

# Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition Newsletter



S U M M E R 2 0 1 0

## Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition to Search for Major Sponsors by Doug Carnrick

After two months of planning, preparation, and discussion, the Executive Committee of Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition gave the go ahead to solicit major corporate and non-profit sponsorships from the Mid-Maine region. Ten organizations will be asked to partner with SMMC financially, helping to sustain Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition as it works toward its mission.

SMMC started with a three day catalyst in January of 2009 that concluded with a "2020 Vision for Energy Conservation and Sustainability" pact signed by some 59 participants from the Mid-Maine community. The past year and a half has been funded by various grants

from small organizations and individuals who share the same concerns and passions of community survival and prosperity during these ever changing times. It has become clear that going forward, SMMC will only succeed with a broad base of support from the stakeholders, businesses, and residents.

We will be asking each corporate sponsor to give \$1500 for the one year right to say that they are supporting sustainability in Mid-Maine. Major sponsorships will include a number of benefits, such as being listed on future newsletters, listed with logo on our website, exclusivity as sponsor (only one banker, etc.) and acknowledgement during major SMMC events. Of course, the most important

benefit will be the claim that they are supporting the organization that is the primary force for sustainability in this region.

Once SMMC acquires its non-profit status, we will be forming a "Friends of SMMC" group for those who want to donate. Of course those individuals who do not care about a tax deduction may donate any time. If you have any questions about sponsorships or donations, you may talk to either Doug Carnrick or Elery Keene. Anyone who would like to make a donation that is not yet deductible can make a check payable to: **Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition, c/o Linda Cote, Finance Department, City Hall, 1 Common Street, Waterville, ME 04901.**

*Check out our new improved website: [sustainmidmaine.org](http://sustainmidmaine.org). Thanks to photographer Jane Edwards as well as technicians Josh Grant and Ben Greeley.*

*Also join us on Facebook @[facebook.com/sustainmidmaine](https://www.facebook.com/sustainmidmaine).*



## Member Profile: Steve Erario by Jane Edwards

Steve has been involved with Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition since its inception. In the summer of 2007, he worked with Waterville City Manager Mike Roy, exploring how the city -- and the community at large -- could advance toward a more sustainable operation. He focused on the city's energy use and wrote a report with recommendations for reducing energy and saving money. That Fall his work with the city continued as an "independent study" at Colby, where he was an Environmental Policy major.

Steve spent one semester in Australia working for the "Chief Minister" of the Australian Capital Territory producing a waste reduction strategy. He was back at Colby in January 2009 and helped with the Catalyst meeting which was the beginning of Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition. Steve was SMMC's first interim coordinator. In the summer of 2009, he directed three interns. The interns conducted a community survey, compiled a report on resources, and did many other case studies and reports for various teams.

This year Steve has been most involved with the Energy Team on their grant application. He also did an independent study at Colby related to that. Steve wrote the grant application for an AmeriCorps member to work with SMMC for a couple of years, starting late this summer. He worked closely with Linda Woods, our current interim coordinator, to transfer information to her. In May 2010 Steve graduated from Colby College, and this summer he will be working for Clean Air/Cool Planet in collaboration with the greater Portland Council of Governments. He leaves us with the message that he appreciates the opportunity he had to be involved with the group and has grown to love the people and places of mid-Maine.

## Transportation Team

**The Transportation Team**, chaired by Jim Wood, has three primary goals for 2010: enhancing public transit, establishing new Park & Ride lots, and marketing the walking trails. Potentially this team hopes to tie this knowledge together by creating a comprehensive map of the Waterville area that highlights the multiple opportunities for alternative transportation, like bike paths and walking trails. The team members are unanimous in their support for Kennebec Messalonskee Trail's continued acquisition and development of trails in and around the city. In conjunction with Waterville Main Street, this team is hoping to establish bike racks and benches downtown. Plans are underway to locate a Park and Ride in Waterville and potentially one in nearby Fairfield. The Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition community survey established that the majority of residents think that public transportation is essential, yet they question the availability of funding for such endeavors. Consequently this team is committed to working for public transportation for the Waterville area and has attended multiple meetings in Augusta where public transportation has been discussed.



Transportation Team members from left to right: Penny Vaillancourt, team leader Jim Wood, Elery Keene, Rosemary Winslow, and Chris Huck.

## From the Desk of Linda Woods, Interim Coordinator

One might think since I am such an avid environmentalist that my favorite color would be green. However, to me, green is not a color: it is a lifestyle. I process my choices through a green screen. Like many of you, I have not accepted a plastic bag or bought a bottle of water in years. I try to shop locally and put my money into locally grown food. My laundry

hangs outside in the summer and on wooden racks in the winter. I conserve fuel by combining trips to town and even try not to drive at all one day a week. I consider myself fortunate to have this position that allows me to help each team achieve its goals because I believe so adamantly in the cause. BTW: My favorite color is pink.

*Linda*



## The Garden Team

**The Grow and Support Local Foods Team (AKA The Garden Team)** chaired by Stu Silverstein is pleased to announce the creation of two new community gardens. Thanks to a grant from Inland Hospital, Waterville will have an additional community garden located on Moor St. While SMMC volunteers were preparing these boxes, interested neighbors gathered. Within a few hours, each bed was sold to a nearby resident. Additionally, a thoughtful resident donated a bench for tired

gardeners to use.

The brand new Oakland Community Garden is located on the edge of the school field off Pleasant Street between Williams Elementary School and Messalonskee Middle School. The community garden consists of eleven 4'X8' raised beds. Some of the produce will be donated to the local soup kitchen. Two beds will be tended by middle school students who will monitor bee pollination. One bed will be used as part of

restorative justice program. Funding for the Oakland Garden was provided by a grant from The Harvest Fund of Maine Initiatives and by Time & Tide Resource Conservation and Development.



Garden Team members Meg Richards (left) and Ellen Paul discuss the Moor Street Garden.

## Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Team

**The Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Team** chaired by Ross Nason is fortunate to have received an anonymous donation. Some of the funds will be used to purchase reusable shopping bags. Plans are to have the Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition logo on one side and the logos of other sponsors on the reverse. The hope is that distributing these bags to individuals will help educate our community about the detrimental effects of using plastic bags.

## SAVE THE DATES:

- **June 8**  
*Panel Discussion: Eating Healthy as a Vegetarian, Vegan, or Omnivore*
- **June 18**  
*Food, Inc.*
- **July 18**  
*Grand Opening at Moor St. Community Garden*
- **July 22**  
*Farmers' Market Tour & Cooking Demonstration*
- **August 4**  
*Green Expo*
- **August 10**  
*Keeping What You Harvest*

FMI: Check the "Upcoming Events" section of [sustainmidmaine.org](http://sustainmidmaine.org) or call Linda at 680-4208.

## The Energy Team

**The Energy Team** chaired by John Joseph has begun the work to use the EECBG funds in the most efficient way possible. The team has created a work plan that outlines their tentative plans. Once a Project Manager and the AmeriCorps positions have been filled, the next task is to develop a client selection process. Holding energy education consultations at 300 homes in Waterville/Winslow will be the goal over a two year period. The program will provide homeowners with a clear path to improving energy efficiency and will be aligned with all state and federal incentive programs. The key to success is getting the word out to residents of the Waterville/Winslow. If you are interested in applying for an energy audit through this program or if you know a likely candidate, please contact Linda Woods at [lwoods@waterville-me.gov](mailto:lwoods@waterville-me.gov) or 680-4208.

## Education Team

**The Education Team** chaired by Iver Lofving sponsored programs titled “The Food and Garden Series.” From these presentations, participants learned about food from beginning to the end. The first three presentations dealt with planning and starting a garden and included tips for gardening success and how to garden in small spaces. Experts Caragh Fitzgerald, Kennebec County Extension Agent, and Stu Silvetstein, chair of the Local Foods Team, conducted these workshops. Participants will have the opportunity to hear about the advantages of different nutritional styles: vegetarian, vegan, and omnivore from a panel discussion to be held June 8. On July 22, Kate Newkirk and Caragh Fitzgerald will be hosting a cooking demonstration using crops purchased at the Waterville Farmers’ Market. The final presentation “Keeping and Storing What You Harvest” will be held on August 10. For more information about any of these programs, check the SMMC web site.



Education Team leader Iver Lofving (left) and Bill Basford check the lighting at Barrels during Bill's presentation on daylighting.

## SMMC--An Evolving Organization

by Mike Roy

Since we first met in January 2009, the Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition has continued to evolve as an organization. In the beginning we were a loose collection of 60+ individuals with a common purpose. During the Catalyst event, priority areas were identified and team leaders chosen. It soon became evident that a coordinating group was necessary to help direct the affairs of the organization and keep communication lines open among all teams. A Steering Committee was formed composed of team leaders and other individuals who were central to the genesis of Sustain Mid-Maine Coalition. This committee has recently evolved to an Executive Committee which has allowed team leaders to concentrate on leading their teams and not attending additional meetings. The Executive Committee is composed of the following individuals: Mike Roy, President; Mike Heavener, Vice President; Doug Carrick, Secretary/Treasurer; Sally Harwood; Elery Keene; and John Joseph. Progress on the goals of the Coalition is directly tied to the performance of the teams, so a decision was made to restructure the coordinating committee and allow team leaders to spend more time with the work of their teams. The next stage in the evolution of the organization is becoming incorporated in Maine and obtaining non profit status by becoming 501(c) (3) certified. As Sustain Mid-Maine continues to grow, it is essential that the organization be recognized and qualified to accept grants and donations and spend funds that benefit a non-profit organization. All meetings of the Executive Committee are open to the public and records are kept of the Committee’s decisions. Minutes are posted on the SMMC web site. Meeting dates and times are posted on our website. I encourage you to call me or Linda Woods, our Sustainability Coordinator, with any questions.

### SUSTAIN MID-MAINE COALITION

For more information contact:  
Linda Woods, interim coordinator  
Email: [lwoods@waterville-me.gov](mailto:lwoods@waterville-me.gov)  
Phone: (207) 680-4208

Check out our website!  
[www.sustainmidmaine.org](http://www.sustainmidmaine.org)

Contact our team leaders for volunteer opportunities:

**Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Team:** Ross Nason, [rnason@kvcog.org](mailto:rnason@kvcog.org)

**Energy Team:** John Joseph, [john.joseph21@myfairpoint.net](mailto:john.joseph21@myfairpoint.net)

**Local Foods Team:** Stu Silverstein, [ssilverstien@gmail.com](mailto:ssilverstien@gmail.com)

**Education Team:** Iver Lofving, [ilofving@msad54.org](mailto:ilofving@msad54.org)

**Transportation Team:** Jim Wood, [jimw@kvcap.org](mailto:jimw@kvcap.org)