



August Newsletter

Preserving Our Past by Protecting Our Future

To Our Dedicated Volunteers: Thank You!



June 30th is the end of Sustainable Marblehead's fiscal year. We have ended the year in good financial shape, thanks to our generous individual donors and

corporate sponsors.

Relying on this essential financial support, our hard-working volunteers have been able to accomplish important work this year, and we would like to sincerely thank you for the untold hours you have put in to fulfill our mission.

Our volunteers:

- Educate our audience through webinars on everything from green lawncare to reducing holiday waste to green home heating – video recordings are at [Past Events](#) on our website.
- Engage the younger generation through hands-on activities and, this spring, the establishment of a new organic garden at Glover School.
- Encourage residents to compost and recycle, including a new fishing line recycling program at Village Street and Stramski Park docks this summer.
- Keep Marblehead beaches clean with weekly beach cleanups, meeting at Devereux Beach every Tuesday in the summer at 5 pm.
- Plant and inventory trees, supporting a healthy tree canopy in Marblehead – click [here](#) to learn how you can help.
- Engage with the Town by attending and actively participating in meetings of the Green Marblehead Committee, Municipal Light Department, Select Board and Harbors and Waters Board, to name a few, guiding and supporting the Town to ensure that Marblehead keeps sustainability top of mind.

These are just a few of the projects Sustainable Marblehead volunteers carry out. They also march in parades, staff tables at the Farmers Market and sit beside our Water Monster hydration station to educate and engage town residents, ultimately spurring the town towards its goal of reaching net-zero carbon emissions by 2040.

For all your hard work and time spent, we thank you. The planet thanks you.

Water Monster at Marblehead Junior Race Week



Following on its success at the Festival of the Arts, Sustainable Marblehead's Water Monster hydration system had its second outing at Marblehead Junior Race Week from July 25 – 27. Hosted by Pleon Yacht Club, this event attracts upwards of 200 junior sailors.

This year, and for the past 14 years, Junior Race Week was run as a clean regatta. Sustainable Marblehead Board member Jean Skaane was in charge of leading a "green team" who did a beach cleanup the Sunday before the racing started, and then monitored trash, recycling and compost bins to make sure they were not contaminated. Food was provided in compostable containers.

And for the first time this year, sailors could refill their water bottles from the Water Monster. The 125-gallon hydration system is the equivalent of 3,000 cups of water and replaces 1,000 plastic water bottles.

The Water Monster is available for local nonprofits to use at sporting and social

events and will continue to be used throughout the summer, but it needs a home. Please send a message to executivedirector@sustainablemarblehead.org if you have space in your garage or know of a location where the Water Monster could be stored. This will help us in our efforts to continue reducing plastic use in Marblehead.



Code RED to Curb Peak Electricity Consumption

Last week, Massachusetts suffered through an extended heat wave, with temperatures in Marblehead reaching the high 90s. Scientists say heat waves will only become more frequent in the future due to climate change.

Heat waves cause elevated electricity use, and on July 20 and 21, Marblehead Municipal Light Department (MMLD) issued a Code RED alert, asking residents to turn off nonessential appliances and turn down air conditioners between 5 and 7 pm to limit peak electricity consumption. General Manager Joe Kowalik requested that we wait until night to run dishwashers, clothes

washers and dryers, and that we cool the house down BEFORE 5 pm. MMLD also asked electric vehicle owners to disconnect their cars from their chargers.

According to Kowalik, electricity is substantially more expensive during peak events and lowering the peak will keep the less-efficient, higher polluting fossil fuel generators in New England offline. If we can avoid using electricity at those times, we will reduce emissions and bring down the cost of our electricity, as the amount of electricity we use during an ISO system peak determines the cost of our electricity for the whole year. MMLD estimated that if every residential customer turned off the equivalent of one medium-sized (600 watt) air conditioner for the full peak hour, our wholesale energy costs would be reduced by more than \$550,000, costs which would be passed on to us, the rate payers.

MMLD strongly encourages everyone to sign up for Code RED alerts. Enrolling is simple: go to the Town of Marblehead website and scroll down to Code RED or click [here](#).



Fishing Line Recycling Bins Installed

Sustainable Marblehead's Harbor Group is piloting a fishing line recycling program this summer in consultation with the Harbormaster. To make proper disposal more accessible, we have installed monofilament recycling bins at two town locations that have existing signage on fishing and are frequented by fishermen – the Village Street and Stramski Park docks.

Awareness of the issues associated with plastic pollution in marine waters has steadily increased in recent years, from the local to international level.

Although discarded fishing line makes up only a small percentage of the plastic that ends up in coastal waters and the ocean, it results in a disproportionately high level of environmental impact given its strength and resistance to degradation coupled with its ability to ensnare marine life.

Recognizing this issue, the BoatUS Foundation teamed up with Berkley, the large fishing line and equipment manufacturer, to educate fishermen on this topic and provide for recycling of retired line. For more, click [here](#). With funding provided by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, there is now a network of over 2,000 collection bins across the country. The BoatUS Foundation recently sponsored the "[Recast and Recycle Contest](#)" to further raise awareness on this issue and develop new recycling approaches.

Sustainable Marblehead is checking the two fishing line recycling bins throughout the summer to ensure that no trash ends up in them. If you fish, please use the bins to dispose of your line.



New Massachusetts Climate Legislation

Bill H.5060, An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind, was approved by House and Senate lawmakers on Thursday July 21, mandating some of the steps Massachusetts needs to take to meet a goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. After some back and forth between the Governor and the Legislature, as we went to press, a revised bill awaited Governor Baker's signature.

The major components of the bill are summarized in two articles from [WBUR](#) and [The Boston Globe](#). The bill makes major investments in:

- Offshore wind development,
- Solar development,

- Energy storage,
- Expansion of electric vehicle (EV) incentives and charging infrastructure,
- Decarbonization of our buildings and
- Greening of our transportation systems.

It also prevents the Governor and the Department of Public Utilities from moving forward on their “Future of Gas in Massachusetts” plan that was developed by the utilities.

If you’re in the market for an electric vehicle or considering improving the energy efficiency of your house, stay tuned. This bill will have a big impact on climate and clean energy policy in the state.



Pollinator Update

About 90% of the insects that support local food webs can only develop on plants with which they share an evolutionary history.

Sustainable Marblehead’s Conservation Group has thus been working to encourage Marblehead gardeners to include native plants in your gardens, or consider replacing a patch of your grass with native plants to help support food webs and sustain biodiversity.

All the effort is starting to pay off, as shown in the photo above of a Monarch landing on a native Swamp Milkweed in a newly designed planter at Glover Landing. The planters were created this spring by Sustainable Marblehead volunteers and Tower School Students.

The Glover Landing planters are a first

step to creating a pollinator pathway in Marblehead. Another is the planter in front of MacRae's Sustainable Goods on Washington Street. Owner Jennifer Lewis chose native plants including White Turtle Head, Wild Bergamot, White Wood Aster, Blue Mist Flower, Butterfly Weed, Seaside Goldenrod and Sneezeweed. Sustainable Marblehead co-funded the planter and is supplying signs to identify the plants.

For information on Sustainable Marblehead's activities to promote native plants and pollinators, visit the [Conservation Working Group page](#) on our website and click on Pollinator Action Plan.



Rock n' Row Donation

Founded in 2006, the Rock n' Row open water rowing club is located in

Marblehead's Little Harbor and offers access to both the shelter of Brown's Island for novice rowers and open water for the more adventurous. Favorite rowing destinations include Tinker's Island, the Misery Islands, the Beverly shore and Salem Harbor. Rowers have sighted minke whales, loons, seals and dolphins while out on the water.

In honor of their 16th year of operation, Rock n' Row collectively made a donation of \$8,355 to Sustainable Marblehead.

We recognize that we share a commitment to keeping our harbor and surrounding oceans safe and clean, and we are deeply grateful for this generous support.



Sustainable Marblehead Sponsors MHS Outdoor Classroom Project

Sustainable Marblehead's Conservation, Education and Tree Groups made a combined contribution of \$250 to Tyler Earp's Eagle Scout project to construct an outdoor classroom at Marblehead High School.

Earp has been working on his plan for more than a year. The project has several phases, starting with clearing out weeds and invasive plants and replacing them with native species and pollinator plants, with the help of the Marblehead Conservancy.

During the summer, Earp and volunteers will build the greenhouse's foundation and raised garden beds. Finally, in October, a team will construct the greenhouse (16 feet wide by 21 feet long) with the help of trained adults. Click [here](#) for more.

Upcoming Event



Land & Sea Cleanup – Save the Date!

September 17, 2022
10:00 am -12:30 pm

Please join Sustainable Marblehead and SPUR for our fourth annual cleanup. We will be mobilizing volunteers to clean trash and debris from our oceans, beaches and parks at over 20 locations.

Registration link coming soon!



Did You Know?

More than 1.5 billion toothpaste tubes are discarded worldwide each year, and those tubes end up in landfills or worse, in the ocean. Annually, 10 million tons of plastic are dumped in our oceans – that's equal to more than a garbage truckload every minute.



What Can You Do?

Instead of buying toothpaste in plastic tubes, try [zero-waste toothpastes](#) that come in a variety of effective forms — from tablets to powder — and are packaged in recyclable or reusable containers.

Support

Sustainable Marblehead is a community organization working to reduce waste and achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040. Our work is important, and we can't do it alone. Please join us by donating today.

[Donate Today](#)

Special thanks to our Community Champion Sponsors

