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<p>Content</p> <p>Better Bin Recycling App</p> <p>EV Update - Workplace Charging</p> <p>Sustainable Hanover Retreat</p> <p>Sustainable Hanover’s WhoKnew</p> <p>Window Dressers Update</p>
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Betterbin

HANOVER INTRODUCES AN APP TO HELP SIMPLIFY RECYCLING

By Teresa Oden

Recycling rules are complicated and ever-changing, and truckloads of recyclables that are contaminated by items that aren’t allowed are a big problem. The Northeast Resource Recovery Association recently estimated that the contamination rate for zero-sort communities like Hanover is 10-30%. A contaminated load may well end up in a landfill. Resources are lost when recyclables become garbage, and landfills fill up faster, both bad for the environment.

Thanks to its Waste Reduction/Recycling team Sustainable Hanover has launched a new app to help residents stay informed and recycle more effectively. . The Hanover **Betterbin** app is specially designed for Town residents to provide up-to-date information on both of the local recycling options available to them: having Casella pick up their recyclables curbside on the prescribed weekday for their neighborhood, or dropping off their recycling at the Lebanon Solid Waste and Recycling Facility. When unsure whether a particular item can be recycled or is considered trash, app users can scan a photo of the UPC code on the item and get handling information.

Betterbin goes “beyond the bin” with tips, FAQs and announcements of upcoming events, such as Styrofoam collections. The app also offers information on myriad options around the Upper Valley for donating or consigning unwanted items. **Betterbin** is designed to make recycling simpler while reducing the volume of unwanted goods –but perhaps still useful – headed to the landfill.

To Download the app
Scan the QR code with your smartphone

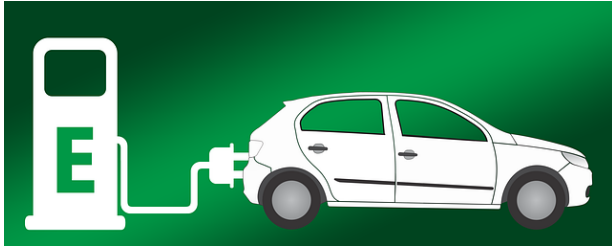


OR

Go to this link:

<https://about.betterbin.app/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Hanover-NH-App-Launch-One-Page.pdf>





EV Updates **Workplace Charging – Tips for Employers***

By Ben Steele

More and more people are driving EVs and need to charge them. Charging is most efficient when the car is parked for more than a few hours, so charging at home and at work are the best options. Some employees may not be able to charge at home, or the range of their EV may not cover both directions of their commute, so workplace charging is important.

Installing chargers will help meet your sustainability goals and may help recruit and retain employees.

Getting started: How many, where, and what chargers

You don't need to figure out EV charging on your own. The U.S. Department of Energy launched the new EMPOWER program to walk employers through the process of adding EV charging. Visit <https://www.workplacecharging.com/> to connect with EMPOWER (Equitable Mobility Powering Opportunities for Workplace Electrification Readiness). Run locally by the Clean Cities Coalitions of each state, EMPOWER can help you access the right people at utilities, EV charging vendors, financial incentives and rebates, and more.

But here are some basic considerations:

Level 1 chargers are simply 110 volt outlets. This is the cheapest alternative. All EVs come with a charger that can plug into a regular outlet. These only give an EV about 5 miles per hour of charging, but for an 8 hour workday, it will fuel the ride home for most employees.

Level 2 chargers are 220 volts and charge a car much faster. This is what most drivers use at home.

A standard charger costs about \$500-\$1000 plus installation. A smart charger, with an internet connection, costs much more and entails an annual fee but enables the employer to manage the power supplied. This can help spread the available power over more chargers, charge the user for the electricity, manage how long users charge, and avoid demand charges.

Share your experience

Tell us (sustainablehanovernh@gmail.com with Workplace Charging as the subject) how you did it or what hurdles you encountered. Or ask us questions. And thanks for helping Hanover reach the goal of 100% renewable transportation by 2050.

**For more information about EVs go to <https://sustainablehanovernh.org/>*



Message from Retreat? Engage!

*By Judi Colla & Yolanda Baumgartner
Co-Chairs, Sustainable Hanover*

Twenty-five Sustainable Hanover volunteers gathered at the home of Robin Kaiser and Peter Gish on Wed, October 18th to learn more about Hanover's Sustainability Master Plan and share ideas as to how Sustainable Hanover can support that plan moving forward. Aply facilitated by our good friend, Sarah Brock of Vital Communities, this group included volunteers from the official Sustainable Hanover Town Committee as well as representatives from its several initiatives (energy, waste reduction/recycling, sustainable landscaping, energy, transportation, communications, 3C). Chris Kennedy who serves on both Sustainable Hanover and the Master Plan Advisory Committee introduced the main points in the draft of the Master Plan which was being released for

community input that same day. Volunteers then broke up into subgroups to discuss first five year, then one year priorities for Sustainable Hanover moving forward.

From these discussions, we departed with the following key takeaways:

- o Increase the visibility of Sustainable Hanover by improving both internal and external communications.
- o Increase participation and capacity, encouraging diversity with regard to such things as age, race, ethnicity, and interests.
- o Serve not only those who own homes in Hanover but also those who rent as well as those who do not necessarily live in Hanover but work and play here.
- o Strengthen partnerships and collaborations with entities such as other Town committees, Dartmouth College, our public schools, and Upper Valley organizations.
- o Continue to pursue our Ready for 100 town wide goals of having 100% clean electricity by 2030 followed by heating, cooling, and transportation by 2050.
- o Support town and regional plans for better public transportation; charging electric vehicles; and providing safe lanes for bikes, scooters, and skateboards.
- o Be good stewards of what we have long cherished by fostering biodiversity and people’s connection with nature.
- o Promote sustainable landscapes that, among other things, include native plants and retain water where it falls.
- o Make it easier for folks to reduce, reuse and recycle their possessions.
- o Support affordable housing efforts.

Based on these key takeaways, we made one big conclusion -- we need more help, MUCH more help! Do you or anyone you know have expertise and/or interest in:

- o Further developing a website?
- o Putting out a quarterly Newsletter?
- o Writing in general?
- o Organizing a speaker series?
- o Reaching out to folks one on one?
- o Exploring funding opportunities and writing grants?

- o Researching, brainstorming, and implementing renewable energy projects?
- o Promoting energy efficiency and/or the electrification of homes and businesses? How about Renewable Transportation? Sustainable Landscapes? Biodiversity? Waste and Plastic Reduction? Affordable Housing? Something else?

If so, please be in touch by emailing sustainablehanovernh@gmail.com. Thank you!



**Sustainable Hanover’s (SHC)
Community Climate Connections (CCC)
WHO KNEW**

sustainablehanovernh.org/whoknew

Every Tuesday members of the SHC Community Climate Connections post a “**Who Knew**” article on the Hanover listserve ([vitalcommunities.org/community-discussion-lists/.](https://vitalcommunities.org/community-discussion-lists/)) These brief but informative features are a means by which all of us can take individual actions to address climate issues. Ultimately they are all published on the SHC website. Here are some examples:

WHO KNEW That If You Are Looking for a Holiday Gift This Year for a Young Child, It’s Never Too Early to Teach Toddlers to Do Their Part to Help the Environment or Limit Climate Change?



My First Book of Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, published in October 2022, explains the need for these measures along with step- by- step suggestions appropriate for babies to age four.

Duopress Labs created this 22 page beautifully illustrated board book, to entertain you and your young children over and over again. There is even a suggested project. The dyes used are non-toxic in case your child chews on books. When you are finished with the book you can pass it on to others or it is 100% recyclable. *By Sarah Young (CCC)*



Many of us are cleaning up the house for the holidays: There are ***Many Simple Resources to Help You Have a Cleaner Home Using Greener Products?*** Through these “Who knew?” columns we’ve talked about steps everyone can take to reduce our environmental impact. There’s another local/regional organization that has some suggestions for effective, inexpensive - and green - ways to take care of your home.

Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission, which includes the Upper Valley Household Hazardous Waste Committee, has an extensive list of ways to reduce - or eliminate - the use of toxic chemicals in home maintenance. Some of the key ingredients for non-toxic cleaners include items that you probably already have: things like white vinegar, baking soda, and plant-based liquid soap such as Dr. Bonner’s. Over time, products like these are far less expensive than all those chemicals. For more information, search for that we store under our sinks and in our laundry rooms. And they’re a lot better for the environment.

[Upper Valley Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission](https://uvlsrpc.org/) at <https://uvlsrpc.org/>. On the left

side of the home page under “Navigate Our Site”, scroll down to where it says “Quick Links” and select “UVLSRPC Household Hazardous Waste Website”. The site includes regularly updated formulas and suggestions for cleaning household items.

Using natural cleaning products is a worthy goal. But there’s also the question of how to get rid of the stuff many of us haven’t quite stopped using yet. Don’t be discouraged: the UVLSRPC website also lists the schedule of upcoming hazardous materials collection dates. *By Rebecca K Paquette (CCC)*



WHO KNEW New Hampshire Has a Nursery Where You Can Order Native Trees and Shrubs at Bargain Prices?

Many of us have feeders that bring birds and animals closer to our houses in the winter. Have you wondered how you can attract more birds year-around?

In the spring, almost all of our native birds need insect larvae to feed their young, as the bugs provide the protein needed for growth. The leaves of native ‘host’ plants provide food for these caterpillars, and are easily swallowed food for young birds. Non-native plants host very few insects.

The NH State Nursery grows seeds from native trees and shrubs and sells them in bulk when 1-2 years old, 4-18" tall. Seedlings are dug in the spring when the plants are still dormant, and are packed bare-root in insulated paper bags that are kept in cold storage until distribution in May. The nursery has more than 50 species available and also offers packages intended for various habitats, with 25 plants of 5 different species - at a price of \$35.

Order soon, as the plants go on sale in early December, and the nursery often runs out of certain plants. In just a few years, you should be rewarded with more bird species. You will find a catalog at [Welcome | NH State Forest Nursery](#)

NOTE: If you order these plants, it is probably a good idea to protect them from deer until they are well established. *By Barbara Mallory (CCC)*



WHO KNEW Our Pollinator Gardens May Have Caused Worm-Free Apples?

For some years now I have been replacing the lawn with a pollinator garden. ‘Pollinator’ plants are native plants selected so that throughout the season something is always in bloom and providing nutritious pollen and nectar. A large variety of insects are attracted to feed on the plants for energy and sustenance. Some plants actually have ingredients that protect insects from certain diseases.

This year, the plants finally were large. They blossomed profusely, set seeds, and filled in the garden beds.

Near the pollinator garden is a tall hemlock hedge in which birds roost and nest. The number of birds increased notably this year, as the garden had become a smorgasbord of insects and seeds.

Also near the garden and hedge is a largely neglected apple tree. The apples make wonderful applesauce, but wormholes, due to long gone moth larvae, had always made the apples unappealing to look at and a nuisance to prepare. This year, despite the freak frost in May, we had a bumper crop of apples that were attractive and had no wormholes!

Why was that? You are invited to speculate on the saying that the whole natural world is connected. *By Barbara McIlroy CCC*

Window Dressers Update

By Dennis Robison

The third Norwich/Hanover Window Dressers Build is now complete! This year the Norwich Congregational Church was host. 268 window inserts were made by 115 volunteers for forty-one households between September 29 and October 5. According to Window Dressers, one medium pine insert may save an average of 8.5 gallons of heating oil every year, for an estimated savings of \$15 – \$43 per year, depending on variations in fuel price.



Window Dressers Volunteers Susan Pierson and Ginny Reed

One week’s work then will result in a minimum reduction in the use of 2300 gallons of heating oil at a savings of \$34,000 this coming winter in our community – savings that continue year after year. Inserts generally pay for themselves in two heating seasons or less. This was one of 47 Window Dressers builds in Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire for 2023. For more information about Window Dressers go to <https://windowdressers.org/> It is a fascinating story about the impact this organization has had in Vermont, Maine and now New Hampshire.

