

IMPLEMENTATION

The following Implementation Table summarizes the over 230 implementing actions of the various Plan elements. Listed is a summary of each action from each Plan element, the suggested lead agency to implement the action, and the time period when the action is expected to be initiated. The primary purpose of the table is to provide an easy reference list and a sense of the timing to be used by Town staff, boards, and the responsible entities. This may be used as an annual guide to document progress in implementing the Plan. After reviewing and adopting this Plan, the Planning Board agreed to review the status and execution of these implementing actions, beginning each May and continuing through the summer months as needed depending on timing and workflow.

The columns of the Implementation Table are as follows:

- Action** The identifying number of each implementing action from each element.
- Action Summary** A brief description of the implementing action.
- Lead Agency** The suggested Town department, board, or committee that should take responsibility for implementing the action, listed in order of responsibility.
- Ongoing** The action is already in progress and/or should be done on a regular basis.
- Short Term** Expected to be initiated within two years.
- Mid Term** Expected to be initiated within three to five years.
- Long Term** Expected to be initiated after five years.
- High Priority** A major area of concern that needs implementation as soon as possible.

The challenge of addressing this demanding agenda inevitably falls most heavily on the Select Board and Planning Board and the Planning Division, but others also are called upon to do a great deal. Keeping up with the schedule will call for careful priority setting and coordination among the responsible groups.

To assure sound implementation of this broad agenda, ongoing coordination and direction will be needed. Westwood has a strong tradition of Town organizations working closely together, and now has the staff and organizational structure to make that effort work.

This list of actions reflects not only the judgement of the Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee and the Planning Board, but also the concurrence of the many organizations who reviewed and made suggestions on this Plan. Gaining that concurrence took some time but was worth pursuing. The Plan represents the collective intentions of the boards, agencies, and officials involved, as well as the broad array of citizens who participated.

The responsibility for Plan adoption lies with the Planning Board. The intention is that the Board will annually review the Implementation Table to help guide efforts over the forthcoming year. The Board will also provide each agency with a convenient format to update its progress, and to explain any departures from the implementation schedule. After the current coronavirus pandemic is stabilized the Town and Board will review and evaluate any necessary changes and re-examine priorities as needed.

Regularly plan to set aside time and resources for updates are of critical importance and are recommended for every seven to ten years. An update generally takes two years to complete, therefore, this Plan recommends beginning the update process no later than seven years from adoption or 2027. As noted in the introduction, this plan was finalized during a period of extraordinary disruption and uncertainty about future conditions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If certain changes brought about by the pandemic become long-term trends, it is possible that the Planning Board will want to revisit some of these measures in a couple years within a shorter timeframe.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION TABLE									
Action	Action Summary	Lead Agency	Ongoing	Short Term	Mid Term	Long Term	High Priority	2024 Updates	Future Recommendations
Housing									

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H12	Explore programs for energy efficient and renewable energy improvements for residence.	Select Board, WEAC			X			WEAC was instrumental in the implementation of the Community Choice Electricity (CCE) program to increase the proportion of local, renewable energy sources in the town's electrical supply. We have actively supported new solar projects initiated by the town's Energy Manager (e.g., the WHS parking lot solar canopies). We host an informational booth at Westwood Day each year.	The CCE program requires periodic renewal by the town, which WEAC will continue to monitor and participate in as necessary. WEAC will continue to advocate for solar projects in town and make efforts to educate residents about them.
Natural & Cultural Resources									
NC30	Recycling public education campaign.	Public Works, WEAC		X				<p>Recent actions by WEAC include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informational booth at Westwood Day each year • Article writing campaign to educate residents about the problem of contamination in our recycling stream • Town-wide string light recycling collection (identified as a top contaminant by DPW) • Westwood's first Repair Cafe to encourage repair and reuse of items instead of disposal and purchase of new items. (We served over 40 residents in a community-building event.) • Collaboration with New Life Furniture Bank to collect gently used furniture to be given to families in need. These items would otherwise have been collected by the DPW and sent to a landfill. (We filled a large box truck with donations.) • Printing of informational stickers to be applied to residents' recycling totes as a reminder of what can and can not be recycled (application will be ongoing throughout the year) 	<p>The string light recycling collection, Repair Cafe, and New Life Furniture Bank collaboration will recur at least yearly, if not more frequently.</p> <p>The article writing campaign will continue on an as-needed basis to inform residents about issues related to waste, recycling, reuse, etc.</p> <p>Applying stickers to the residential recycling totes in town will be a long-term project.</p> <p>Future new actions will include exploration of other special recycling collections (e.g., styrofoam, textiles, etc.), and potential collaboration</p>

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Community Facilities									
CF24	Devote staff to website updates and communications.	Town Administrator, All Depts.			X			WEAC initiated an article writing campaign to educate residents about the problem of contamination in our recycling stream. We also printed recycling barrel stickers to be distributed over the remainder of the year.	Continue as needed to educate residents about pertinent issues.
Sustainability & Resiliency									
S2	Consider climate change in all Town decisions.	Town Administrator, Select Board, All Departments	X				X	WEAC representatives attend meetings regarding energy efficiency targets for new municipal buildings (e.g., Pine Hill School), solar projects in town, electric vehicles in the municipal fleet, expansion of the charging network, etc., and advocate for these as necessary. WEAC makes efforts to educate the public on these topics, including an informational booth at Westwood Day. WEAC advocates for, and helps educate the public about, the preservation of green spaces in town (in particular the protection of Hale), as these spaces play an important role in carbon sequestration, storm management and maintaining biodiversity. They provide a place for recreation and learning.	
S6	Energy conservation and use or renewable energy in Town facilities and fleet.	Select Board, WEAC, Public Works	X	X			X	WEAC actively supports energy efficiency targets for new municipal buildings, solar projects in town, electric vehicles in the municipal fleet, expansion of the charging network, etc., and advocates for these as necessary. WEAC makes efforts to educate the public on these topics, including an informational booth at Westwood Day.	Continue as new projects arise.

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S12	Explore programs to promote and incentivize sustainability and renewable energy to residents.	Energy Manager, Select Board, WEAC		X			X	WEAC supports the residential CCE program and will continue to advocate for increasing the percentage of renewable energy content. We work to increase public awareness of the benefits of composting, which is an important way to reduce the amount of waste being sent to landfills. Our Repair Cafe and New Life Furniture Bank collaboration are aimed at promoting sustainable practices by encouraging the “reduce and reuse” mentality.	More work is needed to educate the public about the harms caused by pesticide use and the benefits of employing more sustainable gardening/landscaping practices for both pollinators and humans. Alternatives to pesticides should be explored on town-owned properties. More work is needed to educate residents about the benefits of home composting. In addition, a town-wide composting contract should be explored.
S13	Build awareness of urgency to combat climate change.	WEAC, School Dept., Energy Manager		X			X	All of WEAC’s efforts work toward this broad goal, but we also have a specific goal of educating our young people about climate issues. To that end, WEAC has partnered with, and supported the efforts of, the Westwood High School Youth Climate Action Committee (YCAC). This year, we collaborated with them to conduct a holiday string light recycling collection. We also awarded them a \$250.00 grant to engage a speaker to present about climate change at the high school. The event was very well-attended. WEAC is also considering, in conjunction with other town groups, actions to raise awareness of the threat climate change poses to bees, butterflies, and other pollinators.	Our intention is to continue to partner with the YCAC on recycling collections (string lights, textiles, etc.) and other similar events. We intend to provide the YCAC with funding for their speaker event each year. We would like to explore other ideas for educating younger students in the district on a variety of climate-related topics (recycling, reusing, supporting pollinators, etc.).
S15	Promote residential solar use.	Energy Manager, WEAC	X	X			X	In recent years, WEAC suggested changes to existing ground mounted solar zoning regulations in order to make the installation of such projects easier for residents. The Planning Board approved these changes.	More public education about the benefits of residential solar panels is needed. WEAC can include this in its information campaign (primarily articles in local news sources).
S22	Partner with DWWD to promote water conservation measures.	DWWD, WEAC	X		X			No current projects in this area.	WEAC will connect with DWWD to identify areas where it can assist.
R1	Develop Climate Action Resiliency Plan	Select Board, Fire, Health, Public Works, Conservation, WEAC		X			X	WEAC has actively participated in meetings and information gathering by the Town Planner’s office to lay the groundwork for a Sustainability and Resiliency Plan for Westwood.	WEAC will continue to participate in the development and implementation of the plan.

