



Green team gets its start in Acton

By Christian Schiavone/Staff Writer

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Acton, Mass. -

Following the lead of many surrounding towns, environmentally concerned local citizens have formed a new group to come up with ways to make Acton a greener community.

Members, who have named the group Green Acton, now number over a dozen and include many residents who also sit on other town boards and organizations focused on the environment. Their aim is to review the ever-growing array of green initiatives backed by federal and state governments, universities and non-profit organizations and pass suggestions on to town staff.

They also hope to provide coherent information to residents and business owners who might be overwhelmed by the number of green options available to save on energy costs and do something for the environment.

“We really want to be a one-stop shopping place for residents and organization in Acton who want to reduce their energy consumption and save on their energy bills,” said Jim Snyder-Grant, a member of Green Acton. “Acton is a town that’s already doing a lot and has the potential to do a lot more.”

Snyder-Grant is also chairman of the Land Stewardship Committee, which oversees the town’s conservation lands, and was involved in securing a solar panel for the concession stand at Leary Field.

Many surrounding towns, including Concord and Boxborough, have similar groups to help town staff and school officials identify the best ways to reduce energy consumption and choose the most efficient alternatives.

Snyder-Grant said the group plans to work with the Board of Selectmen, who have identified green initiatives as a top priority, to come up with energy saving solutions for the town. Some options the group is currently considering advocating are creating a town board to review the energy use and environmental impact of town projects and plant and care for more trees along town streets.

Ann Sussman, another member of the Green Acton, said the group offers an option for residents who have already been looking for ways to help the environment but haven’t had an outlet to share ideas.

“There’s a ton of stuff out there,” said Ann Sussman, “The amazing thing about Acton is that there are so many people who want to plug in. This is a place for them to do that.”

Sussman is chairwoman of the Design Review Board, which encourages a return to traditional residential and commercial design. She is also an architect and is also Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified.

To learn more about the group, visit greenacton.org, <http://greenacton.org/>

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