

THOUGHTS ON THE SCOPE OF THE GAB'S MISSION

OVERARCHING QUESTION:

Can the GAB consider advising the town on sustainability issues beyond energy conservation?

PLEASE DON'T FORGET:

This is all very divergent, pie-in-the-sky, conversation-generating stuff. We should whittle down from here.

CURRENT MISSION

From the Website

About the Board

The Green Advisory Board investigates how we in Acton can improve our energy efficiency and our use of renewable energy sources. The committee may analyze strategies such as:

- *Participating in the Massachusetts Green Community Act*
- *Setting up a green energy procurement plan*
- *Contracting / partnering with an Energy Services Company (ESCO)*

The main emphasis will be to identify, investigate, build the case for, and prioritize significant energy initiatives for the Town and schools.

From a Previous Suggestion for Edits (Winter 2014/2015??)

The Green Advisory Board serves as an advisory committee reporting to the Board of Selectmen and the local and regional school committees. It investigates how Acton can improve its energy efficiency and use of renewable energy sources and to work with the Acton BOS on programs that seek to reduce Acton's carbon footprint. The committee may analyze strategies such as:

- *Participating in the Massachusetts Green Community Act*
- *Setting up a green energy procurement plan*
- *Contracting / partnering with an Energy Services Company (ESCO)*
- *ADD ??*

The priority will be to identify, investigate, build the case for, and prioritize significant energy initiatives for the town and schools as well as through educational programs for behavior change including initiatives to improve composting, waste reduction, and recycling.

WHAT WE NEED TO CONSIDER

As a municipal entity, we can only reach so many areas.

The Regional School District is not under the aegis of the town.

The Water District (tho' not including wastewater treatment) operates under its own charter.

There are other entities (such as the Transfer Station) which are overseen by the town but operate as their own enterprises – What does that mean for oversight? What others are there?

We are limited to what the municipal government has the authority to regulate; Green Acton should step in with expertise in community-based initiatives.

There are other municipal and volunteer organizations that are responsible for action around transportation, wellness, business development, and land preservation – how can the GAB be a thought partner with them?

OTHER EXAMPLES OF SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

UN Development Programme



Partnership for Sustainable Communities (HUD, DOT, EPA)

Indicators:

Intersection Density

Access to Transit (% of jobs within walking distance of transit service)

City Fleet (gas mileage)

Walkability

Fuel Consumption

Access to Safe Parks & Recreation Areas (% of residents within walking distance of recreation land)

Crime Rate in Parks and Rec Areas

Access to Healthy Food Options

Acres of Brownfield Redeveloped/Remediated)

Eugene, OR, Sustainability Commission Mission Statement & Functions

A very robust and well-populated volunteer city group.

Mission Statement

The Sustainability Commission works to create a healthy community now and in the future by proposing measurable solutions to pressing environmental, social and economic concerns to the City of Eugene, its partners and its people.

There are a total of 13 commissioners. Information about the appointments and terms of current commissioners can be found in this roster.

Functions

The commission acts as a policy advisory body to the council and city manager in the initiation or development of programs that will create or enhance sustainable practices within the community.

The commission advises on policy matters related to:

Sustainable practices

Businesses that produce sustainable products and services

City building design and infrastructure

Related issues that directly affect sustainability efforts considered by the city council.

Boulder, CO, City Environmental Programs

A number of initiatives done in the name of ecological sustainability.

Boulder Building Performance

Boulder's Energy Future

Climate Action in Boulder

Disposable Bag Fee

Drinking Water Quality

Energy Efficiency

Forestry and Horticulture

GO Boulder (Transportation Options)

Hydroelectricity

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

*Local Environmental Action Division
(LEAD)*

Local Foods

Parks and Recreation Environmental

Stewardship

Renewable Energy

Solar Home

Transportation Master Plan (TMP)

Urban Wildlife

Wastewater Treatment

Water and Wastewater Permitting

Water Conservation

Zero Waste