

Climate and Energy



COMMON THEMES in MUNICIPAL MASTER PLANS



1

Promote low impact, energy efficient development



Wilton Main Street Park



Main Street, Downtown Nashua

9 out of the 13 NRPC communities mention promoting energy efficient low impact development in their Master Plans.

EXAMPLES:

AMHERST

"Amherst aims to view development in light of the Town's role as a watershed steward, considering the critical combination of water and land resources. To preserve habitat diversity a comprehensive inventory of significant resources and habitat types will help prioritize each space in terms of importance to the well being of wildlife and Amherst residents."

BROOKLINE

"Brookline's energy efficiency policies will play a significant role in achieving their vision. Residents would like to see Brookline become a sustainable and self-sustaining community. Environmentally progressive policies with respect to energy generation, building standards, land use patterns, and transportation are critical to Brookline's long term sustainability, and all policy decisions should be evaluated through the lens of energy efficiency."

MERRIMACK

"Promote energy efficiency in municipal and public operations, starting with an Energy Committee that can advise and support energy efficiency efforts by town departments. Encourage energy efficiency, conservation, and sustainability in Merrimack to reduce energy consumption and cost."

BROOKLINE

"There is strong support for energy efficiency planning and implementation among Brookline residents. As a part of this visioning process, residents participated in a town-wide meeting and provided their input through four surveys addressing zoning, visual preferences, the Town Center, and transportation. Overall findings showed one common theme as energy efficiency."

NASHUA

"In its transition into the 21st century, Nashua can take a stand in proclaiming the importance of moving towards local and global sustainability. Such a stance recognizes the interconnectedness of local conditions and actions with the global environment situation. The City can adopt policies that reflect this recognition of interconnectedness, policies that will help move the local economy and local land-use decisions in a sustainable direction."

Common Elements:

- ◇ Preserve natural resources and rural landscapes for the welfare and safety of future generations.
- ◇ Adapt performance zoning to encourage voluntary implementation of energy efficiency practices.

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COMMON THEMES in HAZARD MITIGATION PLANS



6

Emergency Preparedness



Merrimack Fire Department, Truck 1

In the NRPC Region, all 13 communities mention plans to establish emergency preparedness measures.

EXAMPLES:

MILFORD

“Milford has installed an opticom system, which preempts traffic signals and gives ambulance and fire department vehicles priority traveling through intersections.”

NASHUA

“The Hazard Mitigation Team identified mitigation actions to achieve their goals. The team has obtained input on the proposed actions from the City departments responsible for their implementation.”

MONT VERNON

“About 15 Fire Department members are trained to firefighter level 1 or higher. Monthly Training sessions would reinforce existing knowledge, allows training on new equipment, and introduces new concepts, procedures, and methods.”

Common Elements:

- ◇ Establish a statewide communication system with radio interoperability on the same frequency.
- ◇ Educate the public about how to properly react in the event of a natural hazard or evacuation.
- ◇ Establish a public shelter and emergency operations center.

7

Potential Risk Identification



Household Hazardous Waste Disposal, Nashua

All 13 NRPC communities speak to potential risk identification through audits and inspections, as well as maintenance.

EXAMPLES:

AMHERST

“It is important to determine which critical facilities are the most vulnerable to specific types of hazard events and to estimate their potential loss.”

PELHAM

“Pelham has every intention of complying with all future requirements to maintain their participation with the National Flood Insurance Program.”

MILFORD

“The town of Milford performs regular tree maintenance to minimize potential damage from fallen/damaged trees.”

Common Elements:

- ◇ Floodplain ordinance update, and enforcement.
- ◇ Support and promote flood-proof structures, as well as seismic-rated structures where available.
- ◇ Increase capacity of culverts and storm drains.
- ◇ Provide an emergency water supply, including bottled water and back up supplies for fire mitigation.
- ◇ Ensure building codes are up to date and maintained as according to International Building Code Standards.
- ◇ Establish an animal evacuation and shelter plan.

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COMMON THEMES in ENERGY ACTION PLANS

4

Audit and maintenance



Traffic Along the Souhegan River

6 of the 13 NRPC communities address energy audits and potential use of green energy, as well as regularly scheduled maintenance updates.

EXAMPLES:

HOLLIS

“Moving forward, it will be equally as important for Hollis to address energy use resulting from its vehicle fleet as it will be from its municipal buildings.”

LYNDEBOROUGH

“Based on the total energy use it is clear that the vehicle fleet represents a significant source of energy expenditures and costs for the town. The Highway Department building is measured as using 33% of the total energy use, Lyndeborough will need to address the results from this audit and take steps to begin conserving more energy in municipal buildings.”

PELHAM

“The cost of running municipal buildings is a major concern for most municipalities and therefore identifying ways to save energy costs is often a priority when conducting energy audits.”

Common Elements:

- ◇ Overall goal to reduce municipal energy consumption by 15% of the 2008 levels by 2015.
- ◇ Conduct professional audits on buildings with little or no change after the initial audit.
- ◇ Research feasibility of installing green energy technology.

5

Community engagement and education



Community Engagement in Brookline

All 13 NRPC communities mention development of an outreach program promoting the benefits of using non-motorized and alternative transportation.

EXAMPLES:

MASON

“We will use Mason’s facility maintenance staff to re-commission buildings that continue to perform poorly after walk-through audits done by town staff, students, and volunteers has been completed and recommendations for specific buildings have been implemented.”

MILFORD

“The first step taken by the Milford Local Energy Committee was to conduct an energy inventory of the town’s municipal buildings and schools to track their energy reduction progress, they used an interactive online tool to make the information easy to access and track for community members.”

Common Elements:

- ◇ Form a Local Energy Committee to work in cooperation with municipal staff on energy projects.
- ◇ Continue to benchmark progress of municipal buildings and vehicle fleets using Portfolio Manager.
- ◇ Educate operators on how to drive more efficiently and encourage them to remain within the speed limit, use cruise control, and combine trips.
- ◇ Use energy committee members, students, and volunteers to conduct building energy use audits.

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COMMON THEMES in MUNICIPAL MASTER PLANS



2

Programs to support energy improvements and renewable sources



Local Flower Shop, Hollis

9 of the 13 NRPC communities have goals to produce programs to support energy improvements and renewable sources.

EXAMPLES:

HUDSON

"The Transfer of Development Rights program is an alternative to local zoning techniques that allows communities to focus growth in specific areas of town while preserving open space, farmland, or environmentally sensitive areas."

MERRIMACK

"Surface water resources comprise 1,048 acres of land in Merrimack. Surface water resources serve many important functions in a community. A community's surface waters provide for water storage, aquifer recharge, water supply and wildlife habitat."

NASHUA

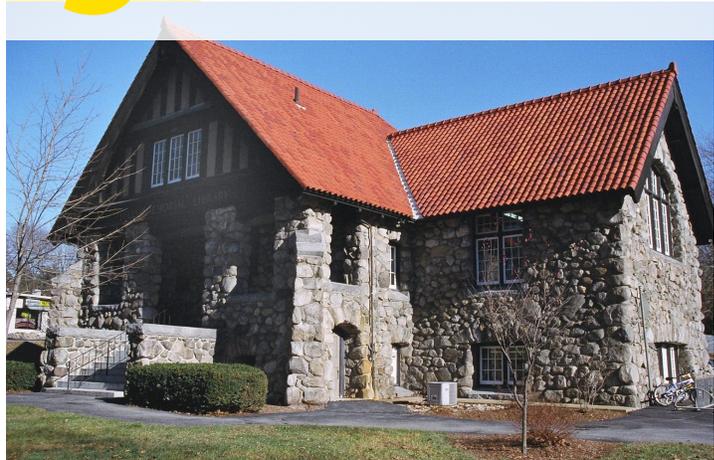
"Encourage and support businesses that are working to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and other non-renewable resources, businesses that reduce employee and product-related vehicle trips, and encourage support for infill development as well as re-development of brownfield sites."

Common Elements:

- ◇ Develop a vision for energy efficiency measures.
- ◇ Implement green energy use in municipal buildings.
- ◇ Create an implementation plan for renewable energy re-generation.

3

Education and outreach



Former Public Library, Hudson

All 13 NRPC communities have plans in place or are actively participating in education and outreach programs promoting energy efficiency.

EXAMPLES:

AMHERST

"Train municipal staff in sustainability, support the sustainability and energy committee, and develop public education on sustainable development and energy conservation."

HUDSON

"It is recommended the Town take advantage of the University of New Hampshire's Community Environmental Outreach Program and Natural Resources Senior Projects to help plan around resources, and provide them with protection from future development."

MONT VERNON

"A continued effort to educate residents as to what is recyclable will benefit the town as a whole."

Common Elements:

- ◇ Develop education and outreach programs about the benefits of using non-motorized and alternative forms of transportation.
- ◇ Support steps to form an energy committee.
- ◇ Publicize programs that offer incentives for installing and retrofitting energy efficient materials and systems.
- ◇ Maximize recycling efforts.