

NEMSN Profile: Dedham, MA

Community Profile¹

<i>Area (sq. Miles):</i>	10.2
<i>Population:</i>	25,224
<i>Population Density:</i>	2,461.60
<i>Households:</i>	9,579
<i>Median Age:</i>	42.4
<i>Median Household Income:</i>	\$83,438
<i>Poverty Rate:</i>	4.80%

City Department:

Title: Sustainability Advisory Committee

Staff: Virginia LeClair: Environmental Coordinator.

Responsibilities: Advises the Board of Selectmen on strategies for advancing local commitment to renewable energy, educates residents, and encourages energy conservation and smart energy choices to reduce the impacts of pollution and climate change.

Programs/Policies: Green Living Resources, Dedham Heritage Rail Trail and Solar.

Interview:

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

- Community aggregation of electricity- 1 full year. Residents & business reduce electricity rate (bulk buying). RPS=10%, residents getting 15% class 1 renewables. Now bidding new contracts and rates.
- (Town meeting)-allow sale of SREC- goes into renewables energy fund (pay energy efficiency and water conservation).
- Converting school utensils to be reusable instead of Styrofoam. Installed dishwashers. Implemented composting at some schools.
- Gaining momentum for the creation of the rail trail. Looking for grants.
- Town has LEED requirements for new school buildings but not for municipal buildings.

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

- Rail Trail, connecting 3 schools, Dedham square, commuter rail and parking connection. (transpiration improvements).
- Climate Action Plan- decrease carbon footprint (along with other plans).
- Establish "Green Communities Program."
- Building new public safety building; first new municipal building in decades.

Please explain why you have chosen these priorities?

Need to create action plan to really get sustainability targets and goals in order.

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

- Report annually our energy data and GHG reduction to Mass Energy Insight as part of the Green Communities program.
- Report annually to the MA Department of Environmental Resources (DEP) on our solid waste reduction and recycling.
- Report as a MS4 community on our storm water metrics.

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 more man power, they are starting to shift responsibility to administrative assistant.
- Would like more fellows & interns.
- More social media promotion.

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

- Need to increase web presences, along with updating town website.
- Better promotion for seminars, to grow environmental awareness.
- Renewable promotion through solar companies.
- **Recycling events have been successful.
- **Household waste event.
- Want to improve attendance for events.

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?

- Increase community participation.
- There are no By-laws that require municipal building standards (would like to LEED certify fire and police station).
- Competing projects (lack of capital for sustainable projects)
- Perception about the environment is not where it needs to be to get full community support.

Sustainable Profile

Overview

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

Sustainable Categories

	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	3	5	5

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

Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling

Top Priorities

- Increase recycling and waste reduction efforts.

Strategies

- Polystyrene Ban.
- Plastic Bag Ban.
- Recycling Education and Outreach.
- Continue Bi-annual Recycling Collection Days.
- Collaborate with Town on Plans for the Transfer Station.

Food & Agriculture

Top Priorities

-

Strategies

-

Transportation

Top Priorities

- Research, support and promote ways to green Providence Highway (Rt 1).
- Dedham Heritage Rail Trail.
- Transportation Improvements.

Strategies

- Increase the tree canopy and planting in commercial areas.
- Install solar on big box stores.
- Continued support for the project.
- Continue support for safe routes to schools.
- Continued support and advocacy for bike routes/pedestrian improvement as outlined in the Dedham/Westwood Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Storm Water

Top Priorities

-

Strategies

-

Energy

Top Priorities

- Develop a Green Building Policy for Municipal Buildings.
- Green Business Certificate Program.

Strategies

- All new municipal construction should meet LEED Silver requirements at a minimum.
- All major municipal renovations should meet LEED Silver requirements at a minimum.
- Recognize Dedham Square Businesses that make significant environmental changes to their businesses by conserving water, reducing waste, improving energy efficiency and purchasing products that are environmentally friendly.

Development

Top Priorities

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Strategies

-

Greenhouse Gas Reduction

Top Priorities

- Climate Action Plan.

Strategies

- Update the existing Climate Action Plan and Energy Plan collaborating with Town officials.

Preparedness

Top Priorities

-

Strategies

-

Equity & Economics

Top Priorities

-

Strategies

-

Community Engagement

Top Priorities

- Education and Checklist.

Strategies

- Caron Footprint Challenge.
- Home Energy Efficiency.
- Continue Op-Ed in Paper.
- Continue to reach out to schools.
- Create an online recycling directory.

Initiative Implementation

Dedham, 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				✓
Water Trail				✓
School Composting and Recycling				✓
Totals	3	1	9	7

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

Sources:

- 1.) "Census Profile: Dedham, MA." *Census Reporter*. N.p., n.d. Web. 20 June 2017.