



Wellesley Natural Resources Commission

Insights from Outside

A Monthly Update from the NRC
December 2016



Wishing you health, happiness, and
a very **GREEN** holiday season!

Wellesley Bags It!

Doing Good by Bringing Your Own Bag

Look for new signs going up around town and at the [Wellesley Recycling and Disposal Facility](#) featuring a beautiful new graphic reminder (see illustration) to bring a reusable bag whenever you shop. At the request of the NRC, the Board of Selectmen has designated January as "Bring Your Own Bag Month," as the town's [new bag bylaw](#) kicks in.

Bringing your own bag is the most environmentally friendly way to shop and it saves money for retailers, too. Some retailers donate that savings when a customer brings their own bag: The clothing store Eileen Fisher donates \$1 to Restore the Earth Foundation; at Roche Bros., 5 cents goes to Fisher House Boston to help military families; and at Whole Foods, 5 cents is donated to the Whole Earth Foundation to alleviate poverty. You can buy a special reusable bag designed by WHS students at Roche Bros for \$3.99!

[Click here for reusable bag tips!](#)

BYO Bag Effort Now Part of "WasteWise Wellesley" Campaign



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Wellesley resident and graphic designer **Maria Kelleher** created and donated this special graphic for the NRC's Bring Your Own Bag initiative.

Wellesley's new bag bylaw and the BYO Bag initiative are all part of a broader campaign to reduce waste in our town. For more than a year, the NRC has been partnering with the [Wellesley Sustainable Energy Committee](#) and the [Wellesley Recycling and Disposal Facility](#) to find new ways to implement the three Rs: reduce, reuse, and recycle. Thanks to a program sponsored by the US Environmental Protection Agency and the MA Department of Environmental Protection, this town-wide effort has a new name: [WasteWise Wellesley](#). Through the EPA's national [WasteWise](#) program, Wellesley joins other communities and organizations throughout the country that have committed to reducing waste. We are proud that Wellesley's efforts are now officially part of a national movement to reduce waste and its damaging effects on the environment.



Wellesley joins the national [US EPA WasteWise](#) program!

[Click here to learn more about WasteWise Wellesley!](#)

Support Wellesley Scouts with Holiday Greens Pick-up Service



Please report illegal dumping of Christmas trees and greens in Wellesley parks!

After the holidays, you can responsibly dispose of your holiday greens and support Wellesley Scouts at the same time! **Venture Crew 42**, a co-ed branch of the Boy Scouts, is running a tree pick-up service on **January 7** to fund the group's work in the coming year. For a donation of \$20-30, the crew will pick up your Christmas tree and any other holiday greenery and take it to the Wellesley RDF for mulching. Sign up by email: venturec42@gmail.com.

In past years, Christmas trees and greens have been dumped in parks and conservation areas. Please remember that dumping trees and other debris on town land is *illegal* and very bad for our local environment. Thank you for supporting our open spaces and Wellesley Scouts!

Choose RENEWABLE ENERGY

THE POWER IS YOURS | Sign up today!



Easy New Year's Resolution: Sign Up for Renewable Energy to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

The Wellesley Municipal Light Plant's [Power to Choose](#) program gives you a low-cost, convenient way to power your home with renewable energy. Through Power to Choose, you can purchase 10%, 25%, 50%, or even 100% of your power from regional renewable energy sources such as [Spruce Mountain Wind Project](#) in Maine. This simple step costs as little as three dollars a month and helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are contributing to climate change. No hook-ups or installation required - your participation and the surcharge amount appears on your monthly electric bill.

Currently more than 10% of Wellesley homes participate in this program, making us third in the US for voluntary renewable energy participation. If just 200 more homes signed up,

[Sign Up Here](#)



Help Plan Wellesley's Future at Neighborhood Meetings in January

As the next step in developing a [Unified Plan](#) for Wellesley, town planners have organized three meetings in January to learn more about residents' views. "We are relying heavily on residents for their input," said town planning director Michael Zehner. "Much of what makes Wellesley great is the dedication to conscious planning that began more than 100 years ago. We're now asking residents and stakeholders to help us develop the goals and priorities that will guide the performance and decision-making process of town government for the next 10-20 years."

For the neighborhood meetings, Wellesley's eight voting precincts have been placed in three groups. (If you aren't sure which precinct you live in, [click here](#) and enter your address.)

- **Wednesday, January 18, 7 to 9 pm:** Precincts A, B, & G at Hardy Elementary School (in the cafeteria), 293 Weston Road
- **Tuesday, January 24, 7 to 9 pm:** Precincts C & D at the Warren Recreation Building (Room 8), 90 Washington Street
- **Wednesday, January 25, 7 to 9 pm:** Precincts E, F, & H at Town Hall (Great Hall, second floor), 525 Washington Street



More than 60 people shared their thoughts about Wellesley's future at a town-wide Visioning Forum in December.

[Can't make it? Click here to submit your comments online!](#)

News to Note

Wetlands Protection Committee Welcomes New Member



John Adams has joined the Wetlands Protection Committee.

The NRC recently named Wellesley resident **John Adams** to the [Wellesley Wetlands Protection Committee](#). The WPC is a five-member board of volunteers appointed by the NRC to act as the conservation commission for the town. The WPC reviews proposed projects that fall under the jurisdiction of state and local wetlands protection laws.

John is the immediate past president of the [Rotary Club of Wellesley](#). He is the current membership chair for the Rotary and represents the club in the [Wellesley Green Collaborative](#). A retired business executive, John is active in vernal pool protection and town conservation work and is an avid gardener. Welcome, John!

The NRC would also like to express deep gratitude to **Carl Sciple** for his many years of

dedicated service as a volunteer member of the Wetlands Protection Committee. Carl and his family are moving out of Wellesley and will be greatly missed. Thank you for your generous devotion to the Town of Wellesley, Carl!

Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming Events

- December 31, Noon, NRC office CLOSED for holiday. HAPPY NEW YEAR!
- January 5, 6:30 pm, Wetlands Protection Committee Meeting, NRC office, Lower Level, Town Hall.
- January 9, 7 pm, [Board of Selectmen Panel Discussion on Respect and Diversity](#), Juliani Room, Town Hall. Join a community conversation on how we respond to differences, promote tolerance and inclusion, and create a welcoming environment for all.
- January 10, 7 pm, Wellesley Trails Committee Meeting, NRC office, Lower Level Town Hall.
- January 11, 9:15 to 11 am, [Wellesley Green Collaborative Meeting](#), Wellesley Free Library, Wakelin Room. Topics include the Historical Commission's proposed demolition delay; WasteWise Wellesley campaign; NRC eco-landscaping initiative, Grow Green Wellesley; and WHS student presentations on community projects.
- January 11, 7 pm, "How to Run for Town Office," with Town Clerk Kathy Nagle and Town Moderator Peg Metzger, presented by [Wellesley League of Women Voters](#), Warren Recreation Building, Room 216. Learn how you can run for an elected board or for Town Meeting.
- January 12, 7:30 pm, NRC Meeting, NRC office, Lower Level, Town Hall.
- January 16, NRC office CLOSED for holiday.
- January 18, 7 to 9 pm, [Unified Plan](#) Meeting for Precincts A, B, & G, Hardy Elementary School Cafeteria.
- January 24, 7 to 9 pm, [Unified Plan](#) Meeting for Precincts C & D, Warren Recreation Building, Room 8.
- January 25, **Wellesley's new Bag Bylaw goes into effect for stores 3,500 square feet or larger.**
- January 25, 9:30 am, [Wellesley Green Schools](#) workshop on school gardens, with John Forti (Mass Hort Director of Horticulture and Education), [Elm Bank](#), Parkman Room.
- January 25, 7 to 9 pm, [Unified Plan](#) Meeting for Precincts E, F, & G, Town Hall, Great Hall, second floor.

[Web Site](#)

[NRC Meeting Agendas](#)

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[Community Gardens](#)

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Town of Wellesley
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