



CREATING A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY

Sustainable Weston Action Group ("SWAG")

October 2nd, 2019 | Weston High School | Contemporary World Issues



Agenda

1. Sustainability and Climate Change
2. Tips on decreasing your carbon footprint
3. Local action: the Sustainable Weston Action Group (SWAG)



Sustainability Kickstarter



Sustainability: a definition

“Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”

– Brundtland Commission, 1987

“Our Common Future”

Report to the United Nations General Assembly



Sustainable development is three dimensional

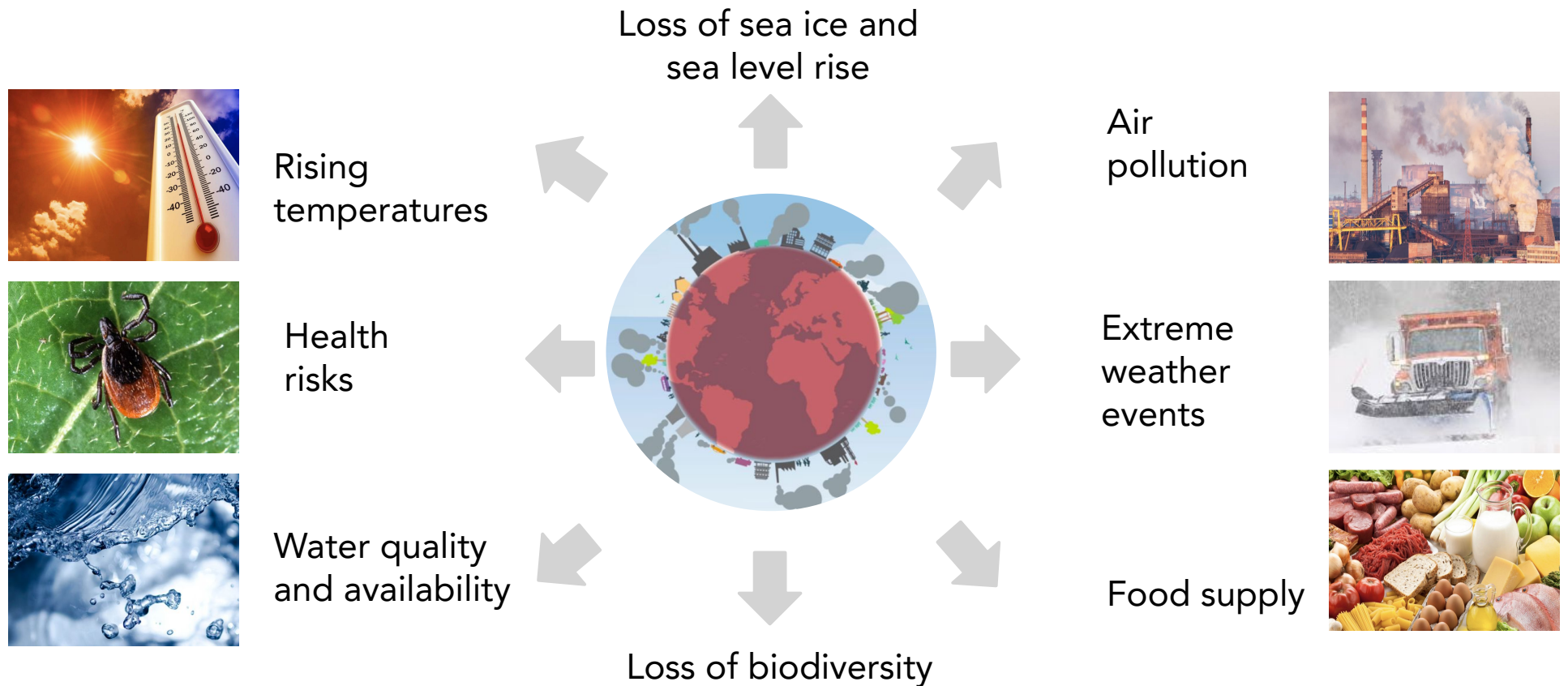


Sustainable development:

- Improves **economic** livelihood
- Ensures **social** well-being
- Protects the **environment**



Climate change adds significant challenges to all three dimensions of sustainability

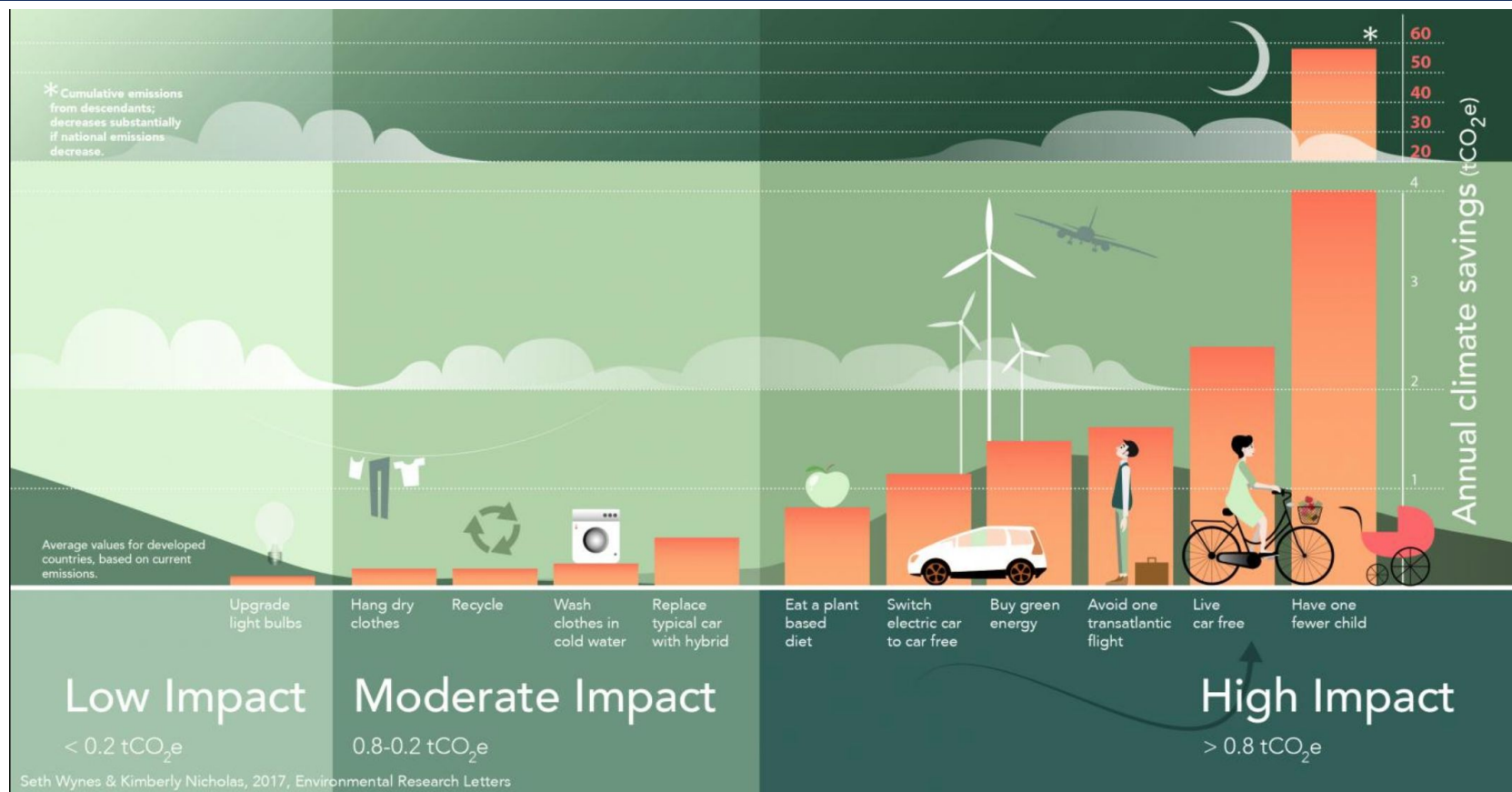


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Personal choices that help to reduce your contribution to climate change



What can you do? Ten ways you can take action today!

TRANSPORTATION

- Consider walking, biking, or public transportation instead of driving a car
- If you need to drive, consider carpooling
- Avoid idling when you can
- Reduce airplane flights when possible

DIET

- Eat a more plant based diet
- Eat local and organic if possible
- Drink tap water

ENERGY/WATER USE

- Unplug devices and Turn off the TV, lights, computer and printers when not in use
- Wear an extra sweater instead of turning up the thermostat
- Take 5 min showers

WASTE

- Buy less
- Recycle
- Compost
- Refill and reuse
- Zero waste fashion
- Say no to single-use plastics: straws, water bottles, plastic bags



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Weston had made some great progress already

- but there is always more work to be done

Policy	Governance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2005 Environmental Policy • 2007 Preferable Procurement Policy • 2011 Green Community Designation • 2011 Stretch Energy Code • 2011 Renewable Energy Overlay District: zoning & planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011-17 Environmental Baseline Committee • 2011-17 Solar PV Panels Exploratory Committee • 2016 PTO Green Chairs • Facilities (energy efficiency); DPW (recycling); Land Use • Planning Board, Buildings, Community Preservation Committee, Conservation, Recreation, Forest & Trails, Tree Advisory, Traffic & Sidewalk, Stormwater, Rail Trail, Sustainability Committee
Savings & Grants	Citizen Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2011-17 Municipal energy consumption: 15.7% reduction ~ \$650K • 2011-17 Fuel efficient municipal vehicles: 19.2% energy savings • 2017 Solar PV energy generated = \$345K: 14% of total energy use • 2011-17 Green Community Grants = \$380K • 2019 Municipal Vulnerability Planning Grant = \$26K 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land's Sake community farm, environmental education • 2013 Weston Climate Group: Home Energy Assessment Campaign – 392 home assessments done (goal 300) • 2013-16 Recycling rate (excl. yard waste) risen 2% • 2017 Plastic Bag Ban • 2019 Gas Leaks Study • 2019 Community Choice Aggregation - vote at Town Meeting

Meet the Sustainable Weston Action Group (“SWAG”)



Educate. Initiate. Collaborate



SWAG's Vision and Mission

Vision

A sustainable and healthy town of Weston, with engaged citizens committed to a thriving community, today and in the future.

Mission

To amplify discussion and inspire effective action on sustainability issues in the town of Weston, SWAG will:

- Focus** on awareness and education
- Lead** community-based, pragmatic, collaborative actions
- Encourage and support** municipal, business and residential cooperation



SWAG's accomplishments and current campaigns



Established the town's Sustainability Committee



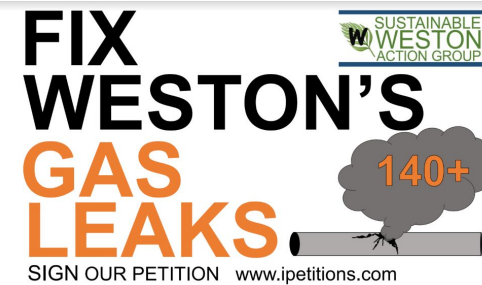
Thank you bfast for DPW



Presented with other groups



Annual town-wide spring clean up



Campaign 2018/19:
Fix the Gas Leaks



Campaign 2019/20:
Community Choice Aggregation



Weston's new Sustainability Committee kicked off in November 2018

Committee Charge

Ensure that sustainability issues and opportunities in Weston are proactively managed by recommending, developing and monitoring programs designed to enhance Weston's long-term sustainability and resilience in response to environmental, resource and energy challenges.

- Establish sustainability goals
- Develop programs required to meet these goals
- Measure effectiveness of sustainability programs
- Resource for the Selectmen and Town departments
- Educate and raise awareness
- Work with other town departments on sustainability issues
- Stay abreast of state and local issues
- Seek and obtain grants and funding to support sustainability initiatives



Inspired? Follow us, reach out and volunteer with SWAG!

How YOU can contribute to a more sustainable Weston:



- **Know** what's going on, **follow SWAG** on social media:
 -  Friends of Sustainable Weston
 -  @Weston_SWAG
 -  @sustainablewestonactiongroup
- **Volunteer** with SWAG: campaigns, annual events, education & outreach, website
- **Vote** at Town Meeting (18+)
- **Identify** new issues/actions
- **Share** your feedback and ideas! **Email us:** sustainablewestonactiongroup@gmail.com
- **Spread** the word!

Q&A



Friends of Sustainable Weston



@Weston_SWAG



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