

NEMSN Profile: Amherst, MA

Community Profile¹

<i>Area (sq. Miles):</i>	27.6
<i>Population:</i>	39,482
<i>Population Density:</i>	1,430.20
<i>Households:</i>	8,938
<i>Median Age:</i>	21.5
<i>Median Household Income:</i>	\$48,059
<i>Poverty Rate:</i>	34.70%

City Department:

Title: Sustaining Amherst

Staff: Stephanie Ciccarello: Sustainability Coordinator

Responsibilities: Overlook programs/policies pertaining to sustainability and energy efficiency.

Programs/Policies: Solid Waste Management Plan, Regional Bike Share Campaign.

Interview:

What have been your biggest successes in the past 2-3 years?

- (2014)- 2 all electric vehicles added to the municipal fleet. (Made possible through grants and some town budget). *MassEzip- offers funding (\$7,500) for electric charging station (\$10,000). "Flip the switch" campaign also provided funding.
- (2013)- named Solarize Mass Community- led state w/ 1.2 mw produced by solar.
- Passed a bag ban.
- Just put out a Solid Waste Management Plan. Recycling Coordinator left.
- Completed LED retrofits in all schools.

Given the range of your priorities, which do you consider to be your top priorities?

- Regional Bike Share Campaign. Consolidate bike share throughout the region (spring/summer 2018). *CMAQ grant is provided \$1 million towards new bikes.
- Solar landfill project- recently assigned to a new contractor. (3.7 mw array). Array will be owned and operated by 3rd party instead of utility.
- Have members of community pushing for town buildings to be net-zero.
- Looking to pursue Complete Streets using a new state grant.

Please explain why you have chosen these priorities?

- Most economically viable.
- Programs that are widely accepted in the community.
- Most obtainable way to lower emissions.

How important are the metrics to identifying progress of the programs and policies?

- We are looking for a better way to record/track data then project it to the community. Improve organization of data to make it easier to use and see the big picture.
- Use Mass Energy Insight to track LED streetlight conversion data (easy to use).
- Have minimal building retrofits that project energy savings.

What resources are needed to complete your strategies and priorities? Are they currently available to you? If not, do you know where/how to obtain them?

- Need to be able to find grants easier, most of the time they do not have the resources to search and they don't know where to look.
- Need funding.

How has the local community promoted its sustainability efforts to members in the community?

- Has held community events with workshops covering (GHG, Mass Save).
- Find it difficult to increase attendance.(GHG community forum successful and well attended).
- Annual Sustainability Festival (8th)- best event of the year. A wide range of issues were represented.
- Want to create better web presence, update social media/website.

What are your top 3 barriers that you consider to be beyond the control of the municipality, which have limited your ability to implement sustainability initiatives?

- Funding, don't always know where to find grants.(Look state, not federal).
- Synthesizing and recording data to be more useful.
- Are barriers, solar barriers with utility companies.
- Connecting with business on how to follow initiatives for example plastic bag ban.

Sustainable Profile

Overview

- Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling
- Food & Agriculture
- Transportation
- Storm Water
- Energy
- Development
- Greenhouse Gas Reduction
- Climate Preparedness
- Equity & Economics
- Community Engagement



Sustainable Plans

	Targets/Goals	Published Plan	Metrics/Reporting
Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling	✓		
Food & Agriculture			
Transportation	✓	✓	
Storm Water			
Energy	✓	✓	✓
Development	✓		
GHG Reduction			
Climate Preparedness			
Equity & Economics			
Community Engagement			
Totals	4	2	1

Data Source: University of New Hampshire Sustainability Institute: Program Implementation Survey 2017

Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling

Top Priorities

-

Strategies

-

Food & Agriculture

Top Priorities

-

Strategies

-

Transportation

Top Priorities

- Create a balanced, inclusive, accessible, safe, environmentally responsible transportation and circulation system that serves all residents.

Strategies

- Plan for an integrated Town-wide transportation system.
- Actively promote alternative modes of transportation.

Storm Water

Top Priorities

-

Strategies

-

Energy

Top Priorities

-

Strategies

-

Development

Top Priorities

- Balance land preservation objectives with more intensive development in appropriate areas.
- Make Amherst a sustainable, attractive town with a vital downtown and viable mixed-use village centers well connected to livable and diverse neighborhoods and campuses, and interwoven with protected open space, natural resources and active farmland.

Strategies

- Direct future development to existing built-up areas.
- Preserve key un-developed lands.

Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Top Priorities

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Strategies

-

Climate Preparedness

Top Priorities

- .

Strategies

- .

Equity & Economics

Top Priorities

- Provide housing that meets the needs of all residents while minimizing impacts on the environment.
- Diversify and expand the economic base.

Strategies

- Encourage a broad mix of housing types with a full range of initiatives designed to preserve, develop, and replenish the community's low and moderate-income

- affordable housing inventory.
- Pursue policies and regulation that encourage the diversification and expansion of its economic base in a manner consistent with the community’s character and desires.

Community Engagement

Top Priorities

- Promote an ethic of sustainable environmental and energy practices in all Town activities.

Strategies

- Detail ways to protect natural resources, conserve energy, reduce reliance on the private automobile, promote healthier lifestyles, and encourage green buildings techniques.

Initiative Implementation

Amherst, MA	Not Yet Considered	Planning	In Progress	Fully Implemented
Curbside Composting	✓			
Zero Waste Policy		✓		
Community Gardens				✓
Urban Agriculture & Local Food Programs	✓			
Complete Streets		✓		
Bike Share/ Rail Trail				✓
Green Storm Water Infrastructure Upgrades	✓			
Commercial/Municipal Building Upgrades		✓		
Municipal Energy Aggregation	✓			
Municipal Solar Installations		✓		
Community Solar Installations	✓			
LED Conversions: Streetlight				✓
LED Conversion: Municipal Buildings				✓
Mixed-Use Development			✓	
Urban Infill			✓	
Sustainable Housing for Low-Income Families				✓
Aiding Local Business With Sustainable Programs		✓		
Updated Website with Events/Reports			✓	
OTHER				
Totals	5	5	3	5

Data Source: University of New Hampshire Sustainability Institute: Program Implementation Survey 2017

Source:

1.) "Census Profile: Amherst Town, Hampshire County, MA." *Census Reporter*. N.p., n.d.
Web. 20 June 2017.