

TOWN OF WELLESLEY



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**Learn How Sustainable Buildings Can Help Wellesley Address Climate Change  
January 21 Event to Show How Buildings Can Reduce 53% of Wellesley's Carbon Footprint and More**

**January 3, 2020 (Wellesley, MA)** - A free event at the Wellesley Free Library on January 21, 2020, "**Building Our Way to a More Sustainable Future**," will demonstrate how new approaches to the design, construction, renovation and operation of buildings can dramatically reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, increase resiliency and improve the health and comfort of the built environment.

A 2018 Greenhouse Gas Inventory by the Sustainable Energy Committee (SEC) shows that 53% of Wellesley's carbon emissions are due to energy use in our buildings. The community has reduced building-related emissions approximately 23% since 2007, but significant additional reductions are imperative. Net-zero design and green building standards such as WELL, Passive House, and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) aim to mitigate the adverse impact of buildings on the natural environment and human health and are beginning to transform development in municipal, commercial and residential sectors.

The SEC, in cooperation with the Town's Facilities Management Department, wrote Wellesley's own [Draft Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines](#) so that municipal new construction, major renovations/additions and private development on Town-owned land reflect best practices in sustainable and net zero energy (NZE) construction.

The January 21 event, hosted by the [Wellesley Green Collaborative](#), begins at 9 a.m. in the Wakelin Room of the Wellesley Free Library. Featured speakers will discuss plans for the NZE-ready Hunnewell School and NZE Town Hall Annex and will highlight opportunities for making residential, commercial and public buildings more sustainable.

Scheduled speakers include:

- **William Maclay, Founding Principal, [Maclay Architects](#)** – Bill is the author of *The New Net-Zero*, and has been recognized as a leader in innovative, ecological planning and architectural design since 1971. Bill helped design the Net Zero Ready Hunnewell School and is part of the team designing the NZE Wellesley Town Hall Annex. Maclay Architects was the recipient of the 2012 NESEA Zero Net Energy Building Award.
- **Stephanie Horowitz, Managing Director, [Zero Energy Design](#)** -Stephanie orchestrates projects that range from net-zero energy workspaces to Passive House certified homes. Recently awarded Boston Home Magazine's Best Sustainable Architect, her work has garnered a design award from the Boston Society of Architects as well as Citation for Sustainable Design.

- **Fred Bunger, Vice Chair of the Wellesley SEC and Marybeth Martello, Sustainable Energy Director** – Fred and Marybeth worked with Wellesley’s Facilities Management Department to develop [Draft Municipal Sustainable Building Guidelines](#) (MSBG) and a one-page [Summary](#). Fred and Marybeth presented MSBG to departments, boards and committees across town and are revising MSBG based on feedback they received. They will seek formal approval of the Guidelines by municipal building proponents prior to Annual Town Meeting 2020.

The Collaborative will also provide opportunities to:

- Speak with contractors and suppliers with experience in energy conversions to learn how to make your home more sustainable; and
- Learn about rebates for energy efficient heating and cooling.

The public is welcome, and the event will be available on [Wellesley Public Media](#).

### **About the Green Collaborative**

The Wellesley Green Collaborative, whose mission is to share information and collaborate around common environmental interests, is facilitated by the town of Wellesley’s Sustainable Energy Committee and meets several times a year. Participants include members from Town of Wellesley departments, boards and committees; grassroots environmental groups; civic groups; houses of faith and interested members of the public. New participants are always welcome, and no advance RSVP is required.

### **For more information:**

<https://wellesleyma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/8625/Wellesley-Green-Collaborative-PDF>

<https://wellesleyma.gov/397/Sustainable-Energy-Committee>

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