

Key Sustainability Solution Areas for Bridgewater

Endorsed by Bridgewater Town Council March 2009

Solution areas listed below were developed through extensive public consultation from August to December 2008. Listed in bullets below each topic are examples of the most prominent strategies and actions described by stakeholders.

Top Five Priority Areas

1) Move to Renewable, Efficient Energy

- Wind, solar, hydro, etc.
- Secure energy sources
- Energy efficiency (heating, lighting, etc.) in homes & workplaces

2) Support Healthy Affordable Local Food

- Farm market
- Local food in stores & restaurants
- Community gardens
- Organic agriculture

3) Educate for Sustainability

- Formal & informal
- Communication through various means
- Educational events
- Support shifting values

4) Create Transportation Alternatives

- Affordable public transit system
- Increased support for walking, biking, etc.
- Transportation programs (carpooling etc)

5) Build a Green Local Economy

- Increase local buying & support
- Diverse businesses
- Shift to green
- Innovation & technology
- Adapt to change

Long-term Solution Areas

Arranged alphabetically

6) Build Community Identity

- Opportunities to bring people together
- Focus on arts, culture & heritage
- Improve cooperation
- Welcome social diversity

7) Change Government Policies

- Leadership on sustainability
- Long-term planning
- Changing by-laws
- Incentives & support

8) Develop Local & Regional Partnerships for Sustainability

- Between governments & agencies
- Partnerships with business community
- Think and act together

9) Empower & Retain Youth

- Increase leadership & involvement in community
- More things to do in town
- More learning & career opportunities

10) Ensure Safe Water

- Protect water quality
- Ensure water supply
- Protect water sources
- Use appropriate treatment

11) Improve Community Health

- Focus on healthy lifestyles & preventative health
- Better health care & facilities
- Linking health & sustainability

12) Make Public Infrastructure More Sustainable

- Re-evaluating service levels
- Investing in new technologies
- Planning long-term costs

13) Preserve Natural Heritage

- Protect & revitalize LaHave River
- Protect & expand green space in town
- Protect wetlands & watercourses

14) Promote Efficient Land Use

- Favor “smart growth” principles

- Support transportation alternatives
- Protect natural areas

I5) Reduce Poverty

- Increase support to help meet basic needs
- Affordable healthy housing & food
- Employment programs

I6) Reduce Waste

- Improve recycling program
- Programs for re-using, trading, & recycling
- More education
- Incentives & regulation

I7) Support a Healthy, Viable Downtown

- Diverse local services
- People oriented
- Accessible for all ages