



City of Biddeford Sustainability Commission

August 4, 2025 at 5:30 PM

City Hall Second Floor Conference Room & Zoom

[Join Zoom Meeting Online](#)

Or call in by phone: +1 312 626 6799

Meeting ID: 947 7299 6129

Passcode: 400260

1. Declaration of Quorum/Voting Members
2. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - 2.a Approval of meeting minutes from July 21, 2025
3. New Business
 - 3.a Scott Clemons-Baker GHG Emission Inventory Results
 - 3.b Update from SMPDC
 - 3.c Update to Council-meeting postponed until fall
4. Adjourn

DRAFT by Jeff Goldsmith

Sustainability Commission of Biddeford Minutes

7/21/25

Brad Favreau, Jeff Goldsmith, Joie Grandbois, Patrick Conlon

Visitors x 2

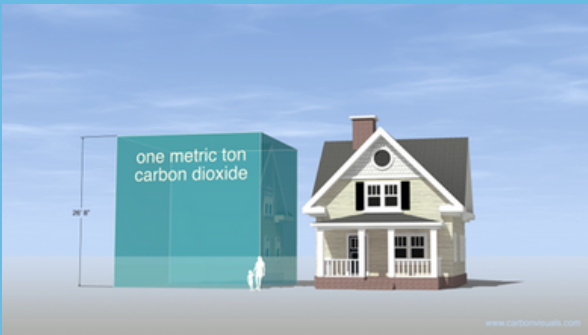
There is no quorum so this meeting is a discussion without a vote.

1. We discussed losing the project to design nature-based solutions for the beach at Boucher Park in Biddeford Pool.
2. Ester Brown was going to come to the Commission and discuss a project referred to as Fix-it Fair but cancelled at the last minute.
3. Those in attendance agreed not to discuss the Landscaping Ordinance draft because its author wasn't present.
4. The Heart of Biddeford requested that the Commission support a service to recycle food waste at River Jam and educate about food waste at River Jam 8/16/25. The commissioners present agreed to give something but wanted more details about the educational piece of this service. The Commission doesn't have a big budget for fiscal 2026 and there has been no discussion about how to spend it. Brad will get more details on the request for the next Commission meeting 8/4.
5. 8/19/25 is the proposed opportunity for the Sustainability Commission to present its 2025 action to City Council. We will make a complete list of all our work to present and have commissioners resent these works. There was a discussion of the actions taken in fiscal 2025.
6. Including City Hall artwork in the Art Walk events will probably be dropped because access to the building is not easy to manage in the evening.
7. River Jam is happening Saturday, 8j/16/25, in the afternoon. The Sustainability Commission needs volunteers to manage the table exhibit there.
8. There was a long discussion about the Community Action Grants that are due the end of August. From the list of topics proposed by the Community Action Grants committee, four topics were noted that were consistent with the Biddeford Climate Action Plan. Brad noted that this grant does encourage inter-community collaboration, viz., Biddeford and Saco. The 4 topics are:
 - a. bicycle/pedestrian plans,
 - b. energy audits of municipal buildings,
 - c. downtown tree-planting to provide shade and less heat,
 - d. developing a Farmers Market for 2026.

9. The discussion suggested we negotiate a project with Saco to make a collaborative bicycle/pedestrian plan and submit it for a grant. It was also suggested that we negotiate with Saco to implement a collaborative tree-planting grant for next year. Brad said that communities can submit one grant per year.
10. There was discussion about the speed bump on Rte 1 in Saco near Walgreens. Patrick is going to discuss with Saco authorities how to move the barriers that interrupt the bicycle lanes and made it unsafe.

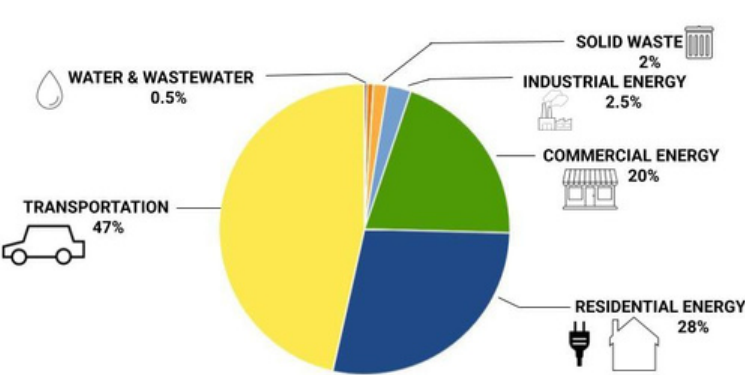
Biddeford's Greenhouse Gas Emissions

What is a
metric ton of
*CO₂e?

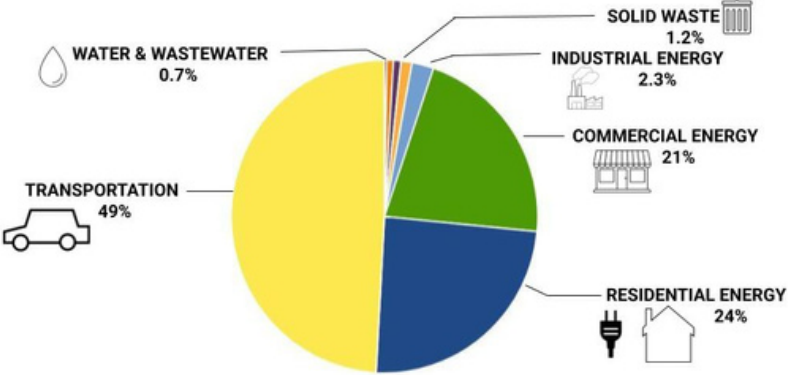


*Carbon dioxide equivalent:
a measure used to compare
the emissions from various
GHGs based on their
global-warming potential.
This includes CO₂, N₂O, and
CH₄

2019 Community Inventory 2023

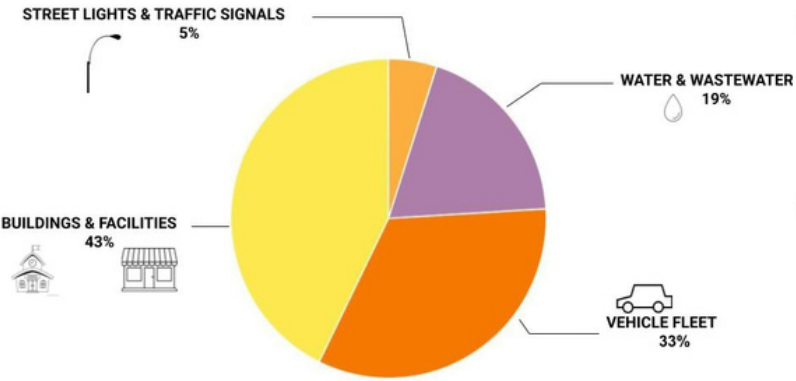


240,000
MtCO₂e

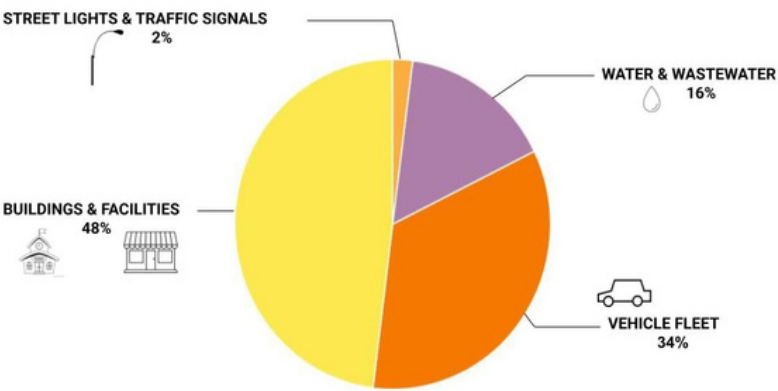


258,000
MtCO₂e

2019 Government Inventory 2023



5,682
MtCO₂e



5,992
MtCO₂e

SMPDC 2025 Needs Assessment – Biddeford: Brad Favreau, Economic Development Coordinator, and Will Kochtitzky, Sustainability Commission

Resilience Priorities and Challenges

1. What resilience-based projects are you currently working on or planning to work on in the next three years?
 - a. *If none are planned or active, what are some of your community's climate-related priorities?*
 - b. *Are there other climate priorities in your community that you're not currently addressing but would like to address in the future?*

- High on priority list: bike-pedestrian plan. Trying to loop in Saco so that it can be two communities. Discussed with Bicycle Coalition of Maine, did a bike audit, have heard from MDOT that it would be much easier to get funding if two cities did plan together.
- Landscape plan for Biddeford (requiring landscaping for new development). Currently this has narrow focus, but eventually would like to explore how to get more vegetation into urban areas.
- Beneficial Electrification
 - Draft solar ordinance – hopefully being considered by council soon
 - Draft EV charging ordinance (based on Scarborough and SMPDC ordinance)
 - Would require new parking to be electrified
- Coastal resilience – how to support coastal community in light of big storms
 - Saco/Biddeford worked with YCEMA on CAG for Dunes, but only a drop in the bucket of what they need
- GHG inventory for the City, currently conducting
- On our radar: Local food production, working with Heart of Biddeford on pilot farmers market, has been successful so both producers and communities want to extend it. Looking for funding farmers market next season.
- On our radar: Conducting energy audits for municipal buildings.
- On our radar: Tree planting downtown

2. For your past and current resilience projects, what were some of the challenges your town faced in planning and executing the projects?
 - a. *For example, funding, staffing, community engagement, technical expertise, regulatory hurdles, political will, identifying funding/managing funds once received?*

Funding, staffing, technical expertise, public engagement/getting the community (including elected officials) excited about the work they are doing.

Attention at City Hall has been elsewhere, especially with changing city manager, hard to get policy in front of decision makers, part of the capacity problem.

Staff turnover, so lots of capacity issues.

3. Is there any sort of support SMPDC could have provided to help address these challenges?
- a. Options include things like grant writing support, trainings, project administration and management support, consultant procurement and management, etc.*

Any help we can offer as we've done in the past with helping write grants, help identifying energy auditing firms, sharing what other communities are doing, clearing house for exchange of ideas.

Trainings and Resources

4. What skills or knowledge are you interested in building or strengthening to increase your capacity for resilience work?
- a. These could be either topic-based assistance on things like nature-based solutions and climate action planning or technical assistance on administrative activities like grant writing, community engagement, and regulatory updates.*

Provide more education on coastal issues – how to move forward on the coast. Dunes, NBS, engineered beaches, what might be expected over the next 10-20 years?

Public engagement – we're just not quite doing it enough/effectively

How to identify the best lever to make the change, know they want to make progress on the bike, ped plan, but not sure how – ie project scoping support

Funding, but also what can they do without funding, creative funding ideas (i.e. beach fee)

5. What types of trainings, workshops, and other regional coordinator assistance meetings are the most helpful and accessible for you and other town personnel?
- a. In-person workshops or meetings, virtual trainings, peer-to-peer learning with other communities, case study, subject matter expert presentations, others?*

Virtual materials are convenient, although Brad is a strong proponent of in-person workshops and seminars allow for better change of ideas. Support for climate action workshop again. Brad likes the idea of short hits, shorter meetings, mini seminars.

6. What type of information or communication would you like to see more of from SMPDC as your CRP Regional Coordinator?
- a. Upcoming grant opportunities, identifying funding, projects in the region, updates on relevant state policy?*

Grant opportunities are always great. Target emails to communities about resources (i.e., community-specific, not general). Like the one-on-one communication like this meeting today.

Collaboration and Engagement

7. Who are the key partners and collaborators that you want to work with on resilience projects?
 - a. *What are some ways that SMPDC could help connect your community with others working on similar projects and priorities?*

Inside the community: Heart of Biddeford, Biddeford Community Gardens, MacArthur Library, UNE

Outside the community: YCEMA, City of Saco, Bicycle Coalition of Maine, Maine DOT, SMPDC, private solar developers and land developers, Pierson nurseries

8. What are some ways that SMPDC could help engage residents and stakeholders in resilience efforts in your town?
 - a. *What formats for trainings and workshops are most accessible to people in your community?*

Having template materials, infographics, handouts, etc. to communicate what we're doing and why we're doing it.

Most of the climate-related community engagement is tabling. Reach a lot more people than they would at a workshop. Also have a newsletter they send out monthly.

Others:

- More of one-on-one calls, touching base is very helpful.

Follow up:

- Energy Auditing firms,
- Biddeford CAGs
- UNE Climate Action Workshop