

Highway Department Staff:

Karen Switzer-Neff, Assistant to Highway Superintendent

Richard Waite, Assistant Superintendent

Kevin Farrell, Crew Leader – Highway

Carl Maria, Crew Leader – Highway

Donald Hawe, Heavy Equipment Operator

William Wilkie, Heavy Equipment Operator

Michael Ricard, Heavy Equipment Operator

Joseph Borey, Light Equipment Operator

Kevin Baker, Light Equipment Operator

Mark Fitzpatrick, Truck Driver/ Skilled Laborer

Jon Bailey, Truck Driver/ Skilled Laborer

Mike Horan, Truck Driver/ Skilled Laborer

Charles Willett, Lead Mechanic

Sam Bell, Equipment Repair Person

Matt Lutinski, Equipment Maintenance Person

Robert Mallard, Crew Leader – Transfer Station

Craig Kellogg, Heavy Equipment Operator – Transfer

Station

GREEN ADVISORY BOARD

It has been a tremendous year for the Green Advisory Board. The Board, working with Town and School Staff, has achieved:

- Writing a five-year plan to reduce energy consumption in the Town and Schools by 20%. In the first year of the plan, actual energy consumption decreased over 4%, saving more than \$40,000 dollars.
- Concluded a contract with Ameresco to install a 2-mega watt solar farm on the landfill cap. Upon completion, this solar generation facility will remove all municipal electrical use from fossil fuel based facilities and place 100% of the demand on renewable energy generation facilities. The contract requires the private sector to provide the engineering, complete installation and maintain the solar facility. The Town commits to purchasing the electricity at a net cost of approximately 2 cents per kWh for 20 years.
- Secured a Green Community grant in excess of \$150,000 to initiate energy conservation measures and to purchase engineering studies of Town Hall and Memorial Library
- Secured from NSTAR free building re-commissioning studies for the Public Safety Building and the Sewer Treatment Plant

- Secured a commitment from NSTAR to match a \$40,000 appropriation by Town Meeting, if it chooses to do so, to set-up an \$80,000 Enterprise Fund. The only condition placed upon this fund is that the monies must be spent by December 2012 for "State Qualified Energy Conservation Measures".

In summary, the Green Advisory Board has reduced energy consumption by more than 4%, reduced Green House Gas Emissions for a better environment, accessed outside grant monies, obtained engineering studies as the predecessor to implementing next steps, removed municipal energy needs from fossil fuel based energy generation facilities, and returned tax monies to the citizens of Acton. Like we stated at the beginning of this report, it has been a great year.

Members:

Selectman Liaison: J. Sonner

Dennis Loria Co-Chair

David Keene Co-Chair

Christopher Schaffner

Eric Hudson

Mary Smith

Thomas Michelman - Associate

Bruce Friedman - Alternate

Manisha Tyagi - Alternate

LAND STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Land Stewardship Committee is a volunteer committee responsible for the care of almost 1,700 acres of Acton's conservation lands. Most of this work is outside: patrolling, blazing trails with paint, widening the trails when they grow narrow, removing blowdowns, mowing meadows, installing and repairing bridges, walkways and kiosks, supplying maps to kiosk map boxes, removing trash, cleaning up vandalism, and noticing and reporting dumping and encroachment issues to the Conservation Commission and town staff. All of these activities continued in 2011.

We rely on the support of many additional volunteers in addition to the work of the sworn-in committee members. In 2011, volunteers helped with trail cutting, wood-chip placement, and invasive plant removal. We had large and vigorous crews of young people this year during the Spring Senior service day and the Junior High 8 Green team service day. Acton residents who regularly walk the trails on specific conservation parcels have also been very helpful in reporting blowdowns on the trail and trail erosion. If you see something in the woods or have any questions you can write to us at lsc@acton-ma.gov, or you can call the Natural Resources department at 978 929-6634.