **Planning** – Eric Twarog updated the Land use chapter of the implementation table, gave a report on planning progress and plans for next years.
 - b. **Housing** – MJ Adams gave a report and updated implementation table (Aug& Sept)
 - c. **Transportation** – George Touloumtzis gave a report and updated implementation table updated (Nov)
 - d. **Implementation table:** commitment to post on web (Aug, 2017)

3. **Listen to the Community**
 - a. Natural gas leaks: heard community concern from Greening Greenfield
4. **Prioritize and endorse projects**
 - a. CDBG grant proposal priorities discussed. *Recommendations made.*
 - b. Discussed how to help spread the word on improved MassSave program – *Carole Collins submitted a news release about the new benefits*
 - c. 100% Renewable Energy & a Fossil-Fuel-Free Future resolution-*SGIC endorsed in April 2018*
 - d. ADA Self-Evaluation and Transition Plan – *Report given in April. Final plan to be submitted in May.*
5. **Celebrate Success**
 - a. Celebrated receipt of funding for Complete Street projects.

PROGRESS TOWARD IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE GREENFIELD, AS REPORTED IN THE RECORDER.

For each topic, there is a summary of progress, and then a reference as to what goals and strategies in *Sustainable Greenfield* these actions support. This is followed by a list of Recorder articles with date published.

1. Economic Development – downtown revitalization

A large number of municipal projects moved forward! There was an excellent Recorder series: **Downtown: The Road Ahead** (5-day series started) 9/19/2017 points to many new assets that draw young families to Greenfield who want to walk and mingle downtown: 13 types of cuisine, entertainment etc., art, services such as the new Greenfield Center for Wellness etc.

These efforts support *Sustainable Greenfield's* Economic Development's goals #1 & 3; and Strategy #3, 4, 5, 8, & 9

- a. Municipal projects:
 - i. The JZ Community Center opened!! (3/2018)
 - ii. Bringing Broadband to Greenfield: GCET met bumps but overcame them -John Lunt new general manager (2/2018)
 - iii. Parking Garage – almost complete! (8/2018)
 - iv. Library – state funding secured (7/2018)– Town Council vote by Jan 2019.
 - v. DPW: 2 news buildings at wells st: Offices (almost done) + storage building
 - vi. Green River Commons – 7 zero-energy ready apartments for sale...almost complete (8/2018)
 - vii. Safety Complex plan proposed and in discussion.
 - viii. Efforts to repurpose the Bendix, and the First National Bank properties continue, and a path to clean up the Bendix property is now clear. International Container Co still interested.
 - ix. More Wayfinding signs put up. Brainstorm of ideas for Court Square space.
 - x. The Skate Park project has been put on hold until the Town commits to cleaning up the site.
- b. Private-sector updates
 - i. Split Tax rate NOT adopted – in order to support businesses.
 - ii. Progress Partnership created by some Main St businesses – exploring funding etc.
 - iii. Greenspace CoWork - opens above Hawks and Reed (3/2018?)
 - iv. Lady Bird Thrift opened 250 Main St (1/2018)
 - v. Greenfield Center for Wellness: Co-run by: Center for Human Development & Community Health Center of Franklin County Greenfield Center for Wellness opened on 102 Main St. (4/2018)

- vi. Patriot Care opened behind Green Fields Market(5/2018) (medical and recreational marijuana for sale)
- vii. Goose Exquisite Thrift opened (11/2017)
- viii. Namaste opens (286 Main sat) (2/2018)
- ix. Ice Cream Alley opens at 221 Main St (6/2018)
- x. Bonnie B's takes over Brass Buckle space (closed 2/2018)
- xi. Facade updates continue – Greenfield Gallery + Designer Clothing outlet
- xii. New Taylor on Main St- Greenfield Taylor
- xiii. Abercrombie building on Bank Row repurposed – new DA's offices
- xiv. Another Castle on Olive Street (King) includes HitPoint Studio (Paul Hake) (before: Pioneer Valley Game Developers Group) (opened 10/2018)
- xv. First National Bank building – Greenfield Redevelopment Authority inherits
- xvi. Prondo's Barbershop expands & moves to Miles St.(10/2017)
- xvii. Market on Conway St r JC Bednarski, Bruce B's son takes over JCs Market & upgrades to liquor etc. 6/2018)
- xviii. Classic Kitchens celebrates 30-years
- xix. World Eye Bookshop merged into Magical Child space
- xx. Pioneer Valley Hotel group purchase Roadway Inn 1/2018)...Plan for plaza?
- xxi. Green River Liquors – purchases Ruggeri' Package store (Deerfield St (Chris Sexton) (2/2018)
- xxii. Ja'Duke Driving School (329 Greenfield Rd) opens (8/2017)
- xxiii. Zraunig Speak & Language Services (278 Main St#201) opens Kelly Zraunig
- xxiv. Nam's US Taekwondo Center (Big Y plaza between Subway & Big Y) (Jinbyoung Nam 3/2018)
- xxv. Functional Dry Needling- Body Shoppe offers new muscle therapy (
- xxvi. Camelot Carpet Cleaners expands business to auto-detailing- working with Jail re-entry program (10/2017)
- xxvii. Dollar General opens at Big Y plaza (replaces Family Dollar) (11/2017)
- xxviii. CDC freezer space expanded -new biz opportunities (11/2017)
- xxix. Common Ground Fitness Center – replaces ACD Women's Fitness (High St)
- xxx. Compost Coop up and running 6/2018 (GCC & Franklin County Jail)
- xxxi. Allergy and Immunity Association of NE opens at Gfld Crop Center (6/2018)
- xxxii. Full Frame Initiative (NGO) opens in Greenfield-works around the country
- xxxiii. Zaccheo Properties continues to grow and create Zero-energy rental opportunities (Montague Center elementary school renovation)
- xxxiv. The Museum of Our Industrial Heritage – new on-line database 4/2018)
- xxxv. PV donated to non-profits: CRC, Just Roots, other? To increase renewable energy and reduce their overhead costs.
- xxxvi. Pete's seafood (for sale 3/2018) and purchased.
- xxxvii. Home Furnishings closed its doors (after 100 years)
- xxxviii. Country Jeweler building purchased for new eatery...but met obstacles
- xxxix. Big Box on French King Highway – in court soon, after 10 years.+ Stop&Shop has a lease agreement on the site and wants to sub-lease it.
 - xl. French King highway re-zoning failed. (1/2018 articles)
 - xli. Franklin Community Co-op sees losses again – expansion the solution? (4/2018)
 - xl.ii. PeterPan Bus lines reduces service to Albany (7/2018)
- c. Misc.
 - i. Greenfield Savings Bank offers micro-loans (Montague pilot project)
 - ii. Art's recognized as key to a more robust local economy
 - 1. New sculpture, the Cyclist, installed on Miles St (6/2/2018)
 - 2. FC Chamber holds art fest (2/19/2018)
 - 3. Recorder weekly Arts & Entertainment section prize-winning
 - iii. Farming

1. New film the “Forgotten Farmers,” by Sarah Gardner, documents the plight of the dairying in the area & success stories of those overcoming the challenges (6/29/2018)
- iv. Festivals & Events– the number of Greenfield events have grown and should be recognized as important pieces of economic development!
 1. Municipally-organized festivals
 2. Just Roots Fest (10/10/2017)
 - 3.
- d. Educational efforts – supporting economic development and more!
 - i. Second Chance Employment Initiative added to Harmon Personnel Services which is run by Community Action
 - ii. GCC
 1. Bob Pura, retiring president – numerous articles etc. lauding him for his work. Citizen of the Year article (12/19/2017)
 2. GCC – opens “Starter Academy” for adults & High School students.
 3. GCC reinstates Outdoor Leadership Program (fall 2018)
 4. Collaboration on Nursing degrees: GCC, Smith Voc, Westfield State, Coley Dickenson Hospital (GCC pgm ranked 3rd in state (3/2018)
 - iii. Ecovation creates Collaboration on Green stuff GCC SAGE program, Keene State system design and building science, SIT’s environmental sustainability programs, Antioch’s Center for Climate Preparedness and Community Resilience
 - iv. Greenfield Commonwealth Virtual School (new name for MA Virtual Academy)
 - v. Green River School may be used again for Alternative learning pgm (8/8/2018)
 - vi. Democracy:
 1. Teen right to vote in Town meetings. Ck out vote16hilltowns@gmail.com (Aaron Nelson & Max Carr cofounders 8/28/2017)
 2. Rep. McGovern talks with students (6/3/2018)
 3. Youth Rise Together – youth-led social action group
 4. GMS 7th grade students meet Jewell Parker Rhodes, author of “Towers Falling” brings 9/11 alive. Month-long unit & all-day event with Ms. Rhodes.(6/13/2018)
 5. “Law Day” – HS students hear from Buz Eisenberg (5/2/2018)
 - vii. Multi-culturalism
 1. Annual Taste of World Cultural event at GHS (3/21/2018) – pot-luck food – dancing -music and more!
 2. Dragon puppet show teaches Asian culture (6/17/2018)
 - viii. Job opportunities
 1. “Doctor for a Day program” (4/6/2018)
 2. “Reality Fair” teaches local students about personal finances (3/2/2018)
 - ix. Finances – numerous articles on the need for more money and/or to reduce costs of college education, and need for “resource officers” to enhance security.
- e. Events – draw people to Greenfield
 - i. Bike race held again – Greenfield Centerium (6/23/2018)

2. SOCIAL ISSUES & SOLUTIONS

Greenfield has done much to offer services to address the challenges and needs of people in Greenfield. Below is a list of needs for services, and what is being done to meet those needs. **These efforts support *Sustainable Greenfield’s* Public Facilities, Services and Energy chapter, strategy #8.**

- a. Opioid epidemic remained the top issue. The good news is that in 2017, opioid deaths dropped by 60% in Franklin County...the lowest total figure since 2011. FC’s Behavioral

Health Network was recognized for outstanding service by the National Association for Addiction Professionals; FC family drug court received a \$1.2M for its MISSION-Hope recovery program (2/2018); the Center for Human Development received \$50,000 from RISE MA (1/2018); The Community Health Center of FC received \$175,000 grant from Human Resources and Services Administration(9/2017); the Greenfield Jail received \$100,000 from MA for medically-assisted addiction treatment to people awaiting trial 12/2017); and The Church of St. James and Andrew in Greenfield opened its doors to the Tapestry Needle exchange program (11/2017). Additionally, the Recovery Learning Center finds a new home on Chapman St. after a 13-month search 12/2017); Greenfield jail now admitting women and offering medically assisted addition treatment (1/2017); and numerous discussions and informational sessions are being held such as Ruth Potee’s discussion to 10th graders at Four Rivers School. Finally, Greenfield joined other communities and filed suit against big pharma seeking reparations for the opioid epidemic. (over 20 articles)

- b. Homelessness. While most of the homeless housed in the Quality Inn have found homes, the problem has not gone away. In April 2018, Mayor Martin created a panel of the Fire Chief, MJ Adams (housing/economic development) and others to address the issue. In July, homeless began camping on the Greenfield Common to draw attention to their plight. With the Town Council calling for Mayor Martin’s resignation over the issues, and promises of a new shelter opening in early September, the Homeless were evicted from the Common on Aug 24, leaving a sour taste in the mouths of many. (10 articles)
- c. Overcoming inequality, hate, race, and “the divide.” All Souls offered an all-day workshop on fighting inequality. The speakers and organizers also wrote a series of My Turns offering insight and solutions to economic inequality including unionization and collective action, and CEC’s role in addressing the issue; seniors’ plight; the opportunities to create good green jobs that reduce the threat of the climate crisis; and the need for safe cities to protect immigrants. The Hands Across Hills effort and numerous My Turns called people to stand up and reach across the divide and listen, resist hate, and champion democracy. YMCA fundraises so it can continue to offer a sliding fee scale; Community Action worked on a plan to welcome Puerto Rican families after their frightful storm; Baystate nurses resolved differences and signed a new labor contract (5/2018); and the MA legislature considered a bill to raise minimum wage to \$15/hour. (about 20 articles)
- d. Guns. Random shootings continued – and this activated students in Greenfield and around the country to call for gun control. The “solution” of armed guards and/or teachers in the schools was severely criticized. Gun owners in greenfield called for civil discourse, and health officials suggested that it be treated similarly to other public health threats. (5 articles)
- e. Veterans. Elks Lodge holds weekly Building Bridges luncheons for veterans to foster camaraderie and brotherhood and build and pride for veterans (9/2017)
- f. Housing: MJ Adams has details of progress made
 - i. SGIC offered Community Discussion on this topic
 - ii. Abandoned homes: Database created.
 - 1. Health officials share plan on next steps (3/12/2018)
 - 2. Toolkit for abandoned houses presented (5/29/2018)
 - iii. Green River Commons – 7 zero-energy ready condos on Deerfield Street being built.
- g. Transportation (See separate topic)

3. FOOD – LOCAL FOOD AND FOOD SECURITY

Food security issues are often in the news. Dairy farmers do not get enough income from selling milk to sustain their efforts. Over 50% of the children in our schools are food insecure. Efforts to support local farming and food access & Success stories are listed below:

These efforts support *Sustainable Greenfield's* Land Use chapter's goal #2, and strategy #5; and Education chapter's strategy #9

- a. CISA celebrates 25 years of Local Hero campaign and supporting farmers
- b. Recorder carries weekly local food column & gardening column
- c. Food Bank, Survival Center, Community Meals, Stone Soup all continue
- d. Some 3rd generation farmers are returning home to farm, and they have formed "Next Generation of Farmeres" group to support each other. (4/2018)
- e. Diversification = success for Hagers Farm (5/2018) and others
- f. Guerilla gardening and Gleaning efforts touted and underway
- g. Greenfield Schools all offer "breakfast in the classroom" to ALL students.
- h. Just Roots & Community Health Center are studying the benefits of local food with hopes of convincing insurance companies to support CSA's in the same way they support exercise through rebates for health clubs.
- i. Food Justice program –\$1M MA Food Trust Program grant-some to CDC (

4. ENERGY

Energy is clearly a hot topic locally, regionally, and nationally with over 50 news clips.

Greenfield's efforts support *Sustainable Greenfield's* Public Facilities, Services, and Energy chapter's goals #1 & 5, and Strategies #10 & 11

- a. Greenfield: *Carole Collins has more details on progress made in Greenfield.* Recorder articles focused on GL&P rates; the potential of PACE financing (4/10/2018); Ener-G-Save's work encourage home energy audits (9/2); the 100% Renewable Energy and Fossil-fuel-free Future resolution (June); and several tours of zero-energy homes (June & July); Sandri offers "green gas" climate change offsets at the pump (6/28/2018)
- b. Climate change: Numerous My Turns with data supporting the urgency to act, and calls to action; Trump poo-pooing climate change as a national security threat (12/19/2018) and expands offshore drilling (1/5/2018); US scientist James Hanson on his regrets on not speaking out in the 1970s and more facts (6/19/2018); CT River Conservancy joins others in suing EPA Commissioner Pruitt (3/16/2018); MA support of climate change preparedness/Adaption (4/25/2018);
- c. Biomass: Several My Turns on the cons of using our forests and the pros and cons of the proposed Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership program. MA DOER lists biomass as a renewable fuel (12/21/2017). MA House Committee on Global Warming and Climate change oppose biomass MA DOER decision (12/23/2017)
- d. Regional Renewables progress: Deerfield Methane digester (4/20/2018); Mt Toby Meeting House goes solar; Wendell builds first-ever community-owned solar project (6/28/2018); Hampshire COG starts water heating program (4/5/2018). Ag and solar? UMass research (9/15/2018); Ostrowski farm in S. Deerfield OK'd (7/9/2018); Grover Family farm in Barnardston requests permit (8/13/2018). Deerfield rail yard requests permit 2.7M (7/28/2018). UMass gets \$1.1mil grant from Tesla for energy storage (12/15/2017); MA & RI announce new offshore wind projects. 1200MW.
- e. Natural gas: GG panel on natural gas leaks and customer rates (12/16&25); Stop gas pipeline fundraiser (10/25/2017); Eversource named in class-action lawsuit RE jacking up natural gas process (11/28/2017); Eversource agreed to cut rate hike based on new corporate tax law which reduces corporate tax rate from 35 to 21%. (1/5/2018)
- f. Solar & Eversource: Eversource files for 16% rate hike (11/9/2017); Several articles calling foul on DPU support of Eversource rate increase for homeowners who install solar. (1/13/2019)
- g. MA Legislation: Bill to enable State Legislators and NGOs to be named as intervenors in DPU rate cases (11/3/2017); House Energy Chairman Golden gets tour of Greenfield's financial successes enabled by embracing 100% renewable/fossil-fuel-free future...by invitation of Greening Greenfield & Rep. Mark (12/7/2017); PVPC hold forum for leaders on what 100% renewable energy future would look like (11/17/2017); compromise energy bill criticized as too weak 8/1/2018)

- h. FERC: EPA commissioner Pruitt visits area hydro facilities but not local officials (2/16/2018)
- i. Energy from Canadian Hydro: Northern Pass transmission lines rejected by NH (2/3/2018)

5. **TRANSPORTATION**

Progress was made toward improving biking, walking and public transit as noted below.

The following efforts support *Sustainable Greenfield's* Transportation chapter's goals #1, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8, and strategies #2, 7 & 9

- a. **BIKING & WALKING** upgrades: \$375,000 awarded To DPW from MADOT for Complete Streets efforts. Need state approval for projects. Ideas: sidewalks on Laurel St; Colrain St (3/2018)
- b. Passenger Rail to expand! To Springfield. E/W link to be studied (1/30/2018 & 6/13/2018)

6. **NATURAL RESOURCES**

The following efforts support *Sustainable Greenfield's* Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources chapter's vision and Goal #1.

- a. **Trees:** The Greenfield Tree committee members and the DPW plant trees annually (about 100 last year).
- b. **Water:** Articles documented the Connecticut River Conservancy's annual Source to sea clean-up, which includes the Green River Cleanup which Greenfield's 5th graders and many more participate in annually (9/23/2017). Several articles on the Deerfield River note that rainbow trout are now spawning in it. FCTS works with Greenfield Rights of Nature on water protector signs. (9/2017)
- c. **Pat Leuchtman's weekly gardening** column touches on more than flower gardens, she also brings to our attention food and farming, the importance of live soil, the beauty and importance of trees and more.

7. **RECREATION & PARKS**

See Rec Dep't web for full list of recreational activities and events etc.

The following effort supports *Sustainable Greenfield's* Chapter 5. Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources.

- a. Mini-Fenway built at Lunt field (summer 2018)

8. **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

Let's celebrate the success of the 3-year effort to introduce composting in our schools. It has resulted in reducing trash by 5 tons/month, which is an 80% decrease in waste from the school cafeterias.

These efforts support *Sustainable Greenfield's* Public Facilities, Services and Energy chapter's, goal #4.

- a. **Reduce costs:** The DPW has made several efforts to reduce costs of waste management. While the ideas of "one side only pick-up" and trash pick-up privatization were not accepted by the general public, switching to a 4-day Tues-Friday pick up schedule will save money by reducing the number of trucks that the DPW needs. Another effort to reduce the cost of sewage sludge disposal seems to be inching forward with the idea of an anaerobic digester that would meet the needs of Greenfield and many area businesses who are seeking a place to dispose of material pumped from leach field tanks. Some residents are also calling for curbside composting.
- b. **Greenfield Schools Composting** programs up and running after 3-year start-up grant, including Composting Before kindergarten at Academy of Early Learning (6/2/2018)
- c. Peter Garry of **Pete's Tire Barns** lauded for using progressive environmental practices (4/11/2018)

9. **FUTURE HOPES & DREAMS – IN PROGRESS? COMPLETED?**

- a. MA: Legislature & Governor
 - i. \$3.5M for 1st National bank in Senate’s \$3.6B Cap Facility Repairs and Improvement bond” bill (2/2018)
 - ii. Sober House on Cedar St for 6 women-state CCRI \$ being sought (11/2017)
 - iii. Housing: Senate approves \$1.8B housing bond bill (3/2018). Gfld could get 3.78. (8/2018)
 - 1. 1M for regional sludge disposal program (which would cost \$8M)
 - 2. \$2.5M for bldg. renovations: 34 Riddell St (help skate park)
 - 3. \$150k assess how to improve transp options to connect transit station to FC.
 - 4. \$130k – renovate NELCWIT building
 - iv. Gov Baker – Housing choices initiative – grants...Gfld NOT mentioned (5/2018)
 - v. Climate adaptation – via Community Compact Pgm & FRCOG (12/2017)
- b. Library – State commits \$9M (June)...Town must decide by 1/2018 if it will fund the rest (\$9M)
- c. Roadway Inn spot- retail plaza? (by Pioneer Valley Hotel Group) (8/2018)
- d. Court Square Plaza upgrade – looking for a grant (11/2017)
- e. Nash’s Mill bridge rebuild could start summer 2018 (12/2017)
- f. RR bridges to be repaired soon (5/2018)
- g. Safety Complex – much discussion & meetings (7/2018)
- h. Deerfield St retaining wall funded...to be repaired next fall (7/2018) (near Ruggeri’s liquor)
- i. Train travel – N/S frequency improved + E/W dream.
- j. NE Forestry Foundation: private forest owners can receive lifetime income while ensuring permanent protection through the foundation’s responsible management and its Pooled Timber Income Fund (4/2018) newengland-forestry.org/support/ptif

10. **MY TURNS** – what people are concerned about-in order of the volume of articles

- a. Democracy threatened - upcoming elections as opportunity for change -overcoming War - Calls for “bridging the divide”
- b. Sanctuary – protect immigrants
- c. Climate Crisis – seeking solutions – renewable energy- fighting natural gas expansion –
- d. Opioid Addiction – seeking solutions
- e. Woodlands & Biomass – both pro and con
- f. Keep it clean: river clean-up -avoid discarding waste around the globe – don’t use plastic
- g. Gun control – Gfld students get involved
- h. Trees -& Nature is one of our assets
- i. Transportation – improving it via FRTA, rail, and complete streets
- j. Food security –
- k. Health care – single payer –
- l. Death with dignity
- m. Protect elders