

## NEMSN Profile: Cranston, RI

### Community Profile<sup>1</sup>

<i>Area (sq. Miles):</i>	28.3
<i>Population:</i>	81,077
<i>Population Density:</i>	2,860.80
<i>Households:</i>	29,917
<i>Median Age:</i>	39.9
<i>Median Household Income:</i>	\$61,963
<i>Poverty Rate:</i>	10.30%

### City Department:

*Title:* Department of Planning

*Staff:* Department of Planning: Peter Lapolla: Director, Jason Pezzullo: Principal Planner, Lynn Furney: Senior Planner.

*Responsibilities:* Responsible for the care, maintenance and control of all phases of public works projects and facilities.

*Programs/Policies:* Utility Grade Solar Installation, LED Street Light Conversion, Curbside recycling, No-Bin-No-Pickup, Sewer Maintenance.

### Interview

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

- Utility-grade solar- town has been very permissive of large-scale solar on rural land, but they believe if it isn't solar it is big houses. Court said they couldn't do it because it did not fit with the comprehensive plan, so the Comprehensive plan was altered to make solar possible. This permitted 32mW, with another 24mW in the "hopper". Solar is being built on industrial land, farming land and landfill land.
- \*New state regulations have enabled the installation of more solar.
- Almost completed a transition to LED streetlights. But this was done because Public Works wanted to save money. They had no idea what GHG impacts were.
- Right now there is a strategic retreat of homes and businesses in Riverine floodplain. Working on a grant for \$60 million that would go to floodwalls, and more retreat of homes so far only 20 homes have been retreated.

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

- Rewriting/Updating the Comprehensive Plan with a sustainability and energy efficiency scope.
- Implement Solarize Campaign

- Identifying what the Performance Standards will be.

**Please explain why you have chosen these priorities?**

Updating the Comprehensive Plan will influence and inform every policy the town makes going forward. If the plan emphasizes sustainability and energy efficiency then every program/policy will have to adhere to those guidelines.

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

Right now there are no metrics to measure progress. They will be a major part of the new Comprehensive Plan because we understand the importance of them in identify where we can be more efficient.

**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?**

- Funding along with having the proper consultants for programs/policies. It would be very beneficial to have someone from other communities that has good experience to set up the framework to find funding and consultants for implementing programs.
- Would like to have more people working on initiatives right now it is only Jason with the occasional help of interns.
- Need to be more active with social media.

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

- Solarize campaign is going to be doing a lot with promoting rooftop and residential solar.
- So far for the utility grade solar there are press releases that inform the community but it is not extensive.

**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?**

- Land Conservation and Solar are conflicting because people say they care about using solar but not enough to get a lot of support for the continuing growth in the town. People are using thing such as “Solar Sprawl” because they don’t want too much solar development. NIMBY is becoming an issue in the town.
- There is also little support for higher up in the town government to support solar and renewable energy programs.

## Sustainable Profile<sup>2</sup>

### *Overview*

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

### Waste Reduction & Recycling

#### *Top Priorities*

- Solid Waste Disposal.
- Achieve a 50% reduction in volume of the disposable solid waste stream to reduce the overall cost of solid waste disposal.

#### *Strategies*

- Curbside Recycling.
- Curbside Refuse.
- No-Bin-No-Pickup Notice.

### Food & Agriculture

#### *Top Priorities*

- Tree maintenance Program.

#### *Strategies*

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### Transportation

#### *Top Priorities*

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#### *Strategies*

- Sidewalk and Curb Installation.
- LED Street Lighting

## Storm Water

### *Top Priorities*

- Adhere to Rhode Island's Phase II regulations, where municipalities are required to prepare and submit Storm Water Management Plans that have at least 6 control measures that are expected to significantly reduce storm water pollution.
- Wastewater Management in Western Cranston.

### *Strategies*

- Sewer Maintenance.
- Enact regulatory mechanisms and incentives allowing the concentration of new development in compact areas.
- Develop a comprehensive septic system management program.

## Energy

### *Top Priorities*

- Building Improvements.

### *Strategies*

- Adopt energy conservation standards for City facilities.
- Establish a long-term program to reduce energy costs for the City.

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## Development

### *Top Priorities*

- Land Use Action Program.
- Housing Action Program.
- Natural Resources Action Program.
- Develop an open space preservation strategy for western Cranston that will result in a coordinated preservation program, including the preservation of farmland and greenways.

### *Strategies*

- Improve cluster/conservation subdivisions.
- Encourage housing that is mixed into commercial projects.
- Adopted a mixed-use development plan that connects to mass transit or industrial land between Elmwood and Wellington Avenue.
- Promote residential land use patterns that concentrate and compact development and maintain significant percentage of open space.

## Greenhouse Gas Reduction

### *Top Priorities*

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### *Strategies*

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### Climate Preparedness

#### *Top Priorities*

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#### *Strategies*

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### Equity & Economics

#### *Top Priorities*

- Economics Development Action Program.
- Preserving and Increasing Employment Opportunities.
- Importing Capital and Expanding Cranston's Economic Base.
- Industrial and Commercial Revitalization.

#### *Strategies*

- Develop and fund customized job training for employees of area manufacturers who are expanding their activities or changing their product lines.
- Continue to fund and present training for employees on job readiness skills.

### Community Engagement

#### *Top Priorities*

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#### *Strategies*

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#### Sources:

- 1.) "Census Profile: Cranston, RI." *Census Reporter*. N.p., n.d. Web. 20 June 2017.
- 2.) "Comprehensive Plan: Goals and Strategies" *City of Cranston 2012*  
<http://www.cranstonri.com/pdf/2%20Goals%20and%20Policies.pdf>