

# Sustainability group to share local efforts with public

BY AMY CALDER  
Staff Writer

WATERVILLE — The public is invited to learn about a home weatherization project, community gardens and other sustainability efforts Saturday at the annual meeting of the Sustain Mid Maine Coalition.

The event will be 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the council chambers at The Center in downtown Waterville.

Linda Woods, coordinator of Sustain Mid Maine, said participants will break into teams to brainstorm project ideas for the coming year. The teams will focus on areas including education; transportation; rethinking, reducing, reusing and recycling;

energy; and growing and supporting local foods.

"It is definitely open to the public," Woods said Tuesday of the event. "We hope that people who are interested will come."

Mike Heavener, vice-chairman of Sustain Mid-Maine, also encouraged people to attend.

"We all have an obligation of ensuring our existing natural resources will be available for future generations," Heavener said, "and one way to fulfill that obligation is to join us this weekend as we plan sustainability practices or strategies for the future."

Sustain Mid Maine has been involved in a variety of projects including a home weatherization program in Waterville and

Winslow. Sustain Mid Maine, along with the two towns, received a \$175,000 stimulus grant last year from Efficiency Maine Trust to offer low-cost energy audits and home winterization benefits to residents in those communities.

The Sustain Mid Maine Residential Energy Program provides homeowners a rebate for home energy audits, according to Woods.

"We have eight (weatherization projects) completed," Woods said. "It's phenomenal. We're also opening it up to multi-family homes, hoping to get landowners involved in this program as well."

Saturday's meeting will focus on where to direct efforts for this

year, she said.

"We hired Keith Cook, and he'll facilitate the team-building project brainstorming session, from 10 a.m. to noon," she said.

Before the team discussions, current team leaders will report on projects launched last year, including a community garden project. Woods said Sustain Mid Maine recently received a \$500 grant from Inland Hospital to build a greenhouse, at a location to be determined. Woods wrote the grant application.

"It has to be on city property," she said of the greenhouse.

Sustain Mid Maine does not have members as such; rather, about 150 people are on Woods' e-mail list, and many attend events and meetings.

## SUSTAIN MID MAINE COALITION ANNUAL MEETING

**When:** 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Saturday  
**Where:** City Council chambers,  
The Center, 93 Main St.,

Waterville  
**Contact:** Linda Woods,  
680-4208;  
[lwoods@waterville-me.gov](mailto:lwoods@waterville-me.gov)

## ANOTHER MEETING

**Another Sustain Mid Maine** event will be at 6 p.m. Thursday at Barrel's Community Market: Solar Panel Odyssey, an update on Unity College students' presentation of solar panels to President Obama. The event will be hosted by Jamie Nemecek, who accompanied the panels to Washington and serves on Sustain Mid Maine's Education Team.

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