

## NEMSN Profile: Medford, MA

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

|                                 |          |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| <i>Area (sq. Miles):</i>        | 8.1      |
| <i>Population:</i>              | 57,136   |
| <i>Population Density:</i>      | 7,052.80 |
| <i>Households:</i>              | 22,129   |
| <i>Median Age:</i>              | 36.2     |
| <i>Median Household Income:</i> | \$76,445 |
| <i>Poverty Rate:</i>            | 10.80%   |

### City Department:

*Title:* The Energy and Environment Office.

*Staff:* Alicia L. Hunt: Director of Energy and Environment/Environment Agent, Denis W. MacDougall: Associate Environmental Agent.

*Responsibilities:* Overseeing and implementing environmentally sound programs in the City of Medford.

*Programs/Policies:* Climate Vulnerability Assessment, Medford's Storm water Education Program, Green house Gas assessment, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Implementation.

*Frameworks:* Compact of Mayors, Metro Boston Climate Preparedness

### Interview:

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

- Began Climate Vulnerability Assessments.
- Completed GHG Inventory.
- Bought new LED streetlights.
- A lot of work done with off road walking & bike paths.
- New police station will be designed with sustainability in mind.
- Municipal building efficiency upgrades are always in planning, in progress and recently completed depending on the building.

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

- Municipal aggregation- tried to put it through last summer and it got voted down. Mayor said we would bring it back and now there is some local activist support. Made a scorecard on the City Council re: energy issues. Council is getting lobbied really hard. Objection is to the "opt-out". Asking for an example of communications plans.
- Resilience- battery, off-grid, solar grant (got it in 2014 and haven't been

able to advance it much.) Trying to tie it in to demand response. Now have a proposal for solar on the DPW building, though Solar options.

- Solar- just had a conversation about the SolSmart program.

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

- Many of the projects that are priorities have a lot to do with timing and what grants/funding is available.
- Municipal Aggregation will reduce the carbon footprint of the city, and once the framework is in place it can easily be escalated.

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

- Measurements/Progress reporting are on going for many projects.
- Energy use for municipal buildings is tracked monthly and reported to US Energy Star. Municipal Green House gasses are tracked monthly and reported annually to MA Green Communities. Community side GHG are reported annually through CDP to the Compact of Mayors/Global Covenant of Mayors.

**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?**

- Manpower is the most important. There is limited ability to hire higher up positions. Mostly filling space with interns who are helping climate vulnerability assessments.
- Would be helpful to have someone who manages paper work (billing, grant application).
- There isn't a problem finding grants, its getting the ball rolling of the projects while most of the time the grants are just sitting there.

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

- Residents are interested solar and would like to know why there isn't more.
- There is posting on social media and an active webpage that informs the residents but there not always enough time to stay up to date.
- There are press releases but often times it does not reach as many people as we'd like.

**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?**

- Would like to know how we could reach and inform entire community to let them know what is going on.
- Politically there is a lot of support from the Mayor but city council is very conservative.
- Pertaining to Vulnerability Resilience Plans we want to make sure we get something valuable but is not extremely expensive.

## 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              |               |                |                   |
| <b>Totals</b>                     | <b>2</b>      | <b>2</b>       | <b>3</b>          |

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

### Solid Waste Reduction & Recycling

#### *Top Priorities*

- Continue successful recycling program, which provides residents with the opportunity to recycle paper products, various containers, scrap metal and yard waste.
- Seek ways of diverting solid waste from the landfill through recycling efforts.
- Increase Recycling Areas and Awareness.

#### *Strategies*

- Sell yard composting bins.

- Provide curbside recycling in residential neighborhoods and in the downtown business districts.

### Food & Agriculture

#### *Top Priorities*

- Expanding the community gardening efforts in Medford.

#### *Strategies*

- Supporting the Friends of the Medford Community Gardens and the Community Garden Commission in navigating the Medford Administration.

### Transportation

#### *Top Priorities*

- Increase Fuel Efficiency and Downsize Vehicles.
- Purchase alternative fuel vehicles for municipal fleet.
- Mandate 5-minute idling time prescribed by the State regulations.
- Develop and manage a variety of commuter Trip Reduction Programs designed to encourage vanpooling, carpooling, use of transit services, bicycling and walking by City employees commuting to and from work.
- Complete Streets and more off-road multi-use paths.

#### *Strategies*

- Require that all new vehicles purchased by the City for municipal use, be the most fuel- efficient vehicle in the class required for the job.
- Where feasible, the city of Medford should purchase smaller vehicles for each department.
- Actively support the development of new multi-use paths.

### Storm Water

#### *Top Priorities*

- Education of residents.

#### *Strategies*

- Participation in a watershed-wide education coalition.
- Label storm drains as “flows directly to river”

### Energy

#### *Top Priorities*

- Install solar on municipal building.
- Support residential solar installations.
- Implement Community Choice Electrical Aggregation.
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#### *Strategies*

- Through Community Choice Electrical Aggregation purchase additional renewable energy for residents.

- Maintain wind turbine.

### Development

#### *Top Priorities*

- 

#### *Strategies*

- 

### Greenhouse Gas Reduction

#### *Top Priorities*

- Bi-annual green house gas inventory- working to refine our green house gas inventory.

#### *Strategies*

- 

### Climate Preparedness

#### *Top Priorities*

- Create Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment.
- Educate residents on climate change concerns.

#### *Strategies*

- 

### Equity & Economics

#### *Top Priorities*

- 

#### *Strategies*

- 

### Community Engagement

#### *Top Priorities*

- 

#### *Strategies*

-

## Initiative Implementation

| Medford, 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             |                    |          | ✓           |                   |
| Multi-use off road trails                       |                    |          | ✓           |                   |
| Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment         |                    |          | ✓           |                   |
| Totals  | 7                  | 2        | 8           | 3                 |

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

## Sources

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