

Original Plan: October, 2005
Updated: October, 2006
Updated: December, 2007
Updated: December, 2008
Updated: October, 2009
Updated: November, 2010
Updated October, 2011
Updated October 2012
Updated May 2013

Town of Pittsfield Energy and Environmental Conservation Plan

The Town of Pittsfield has a long tradition of promoting protection of the environment and emphasizing energy efficiency.

The Town promotes this plan to improve conservation efforts in the community and on town properties.

A. The Town's Energy and Environmental Goals are as follows:

1. Continue to promote enhancements in environmental efficiency in order to be a good steward of our environment and renewable energy resources;
2. Reduce the energy consumption of town facilities and fleet operation;
3. Reduce costs for our citizens and taxpayers;
4. Reduce climate change in the Town of Pittsfield;
5. Actively and aggressively pursue grant funding and partnerships through regional resources, non-profits, private sector; state agencies and the federal government, where applicable; and
6. Revise Town regulations, policies and procedures to enhance energy and environmental resources.

B. History:

Actions have been initiated by the following groups and individuals:

1. Recycling Committee that focuses upon environmental conservation efforts for the community;
2. Town's Deputy Mayor, who is the Chairperson of the Recycling Committee;
3. Town Councilors who have consistently promoted conservation efforts at the local level;
4. Town Manager who has organized countless efforts and forums as well as applied for grant funding from 2003 to date to support the Town's focus of conservation;

5. Recycling/Safety Coordinator who has initiated countless ideas to conserve and utilize renewable resources;
6. Staff who have embraced the Town's long-standing direction for local conservation; and
7. The public that consistently has supported the Town's actions and participated in countless events.

C. Actions taken by the Town to conserve environmental and energy resources have included:

- ✓ Issued the Town's first Recycling/Solid Waste Initiatives to conserve, May 2002
- ✓ Issued the Town's first Capital Action Plan for conservation efforts, May 2002
- ✓ Highlighted the new Recycling and Solid Waste Reduction Program, June 2002
- ✓ Implemented the Town's Regional Universal Waste Recycling Program through a State of Maine Grant, July 2002
- ✓ Initiated the Recycling/Solid Waste Initiatives Policies and Procedures Action Plan, October 2002
- ✓ Joined the EPA WasteWise – Preserving Resources, Preventing Waste Program, November 2002
- ✓ Issued the first Recycling Committee Recycling Plan, November 2002
- ✓ Initiated energy conservation efforts in Municipal Buildings, November 2002
- ✓ Signed up for the Maine Power Options Cooperative for energy savings, November 2002
- ✓ Endorsed the Hazardous Waste Education Action Plan, June 2003
- ✓ Held the first Annual Make A Difference Day for Environmental Efforts, October 2003
- ✓ Issued Recycling Tips to Eliminate Junk Mail for Conservation, November 2003
- ✓ Adopted the Town's first 5 year Capital Improvement Plan and Program with an emphasis upon sidewalks, community revitalization, energy efficiencies, and recycling, December 2003
- ✓ Initiated the first Arbor Day Celebration, April 2004
- ✓ Initiated the first Trash to Treasure Re-Use Day, May 2004
- ✓ Initiated the first Annual Environmental Celebration Day, January 2005
- ✓ Endorsed the first Annual Earth Day Proclamation, April 2005
- ✓ Held the first Backyard Composter Bin Sale, May 2005
- ✓ Created the first Environmental Conservation Plan, October 2005
- ✓ Awarded a Project Canopy Grant to create a Street Tree Inventory and Urban Forest Maintenance Plan, 2005
- ✓ Applied for a Planning Grant for the feasibility of a Multi-town Curbside Recycling Program with three other communities to the Fund for Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services, 2005
- ✓ Applied for an Implementation Grant for a new baler for the 7 Town Regional Recycling Program to the Fund for Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services, 2005
- ✓ Awarded a \$4,700 grant for the study of a regional recycling curbside pickup program, 2006
- ✓ Awarded a \$75,000 grant for the installation of a new energy efficient baler for the regional recycling program operated by the Town of Pittsfield, 2006

- ✓ Presented the findings of the Inventory and Maintenance Plan, February 2006
- ✓ Held the first Environmental Community Forum, April 2006
- ✓ Held the first Regional Environmental Community Meeting for the Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services Planning Project, April 2006
- ✓ Implemented the first Regional Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off Day, June 2006
- ✓ Endorsed the first Transfer Station Operations Action Plan, August 2006
- ✓ Issued the first Re-Use Tips, November 2006
- ✓ Endorsed the Comprehensive Plan Update focuses on energy conservation measures for goals to enhance pedestrian transportation, sidewalks, bicycling, public transportation, tree maintenance program, and design guidelines.
- ✓ Applied for the Efficiency Maine Business Program for Prescriptive Lighting Enhancements at the Pittsfield Municipal Building, May 2007
- ✓ Conducted first Safety Audits of all Municipal Buildings, including a review of all electrical, heating and fuel appliances to determine safety and energy efficiency enhancements, August 2007
- ✓ Installed the new energy efficient lighting at the Municipal Building, April 2008
- ✓ Received the Town's rebate for the new energy efficient lighting, July 2008
- ✓ Held the Pittsfield Area Energy Forum fore renewable energy programs and vendors, September 2008
- ✓ Applied for the community's first wind turbine through the State of Maine's Voluntary Renewable Resource Fund at the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), November 2008
- ✓ Initiated an Energy Audit with Efficiency Maine with an energy audit conducted at the Public Works Facility by Efficiency Maine, November 2008
- ✓ Hosted a funding workshop for Renewable and Energy Efficiency projects for small business owners and farmers
- ✓ Awarded a \$50,000 grant by the PUC for the installation of a 10kW Bergey Wind Turbine at the Pittsfield Recycling Facility, March 2009
- ✓ Collaborated with Maine Central Institute (MCI), which functions as the Town's high school to implement a Wind Turbine Logo Contest, May 2009
- ✓ First signed up for the Cool Communities Program, June 2009
- ✓ Organized the Pittsfield Town Wind Project Logo Contest Presentation with the Maine Public Utilities Commission Efficiency Maine, June 2009
- ✓ Researched Solar Thermal Panels for Municipal Building installations, July 2009
- ✓ Held a Grand Opening Ceremony with Efficiency Maine for the installation of the new Recycling Center Wind Turbine, September 2009
- ✓ Organized and held the Pittsfield Area Energy Forum and Business Forum in September 2009 with multiple speakers and breakout sessions
- ✓ Initiated meetings with vendors regarding energy conservation methods at several buildings, focusing upon the Municipal Building, September 2009
- ✓ Requested bids for energy conservation projects at the Municipal Building, September 2009
- ✓ Requested an Energy Audit of the Outer Building Shell of the Municipal Building
- ✓ Working with Maine Central Institute and Central Maine Power to implement an educational program and enhancements to the Wind Turbine project, October 2009

- ✓ Endorsed the US Mayor's Resolution on Climate Protection Agreement, November 2009
- ✓ Introductory speaker at the Central Maine Sustainability Convergence Conference held in March, 2010
- ✓ Conducted a review of the Cool Communities Campaign to empower communities to Reduce energy costs; take actions to build a clean energy economy; create good clean Jobs; improve health through cleaner air; and save taxpayer dollars. Reported out on The following emphasis: Save money (and the Planet with Efficiency Renewables; Measuring Your Cool City's Greenhouse Gas Emissions; Cool Communities Solutions: Biofuels; Cool Communities Solutions: No Idling; Cool Communities Solutions: Green Tags and Green Power Supply; Cool Communities Solutions: Eat Local Foods; and Green Buildings for Cool Cities; April 2010
- ✓ Awarded a \$84,425 grant by Maine Efficiency for an energy retrofit of the Municipal Building, Police Department and Fire Station in July 2010.
- ✓ Opened the Trash To Treasure Re-Use Center for the region in April 2011
- ✓ Celebrated Earth Day at the Trash to Treasure Re-Use Center in April 2011
- ✓ Completed the energy retrofit of the Municipal Services Building with new energy efficient Fire Bay Doors, energy efficient furnace, energy efficient heaters, programmable thermostats, air sealing, insulation and solar thermal system installation, December 2011
- ✓ Held the 2nd Annual Trash to Treasure Re-Use Center Earth Day Celebration, April 2012
- ✓ Obtained informational packages for businesses and citizens on energy rebates in July 2012
- ✓ Celebrated Maine Recycles Week with activities in the community and schools in November 2012
- ✓ Reviewed energy incentives for renewable energy programs for business development, in January 2013
- ✓ Completed a curriculum for school presentations on how to preserve the earth and leave no trace in April 2013
- ✓ Determined a Biking Focus in order to reduce the carbon footprint and discussed action steps for events and activities in April 2013
- ✓ Holding the first Annual Bike Swap / Drop Off in conjunction with the Annual Greater Area Kiwanis Bike Rodeo in May 2013

D. Purpose of the Plan:

Through this Energy and Environmental Plan, the Town of Pittsfield seeks to continue its long history of improvements in energy conservation and environmental conservation. The Town is committed to being an environmentally conscientious steward of our resources at both the local and national level.

This plan will provide guidance for conscientious energy decision-making; improve the efficient use of energy and transportation; and protect the environment while providing services in all of these areas.

E. Current Conditions:

The Town of Pittsfield owns 48 parcels of land containing 17 buildings. The Town pays 25 electricity bills to support the Town's facilities. Of the municipal structures, all have electricity bills and 9 are heated to some degree. The major municipal buildings vary significantly in age and type dating from the early 1900's to 1996. These buildings include the (1) Municipal Building; (2) Library; (3) Theatre; (4) Recycling Center and Transfer Station; (5) Public Works Building; (6) Water/Sewer Office; (7) Water Treatment Facility; (8) Wastewater Treatment Facility; and (9) Pinnacle Ski Lodge. In addition to these buildings, the Town also maintains recreational facilities, including a new outdoor swimming pool with bathhouse and seven parks with multiple trails and ball fields. These facilities help support the services necessary for approximately 4,500 permanent residents and those who come into the community to utilize its services. As the community is the largest town in a 20 mile radius, the Town of Pittsfield serves as a service center to numerous smaller communities. All buildings include some type of parking. The Town maintains a complex of parking lots necessary to support the downtown business community totaling 606 parking spaces.

F. Energy Conservation Focus of the Plan:

Energy Goal #1: Lead by example. It is important for the Town of Pittsfield to make its buildings and operations more energy efficient and when available, utilize renewable energy sources while reducing energy costs. The Town endorses a program for energy efficiency retrofits in municipal buildings.

- Provide for education of the Town's personnel on utility conservation methods and practices.
- Research energy consumption and compile charts of use, prioritizing the municipal buildings for retrofits.
- Conduct staff energy audits in each municipal facility that is heated or has electricity.
- Establish an Asset Management Plan for those facilities that are heated or have electricity.
- Obtain commercial audits for those buildings identified as requiring the most costly energy efficiency revisions.
- Apply for funding opportunities to address those facilities with major fuel and/or electrical usage which require retrofits to become more energy efficient:
 1. Recycling/Transfer Station: Installation of wind turbine for electrical power into the facility and/or grid, obtained Voluntary Renewable Resources Funding, 2009.

2. Municipal Building: As the largest user of fuel and electricity, this building requires several enhancements to address failing infrastructure: Installation of a new energy efficient boiler to replace the 1970's failing boiler; installation of solar thermal panels on the flat Municipal Building roof for heating hot water to address malfunctioning hot/cold water in the building; placement of insulation; and/or energy efficient window shades. Note: Entire building has new energy efficient lighting that has substantially reduced the yearly electrical cost.

➤ Install energy efficiencies in all new buildings or renovations:

1. Library and Library Addition, project was completed with energy efficient furnace, window shades and lighting.

2. Water Pump Station, project was completed with the installation of an energy efficient back-up pump and new VFDs control panels for the entire facility.

3. Theatre Restoration, currently fundraising for the project

➤ Develop a preventive maintenance program for the municipal fleet and review that fleet every 5 years for consolidation or upgrades. Strive for new vehicle purchases to be the most fuel efficient models.

➤ Evaluate the town's municipal parking lot lights to determine the cost and/or possible financing sources for energy efficiencies with reduced output.

➤ Evaluate the town's streetlights to determine the cost and/or possible financing sources for energy efficiencies with reduced output.

➤ Evaluate the town's dams currently leased to the private sector to determine if there are any opportunities that electricity production can be expanded so that the Town can obtain service for its buildings and plants.

➤ Measure and track energy consumption in these facilities, tracking annual progress toward lower emissions. Report on energy costs and trends annually during the budget process as well as quarterly through the Town Manager's Reports at Town Council Meetings. These meetings are shown on public access television, thereby providing the public with information right in their homes.

Energy Goal #2: Collaborate with utilities, non-profits and others to bring federal, state and regional programs to businesses and households that offer education, technical assistance and financing.

➤ Obtain packets of information from utilities, non-profits and others which provide energy conservation and renewal resources.

- Establish an energy corner at the Municipal Building for residents and businesses to pick up resources.
- Conduct Energy Forums, partnering with utilities, non-profits and other groups to bring resources to the citizens and businesses of the region.
- Conduct annual awareness campaigns promoting conservation and sustainability.
- Work with the school system on the promotion of conservation and sustainability.
- Endorse Maine Central Institute's Theme of Sustainability at the campus.
- Work with Utilities, including the operator of the municipally owned dams, to determine if there are any economies of scale opportunities available for the use of clean energy and cost savings through new net billing arrangements.
- Work with Utilities to determine obstacles or gaps in service between renewable resources and more traditional energy resources, if any.

Energy Goal #3: Promote clean energy jobs and businesses.

- Endorse business plans that seek to add clean energy jobs.
- Pursue implementation of an energy conservation focus by working with local companies that provide clean jobs and strengthen the green environment in the community and region.
- Promote the Industrial Park Expansion as a future location for green jobs.
- Provide incentives through the Tax Increment Financing District at the Pittsfield Industrial Park Expansion for businesses locating in the facility that bring substantial green jobs to the community.

Energy Goal #4: Enhance the quality of life and livability of the community:

- Continue to endorse projects that make the community easy to bike or walk.
- Encourage town residents and town employees to make in-town trips on bicycle or by walking, when at all practical.
- Apply for grants and other funding opportunities for sidewalk projects which provide or enhance current connectivity.

- Assist the Plaza Owner in sponsoring and maintaining a Park and Ride Facility in the community.
- Review current town codes to determine enhancements for energy efficiency and green energy.
- Endorse the use of locally grown food through the promotion of the Pittsfield Farmers' Market and Buy Local Campaigns.
- Work with regional organizations and other communities on any statewide efforts to enhance state policies to encourage a more climate friendly transportation system.
- Apply for funding to implement a weatherization program for older existing building stock to evaluate costs and implementation strategies with an Energy Sustainability Coordinator. Explore opportunities for energy savings.
- Partner with other entities to encourage a household by household campaign to increase energy efficiency and to promote the use of renewable resources.
- Partner with other entities to encourage a business-by-business campaign to increase energy efficiency and to promote the use of renewable resources.

G. Re-Use Conservation Focus of the Plan

During the period of 2002 - 2005, the Recycling Committee concentrated on the "recycle" in the "recycle, re-use, and reduce" motto for the State and started their focus upon "re-use" in 2006. Re-use has been the focus from 2006 – 2013.

The results have been staggering! Pittsfield's recycling rate had consistently been in the 40% percentile throughout the 1990's and early 2000's. With the Town's focus upon recycling, our rate soared to 72.3% in 2003; 68.98% in 2004; 67.34% in 2005; 61.31% in 2006; 61.31% in 2007; and 68.91% in 2008. Our 2009 rate is also expected to continue to show exceptional results. This took place because of the amazing efforts of our citizens, employees and officials. Everyone should be congratulated on a job well done. We have found over and over again that recycling saves money. For example, in 2006, the statistics first showed the largest gains in recycling revenue. Through 11/30/2006, Town has recycled over 1000 tons of materials, much of which has been sold. The Town's revenues through 11/30/2006 for the Recycling Program were \$60,916.46 while the cost to recycle the materials was \$79,837.29. This means that the net cost of recycling through 11/30/2006 was \$17,920.83. On top of this, one must consider the savings of \$58,245.02 in disposal fees because the tons recycled did not have to be disposed of by trucking them to a landfill facility and paying tipping fees. So in addition to protecting the environment, recycling has been proven over and over again to save money. In January, 2007, these reports were added to the Town Manager's Report to the Town Councilors on Finances each month at the Council meetings.

The Recycling Committee will continue to promote and coordinate our community's fun activities such as

- Earth Day in April;
- Trash to Treasure Re-Use Center Opening in April;
- Arbor Day and Trash to Treasure Day in May;
- Make A Difference Day and Trash to Treasure Day in October; and
- Maine Recycles Week in conjunction with National Recycling Week in November.

Trash to Treasure Days will all have rain or snow dates established in case of implement weather.

Re-use Goals for our Program are:

Re-Use Goal #1: The Town will review options to have an interim re-use materials swap or bargain bulletin board; staging location; or other method for people to connect up to post their materials which have value and should not be discarded.

This may involve using the Town's web site; other web sites; working with various groups and/or businesses in Town. In other words, a re-use interchange for exchange.

Re-Use Goal #2: The Town will develop a Re-use Bulletin Board for displays and tips at the Pittsfield Municipal Building.

Re-Use Goal #3: The Town will develop Re-Use Tips for copying and/or availability on media such as the Town's website and Public Access Station. In addition, Re-Use Tips will be provided to the School System and interested Businesses.

Re-Use Goal #4: The Town will design a Re-Use logo to promote this program in conjunction with interested school classes/grades.

Re-Use Goal #5: The Town will hold an Inventor's Challenge Contest with interested school classes/grades.

The purpose of this unique challenge will be to create an invention from recycled or re-used materials. The focus will be to spark creativity and imagination within aspiring students while focusing on alternatives to energy consumption. The nation's reliance on fossil fuels has sparked controversy on finding innovative ways to conserve energy while preserving the environment for future generations. Any individual who believes that recycling/re-use should be a major concern for future energy conservation should undertake this challenge.

Re-Use Goal #6: The Town will conduct a cost/benefit review of a Re-use or Bargain Barn for the “Too Good To Toss” items for useable office furniture, household items; books; toys; furniture; etc. including locating volunteers to draft a plan to build the facility and then to organize and run it.

This would be a great community project that could involve many groups in Town as well as the students at the schools. It was recommended that the Town contact the school system to determine if we could have governmental classes check into the costs of building this by reviewing other towns’ projects, the resources the Town has available and putting together a proposal. Involving a number of classes would be a good learning experience for the students and show them the practical application of recycling even more materials.

Re-Use Goal #7: If the project is found feasible, the Town will seek a donated site for the Re-use or Bargain Barn and donated building materials to construct the Re-use or Bargain Barn within the constraints of the Town’s finances and arrange for volunteers to build the facility. For example, could the Re-use or Bargain Barn be built of re-use materials?

Re-Use Goal #8: Throughout this year, the Town will work with community groups such as Pennywise at the First Congregational Church to determine if our activities can compliment each other’s goals. Working together often provides many benefits. Pennywise is a great project to provide items to people for re-use for a low cost.

These Re-Use Goals were all achieved!

H. Implementation of the Plan:

The Town will pursue initiatives and funding to implement the goals of the Energy and Environmental Plan.

This plan provides a framework for making specific energy conservation decisions. The key components of the plan will be implemented by the following measures:

1. **Data Collection:** Accurate measurement and analysis of electricity, fossil based fuels, and water usage to benchmark and develop performance indicators, including a review of trends and costs.
2. **Plan Development:** The Town’s Recycling Committee, along with the Town’s leadership team consisting of the Town Manager and the Department Heads, will review polices, programs, and projects to generate ways to encourage employee participation and innovation.
3. **Communication and Training:** Citizen awareness and education will be crucial in order to promote the benefits of energy resource management and conservation through Regional Energy Forums, Town Council Meetings, e-mail communications, town website and media.

4. Project Management – Projects will be prioritized based upon the importance to the environment and funding opportunities by energy audits, employee assessments, budget process; and capital improvement planning.

I. Plan Summary:

This Plan presents a balanced approach and framework to communicate energy-efficiency goals and proposed actions to promote energy and environmental conservation in order to protect the environment. This plan is a guide for decisions in all areas and activities of the Town.