Discovery: Sustainability and Resiliency

Shrewsbury Master Plan

ABOUT

Sustainability has become an increasingly important consideration across municipal operations in the Town of Shrewsbury. Climate change is creating a generally warmer and wetter environment in New England. As the effects of climate change continue to become more pronounced, issues of flooding, erosion, and cooling will demand more attention.

Shrewsbury is responding accordingly and seeking ways to improve its sustainability efforts while simultaneously enhancing and future-proofing its municipal buildings against the potential effects of climate change. The Town is taking a proactive approach to resiliency and exploring all its options to make Shrewsbury a truly green community.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS SINCE THE 2016 MASTER PLAN

✓ Adopted the All In Shrewsbury Municipal Climate Action and Resiliency Plan (MCARP) in 2023, establishing goals for clean energy, resilient operations, sustainable transportation, and natural resource protection.

✓ Expansion of EV infrastructure and public charging stations at Town Hall, Dean Park, Shrewsbury High School, Paton School, Oak Middle School, and Parker Road.

✓ The Town has reduced single-use waste through local bylaws limiting plastic checkout bags (2017) and prohibiting expanded polystyrene food-service products (2020).

✓ The Town was designated as a member of the Massachusetts Green Communities Program in 2018.

✓ In 2022, SELCO laid out their Pathway to Net Zero with the goal of increasing carbon-free power by 5% each year, until 100% net-zero in 2032. As of 2025, they are 65% carbon-free.

✓ In 2025, SELCO and the Police Department managed a project to install and maintain a new 274 kW AC rooftop and carport solar system at the Police Department building.

✓ SELCO has partnered with Solar Shepherd LLC to use sheep, rather than fossil-fuel-powered mowing, to maintain vegetation at its solar farm. Since June 2023, 35 sheep have grazed the 11.5 acre site, with six months of grazing costing about the same as one mowing.

DID YOU KNOW?

Natural gas and electricity use in Shrewsbury Public Schools account for **84%** of building-related emissions.

65% of SELCO's energy supply is carbon-free as of 2025.

Shrewsbury is a Designated member of the **Green Communities Program**

PERCENTAGE OF CARBON-FREE POWER SUPPLY FOR SHREWSBURY

