

Hadley Climate Change Committee- 2022 Report

To the Select Board and Residents of Hadley,

In the Spring of 2020, then Select Board member Christian Stanley established the Hadley Climate Change Committee as an advisory committee to address the following mission:

- *Assemble and explain information regarding the Town's current ecological footprint.*
- *Assemble and explain information regarding potential actions the Town might take to reduce our ecological footprint.*
- *Help the town evaluate, choose, and implement actions that promote sustainable practices.*
- *Monitor changes in the Town's ecological footprint over time.*

Under that mission, this year we have taken on the following tasks:

1. Becoming a Green Community- Hadley is one of the last communities in Hampshire County to apply for Green Community status from MA Department of Energy Resources. In fact, 290 out of 351 (83%) Massachusetts cities and towns have already been designated as Green Communities (GC) since that state program began years ago, serving communities that account for about 90% of MA residents.

In order to qualify for GC status, our town has to meet the five criteria established by MA DOER. To date, we have addressed four of the five criteria. We are actively working on an energy audit for the town buildings and vehicles and currently completing the last criteria, number 3, on municipal energy usage in order to apply for Green Community status.

2. Plastic Reduction Bylaw- During the Spring 2022 Town Meeting, citizens passed a plastic reduction bylaw. This went in effect this January, and businesses needed to either comply with this bylaw or request a temporary waiver. Our committee worked with the Hadley Board of Health to organize the implementation of this bylaw.

3. Composting- To support composting in town, our group is selling backyard compost bins at a discounted price. In addition, food scrap collection for composting is available at the Hadley Transfer Station for anyone who has a transfer station sticker.

4. Spring Clean Up Day- The Second Annual Spring Clean Up Day was held in April 2022. More than 25 citizens scoured the streets of Hadley and brought ~1000 pounds of trash to the town transfer station. We are grateful to Tandem Bagels, Home Depot, and Solid Waste Solutions for their donations to make that day a success. Also, we are grateful to members of the Hadley Mothers' Club and the Friends of Lake Warner for their support. Our Third Spring Clean Up Day is scheduled for March 18, 2023.

5. Hadley Climate Day- We were pleased to sponsor Hadley Climate Day 2022: Climate Change Now & Solutions for Tomorrow on April 23, 2022 at the Hadley Senior Center. We had about 125 people attend and learn from all of the guest speakers.

Looking ahead, we have held a meeting about the Hadley levee and will continue to work on this project along with other committees. We are working on suggestions about energy usage for the town, updating and maintaining our website, and promoting composting in town through a grant.

Committee Members-

Jack Czajkowski- Chair
Kathy Nelson- Vice Chair
Catalina Arrubla
Michael Docter
Kelly Minton- Secretary
Susi Moser
Marian Parker
Randy Izer- Select Board liaison