

Environmental Sustainability Committee

The Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) was established in 2022 with a mission to embed environmental sustainability into municipal decision-making and practices as well as to inform residents of ways they can decarbonize their lifestyle and protect the Town's natural ecosystems. The ESC uses the Carlisle Master Plan, Path to Zero Emissions Report, Hazard Mitigation Plan, Open Space and Recreation Plan and current environmental best practices as guides in the effort to help residents, businesses, institutions and the municipality reach the Town's common sustainability goals.

ESC achievements for the 2023 calendar year include:

The inaugural Route to Sustainability Day. This well attended and well received community event consisted of over sixty participants from the Town and region showcasing a substantial amount of environmental information.

The ESC facilitated a partnership with HomeWorks Energy to provide residents with free home energy assessments.

The ESC presented information and clarifications to the Select Board, Town departments and the public which enabled the adoption of the Department of Energy Resources Specialized Code.

The ESC provided input to the Department of Public Utilities regarding Community Choice Aggregation regulations.

The ESC assisted in the renewal of the Community Choice Aggregation contract which provides Carlisle with sustainably sourced power at lower rates.

The ESC facilitated a "greener" deconstruction plan for the Greenough Barn, making Carlisle a leader on a state level in developing more sustainable deconstruction policies.

The ESC assisted the Town Planner with the application for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grant, participated in the interviews of potential MVP consultants, and helped prepare for future grants from government agencies and municipal utilities.

The ESC supported and assisted various working groups and Town staff on projects including School Electric Vehicle Charging Station Rates, Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness and Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority Adjacent Small Town Community state mandate.

The ESC hosted a series of informational events including native/invasive plant walks, a heat pump 101 presentation, a DOER Specialized Code public information forum and an induction cooking demonstration which was co-hosted with the Gleason Library.

The ESC continued environmental community outreach by tabling at a number of events, such as Old Home Day, Amity Day and the Council on Aging and Human Services resource fair.

The ESC embraced community information outlets such as the Town Newsletter, the Mosquito, and departmental newsletters and social media for continued public outreach via articles and regional environmental event postings.

The ESC has established solid working relationships and collaboration with other Town Committees such as the Transfer Station Action Committee, Land Stewardship Committee and the Municipal Facilities Committee.

ESC members have attended almost all Select Board and Conservation Commission meetings.

ESC members attended various environmental webinars and informational events and networked with regional counterparts.

The ESC prepared a year-long community-wide Earthwise Community Challenge to launch in January 2024.

ESC members (as of 12-31-2023):
Christina Christodouloupoulos, Co-Chair
Eric Balles, Co-Chair
Glenn Reed, Treasurer
Launa Zimmaro
Dave Boettcher
Sara Dunleavy
Eloisa Marquez-Gonzalez
Aidan O'Connor, Associate Member

ESC liaisons:
Barney Arnold (Select Board Liaison)
John Petrie (Transfer Station Action Committee Liaison)

Members whose term ended in 2023:
Debbie Bentley
Bob Zogg
Dan Cook
Joeth Barlas

The ESC encourages everyone to join the effort and can be reached at ESC@carlislema.gov.