



SUSTAINABLE SHERBORN

EDUCATE - COLLABORATE - TAKE ACTION



Spring is Here! Let's Garden Sustainably

Sherborn's Energy and Sustainability Committee Newsletter

This ongoing newsletter offers specific information about energy-cost savings, improving your home and making Sherborn more sustainable and resilient.

Why Plant with Natives

In a nutshell, planting with natives requires little or no fertilizer nor pesticides, less water, it saves money, and supports plant diversity. They are simply easier to grow because this is their native habitat. Many food webs are collapsing as the insects and the animals that rely on those insects can't find the specific host plants they evolved with.

Be mindful of selecting native plants that are well-suited to your soil type, amount of sun where the garden is to be located, and water needs. As our planet continues to warm, water demand becomes even more critical. There are many wonderful native plants that are drought tolerant. Visit the links below to learn more about this topic.

Gardening with Native Species

A video recorded by Trevor Smith, the Design and Education Manager at Weston Nurseries, on gardening with native species. This excellent lecture was hosted by the Energy and Sustainability Committee last year.

Pollinator Pathway

A Pollinator Pathway is a public and private pesticide-free corridors of native plants that provide nutrition and habitat for pollinating insects and birds. This website is a stepping stone to other sites as well as offering its own information on native planting and creating a pollinator pathway in New England.

Native Plant Trust

Affiliated with the “Garden in the Woods” in Framingham and the Nasami Farm Garden Shop in Whately MA. This website is another stepping stone to other sites as well as offering its own information on native planting in New England.

[The Native Plant Finder \(NWF\)](#)

This website is from the National Wildlife Federation and provides a superb tool for discovering native plants ranked by importance in your specific zip code.

University of Maryland: Sustainable Gardening: Solutions to Climate Change
This website provides landscape & gardening strategies for the homeowner to combat climate change.

[How Can Gardeners Help Combat Climate Change?](#)

Home gardeners can be an important part of the solution to climate change by using sustainable practices. Sustainable gardening and landscaping techniques can slow future warming by reducing carbon emissions and increasing carbon storage in soil and plants. In addition, you can adapt your gardens and green spaces and make them more resilient to climate change by adding native plant diversity, improving soil health, growing heat tolerant vegetable crops, and using stormwater management practices. We call this climate-resilient gardening.

[Improve and Protect Your Soil](#)

It all starts with the soil. If your yard has been the recipient of chemical fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides, it's in desperate need of help. Remember our town's drinking water lies below your yard, Eliminate or, at least, reduce the chemicals. Get your soil analyzed through UMass to find out what it actually needs.

[Compost Your Food & Other Green Waste](#)

Sherborn's Recycling Center provides home compost bins, at minimal expense. It's a great way to prevent recyclable materials from ending up in landfills, and it also provides great organic material for your gardens.

Related Energy-Saving Tips & Past Newsletters

[Switching to Electric Lawn Equipment](#)

Electric outdoor tools—which typically use lithium-ion batteries—have advantages compared with gas-powered models. Moving away from gas-powered lawn equipment is not just about environmental protection but also your own personal health. Moreover, it is more economical and quieter.

[Mass Save Rebates for Electric Lawn Equipment](#)

Get rebates on Battery-Powered Lawn Equipment in Massachusetts.

[Massachusetts Clean Energy Center \(MassCEC\) Battery Powered Outdoor Equipment.](#)

Benefits of battery-powered outdoor equipment

[Previous Energy & Sustainability Newsletter Links](#)

Access to previous Sherborn Energy & Sustainability Newsletters.
