

**Vision 2020 Environment Task Group
April 17, 2014 Meeting Minutes**

**Sustainable Arlington
Central Sch./Sr. Center, lower level**

Present: Marc Breslow, Gail McCormick, Charlotte Milan, Lisa Weil, Scott Samenfeld, DeAnne Dupont, Brucie Moulton, David Landskov and others.

Featured Speaker: Marc Breslow, Founder of Sustainable Arlington and Massachusetts Climate Action Network.

Topic: The Global Warming Solutions Project (GWSP) and Massachusetts' Progress Towards Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Governor Patrick, elected in 2006, has been committed to implementing policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in order to slow or halt climate change. Five new laws dealing with energy and climate were passed in the first one and a half years of his administration, including the Green Communities Act and the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA). The GWSA set a goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels of 25% by 2020 and at least 80% by 2050. Massachusetts now has a legal requirement to reach these targets and could be sued for missing them.

The Global Warming Solutions Project (GWSP), consisting of numerous stakeholders, was created by Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM) to help the state reach its emissions reduction goals. To track progress in reaching the 2020 goal, ELM got grant funding to create the GWSA dashboard (see www.environmentalleague.org/). Currently, this shows that the top three sectors responsible for emissions in Massachusetts are (1) transportation, (2) heat production for buildings and other processes, and (3) electricity. Note what isn't being measured: natural gas produced out of state and coal-fired energy embedded in products made in China.

Despite a strong record of improvements, and a position as a national leader in address climate issues, Massachusetts is now on track to cut emissions by 20% rather than 25% by 2020, unless we work even harder.

There are 28 policies, related to different industry sectors (e.g., building and energy efficiency, electricity supply, transportation and land use, etc.), that must be implemented in order to reach the 25% GHG reduction by 2020.

Studies and initiatives in support of this project include tree retention and planting to reduce heating and cooling loads (Worcester is a test case as it has lost huge number of trees to beetle control efforts); developing a mature market for renewable thermal heating technologies (solar, biomass, air source heat pumps)

Announcements:

EcoFest 2014, "Rethink Recycling! Reduce, Reuse Repurpose," was held at Town Hall on Saturday, March 29. Over 600 visitors arrived by the front door. More came through the parking lot by the goat display and compost pickup. Speaker Richard Duffy discussed his experience of "Bringing Energy Efficiency to an Arlington Antique Home."

Sustainable Arlington is the recipient donee at Arlington Whole Foods Market throughout April. We will staff an information table there several times during the month to provide information about our group and also about the Food Recovery Project of which we are a co-sponsor.

Community Collection Day, Saturday, May 10, Town Yard on Grove St. (sneakers, books, clothing and other textiles, small electronics recycling, paper shredding, Bikes Not Bombs, scrap metal and more).

Respectfully submitted, Brucie Moulton