

We have exciting fall updates to share - Thank you for your support in helping to make this all happen.

“Not One Drop,” Save Our Bay MA, Plymouth

Massachusetts officials this summer tentatively denied an application to dump 1.1 million gallons of radioactive water into Cape Cod Bay, a big step forward for the bay and for Save Our Bay Massachusetts.

The Pilgrim nuclear plant in Plymouth, MA closed in June 2019 and is now being decommissioned. Holtec, who owns the plant, wants to dump the radioactive water into the Bay.

On July 24, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, (MassDEP) issued a tentative decision to reject Holtec’s permit based on the Oceans Sanctuaries Act, and opened the decision to public comment until August 31.

With the help of Community Action Works, the coalition of groups in Save Our Bay MA, responded and generated more than 1,500 public comments from community members and leaders and organizations across Massachusetts to make sure the MassDEP finalized this determination to save Cape Cod Bay. Save Our Bay MA also led the effort to pack the public hearing on the proposal, turning out dozens of people to testify in support of MassDEP’s tentative determination to deny Holtec’s permit modification. The final decision will be released any day.



Mary Lampert with Pilgrim Watch and Save Our Bay MA testifying a public hearing. Photo credit: Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and PACTV Government Services via YouTube

Highlights from Emergency Grant Program

Last year, we launched an emergency relief grant program after hearing from community members that they need readily available funds to take advantage of timely campaign deadlines and opportunities.”

Here are some of the projects and organizations funded:

North Country Alliance for Balanced Change (NCABC), New Hampshire
NCABC in New Hampshire launched a public education campaign to respond to inadequate regulation of solid waste disposal, a major threat to local water supplies. NCABC sent mailers, held a sustainability event and hosted talks in local, state and regional venues by their board members.

NCABC started in 2008 and since that time they have broadened the conservation coalition in the North Country, and moved the issues of solid waste reform and water protection into the spotlight.

Plastic Working Group, New Hampshire

The Plastic Working Group (PWG), a subgroup of the New Hampshire Network for Environment, Energy and Climate used their grant to hire a fellow who developed a roadmap to help underfunded schools in low income communities save money and reduce plastic waste. Her research found that schools can save up to \$2,000 per 100 students with reusables for their kitchens. The group plans to promote this resource by working with school administrators to adopt the roadmap, and sending out press releases to news outlets in the region to expand their reach.



Cassie Lafleur, a fellow with Plastics Working Group. Photo credit: Cynthia Walter, NH Network Plastics Working Group

PRESS RELEASE

UNH Sustainability Fellow Creates Roadmap for Schools to Cut Costs and Plastic Waste

Media Contacts:

- Cynthia Walter PhD., New Hampshire Network Plastics Working Group, cawalter22@gmail.com 412-610-4327
- Cassie Lafleur, UNH Sustainability Fellow, plan2cutplastic@gmail.com

Reducing plastic waste was the goal for Cassie Lafleur, a UNH Sustainability Fellow hosted this summer by the NH Network Plastic Working Group. She created a roadmap for public institutions, such as schools, to shift their service ware from single-use foam and plastic trays and utensils to reusable materials such as stainless steel. Her research revealed that reusables save thousands of dollars in costs each year, cut plastic waste, and require no extra staffing time.

Cassie’s Fellowship is part of a University of New Hampshire Sustainability Institute program that provides a way for undergraduates and graduates to work on sustainability-related projects for companies and organizations all over the country. The Plastic Working Group (PWG) is a non-partisan, all-volunteer organization composed of representatives from over 40 NH

Community Action Works highlights community organizers and how they effectively start a local movement

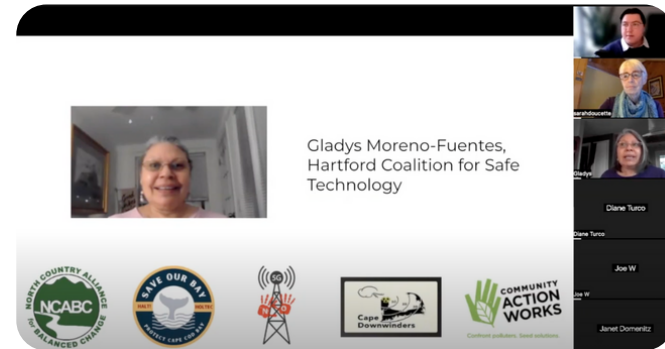
It can be daunting and scary when you are faced with a toxics problem in your neighborhood, especially when you are alone and have no idea on what to do or how to begin. That's why Community Action Works prioritizes training to help community members and groups get started and learn how to build successful grassroots campaigns at the local level.

We launched our training program with a virtual panel entitled "How to build a successful local movement" this past spring. Over 30 people attended the panel, and they heard stories from panelists about how they went about building their organization, figuring out their campaign targets, creating a strategy to win, and how they took on challenges that came up in their organizing work.

Panelists included Diane Turco with Cape Downwinders & Save Our Bay MA, Sara Doucette, North Country Alliance for Balanced Change and Gladys Moreno-Fuentes, Hartford Coalition for Safe Technology.

It was so inspiring to hear the stories shared by each panelist who all provided different examples of how they went about solving a problem in their community, and how they ended up building the groups and coalitions needed to fight against powerful special interests for meaningful reform.

The Q & A session became a conversation between the panelists and the audience where great ideas were being brought up to help each other in their future organizing efforts.



Gladys Moreno-Fuentes, Sara Doucette, and Diane Turco, all presenting at virtual panel. Photo credit: Staff



Wayne Morrison (left) and Tom Tower with NCABC educating the public at a Patagonia store. Photo credit: Staff at NCABC

"Plan first, build sustainably," Pepperell, MA

GrowSmart Pepperell, a citizen's group, has proposed a Rate of Development Bylaw for an upcoming Fall Town Meeting in which the group is asking the town to consider the establishment of a growth management study to proactively plan future growth.

It is the hope of GrowSmart Pepperell that a growth management study will protect Pepperell's open spaces, boost climate resiliency, protect the town's water supply, establish local need for affordable housing, and consider costs of town services and infrastructure improvements (including schools) in future strategic build-out scenarios. The group is urging the town to take a holistic approach to planning growth.

GrowSmart Pepperell is working to educate Pepperell residents and maximize voter turnout to vote yes on the Rate of Development Bylaw.



Save Our Bay MA rally at Plymouth Harbor. Photo credit: Staff at Cape Downwinders



Protect the Pine Street Barge Canal, Burlington, VT

A group of Burlington residents formed a group called Friends of the Barge Canal to restore and protect the Pine Street Barge Canal.

The canal was designated for toxic waste cleanup under the Environmental Protection Agency's "Superfund" program, yet action to restore it has lagged. So Friends of the Barge Canal has organized the community to clean up the area and educate people on how to conserve and preserve the local fauna.

Community Action Works helped the group re-launch their website and streamline processes to organize events and get new information out to the community. One clean-up event in particular, organized on Vermont's GreenUp Day, drew more than 50 attendees, along with a news reporter who covered the group's efforts for a local tv station.

They are going to continue to host clean ups and educational events to engage the community. They are also organizing to pass a City Council resolution asking to have the land be permanently protected.



The Friends of the Barge Canal put up a sign mapping out the Pine Street Barge Canal for the community. Photo credit: Ruby Perry, member of the Friends of the Barge Canal

Clean up PFAS pollution, Westminster, MA

In March 2022, water test results showed that a dozen of private water wells in Westminster had PFAS levels 50 times what state regulations consider safe to drink. They also discovered at least 261 homes to be affected by high levels of PFAS. PFAS, (Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) are a group of toxic chemicals often referred to as "forever chemicals" because they persist and do not break down in the environment.

A group of residents in Westminster are organizing their community to take on multiple major adversaries, Kraft Group, Powell Gravel and Massachusetts Natural Fertilizer, who are proposing development projects in Westminster that will increase PFAS exposure to residents by drilling into PFAS contaminated wells. They are also mining on the shore of Crocker Pond and dispersing and dumping PFAS contaminated soil and fertilizer in their community.

You can hear their stories in this video created by our summer interns Audrey Brenhouse and Jordan Cutler [here](#) or at the qr code.



Anne Lutz, Westminster resident, talks about her story working to fight PFAS pollution in her neighborhood. Photo credit: Staff



Let us know if you have questions or feedback, or if you'd like to get involved. You can reach me by email at leigh-anne@communityactionworks.org or by cell at 617.721.2858.

Thank you for your help in transforming communities for the better.