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SUSTAINABILITY NEWSLETTER

Livable Nashua

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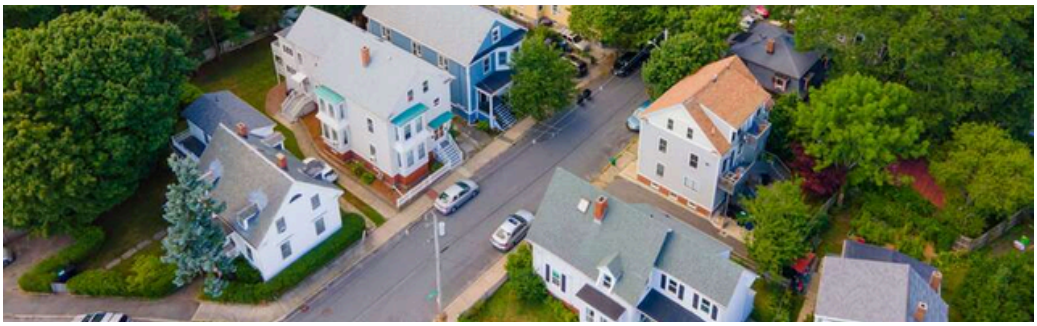
APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR LIVABLE NASHUA ENERGY COACHING PROGRAM EXTENDED!



Nashua residents looking to cut utility costs and make their homes more energy-efficient have extra time to apply for the city's Pilot Energy Coaching Program. City officials and program organizers announced that the application period has been **extended through the end of October (October 31st)**, giving homeowners additional time to sign up for free energy assessments and expert guidance.

Offered through Livable Nashua in partnership with NHSaves Utility Partners and the Resilient Buildings Group (RBG), the initiative is designed to help local residents navigate home energy efficiency projects from start to finish at no initial cost.

Participants in the pilot program gain access to a comprehensive suite of benefits, including:

- **Free Home Energy Coaching**
- **Profesional Home Energy Assessment**
- **Personalized Recommendations**
- **Rebates & Financial Assistance**
- **Educational Workshops**

"Navigating energy upgrades, incentives, and rebates can often feel overwhelming," program organizers noted. The coaching program aims to streamline that process, helping residents upgrade heating, cooling, and insulation systems while maximizing financial support.

How to Apply:

Attend the in-person signup event that will be held at the **Nashua Public Library** on **Saturday, October 17th**, from **10:00 AM to 12:00 PM**. Representatives will be on-site to help community members take the eligibility survey, ask questions, and register for free energy audits.

Or apply by taking a quick online survey to confirm eligibility for the pilot coaching program and schedule a free home energy audit. The survey can be accessed by scanning the QR code on program flyers distributed across the city or by visiting the Livable Nashua portal online.

Livable Nashua Energy Coaching Program

Volunteer for Project COZY's Build Event This November

As winter approaches, Nashua residents have an impactful way to champion local sustainability, support their neighbors, and help reduce carbon emissions, all at the same time.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Nashua (UU Nashua) has partnered with New England nonprofit WindowDressers to bring Project COZY to our community. Together, volunteers will gather to assemble custom, insulating interior window inserts designed to stop cold drafts, improve home comfort, and significantly lower winter heating costs.

How It Works & Why It Matters

Windows are a major source of heat loss in older homes. Project COZY's pine-framed, double-sealed window inserts function like custom interior storm windows, reducing fuel consumption and cutting heat loss without requiring any permanent alterations or drilling. By helping neighbors keep their homes warmer with less energy, Project COZY directly addresses both energy poverty and climate impacts in Greater Nashua.

Get Involved: November 5–11, 2026

The Nashua Area Community Build Event will take place from November 5 through November 11, 2026.

To make this hands-on, community-driven effort a success, volunteer teams are forming now. No prior experience or technical skill is required. Every build session is a collaborative, side-by-side effort where neighbors work together, learn simple assembly skills, and build a more sustainable community step-by-step.

Whether you can give a few hours or a couple of days, your time will directly help local families and low-income households stay warm this winter while reducing overall energy demand.

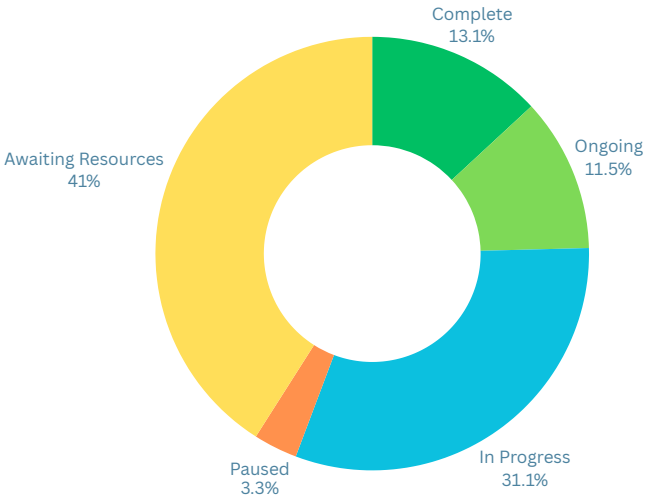
- When: November 5–11, 2026
- Where: UU Church of Nashua

Register for a Volunteer Time Slot

Did You Know?

During El Niño climate events, warmer waters in the central and eastern Pacific result in strong vertical wind shear across the Atlantic Basin, which tears apart developing tropical storms before they can strengthen. This year's exceptionally powerful "super" El Niño has amplified that effect to an unprecedented degree. As a result, the Atlantic basin has experienced a remarkably dormant hurricane season, with its first and only hurricane so far, Hurricane Isaias, forming on October 8th.

Tracking Progress: An Update on the Livable Nashua Plan



Thanks to the dedication of city staff, local organizations, and engaged residents, we've already completed or have begun making progress on over half of the 61 actions listed in the Livable Nashua plan. Nearly two dozen actions are actively underway, ranging from updating our Land Use Code to encourage renewable energy and energy-efficient building designs, and expanding EV charging. Key completed actions from the past year include launching an energy coaching program, hosting community workshops to encourage electric vehicle adoption, and expanding micromobility options to encourage active modes of transportation.

While we have much to celebrate, 25 actions are currently awaiting resources—highlighting future opportunities for grants, funding, partnerships, and community involvement. As we continue to check off milestones and adapt our strategies, community participation remains our most valuable asset.

Explore the Liveable Nashua Action Tracker

City Hall Milestone: Over 23,000 Plastic Bottles Saved!

Since the installation of bottle-refill fountains at Nashua City Hall on December 21, 2022, staff and visitors have made an amazing dent in single-use plastic waste. Together, we have officially surpassed 23,000 plastic bottles saved from landfills! That is the equivalent of preventing 3.25 tons of CO_2 emissions.*

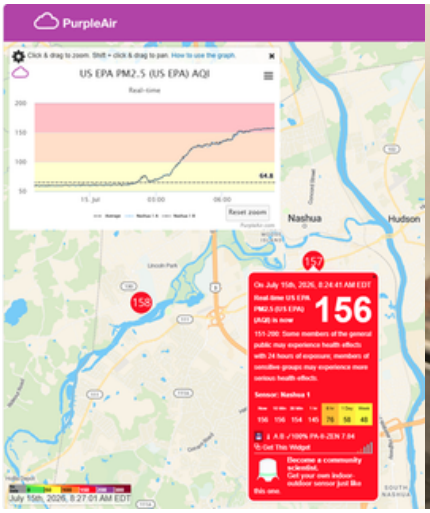
The breakdown across City Hall:

- 1st Floor: 12,646 bottles
- 2nd Floor: 3,067 bottles
- 3rd Floor: 7,373 bottles
- **Total Saved: 23,086 bottles**

Every refill counts toward a cleaner, greener community. Thank you for bringing your reusable bottles and doing your part to protect our local environment!

* Source: https://wastebits.com/co2-calc

Regional Wildfire Smoke Triggers "Unhealthy" Air Quality Alert Across Local Sensors



On the morning of July 15, local air quality sensors recorded a surge in fine particulate matter (PM2.5) across the area, driving the Air Quality Index (AQI) into the red "Unhealthy" tier. At around 8:25 AM EDT on July 15, real-time data from local PurpleAir monitoring stations showed AQI levels rising past 150, peaking at 158. At these levels (151–200 AQI), members of the general public may begin experiencing mild health effects, while sensitive groups – such as children, older adults, and those with respiratory or cardiovascular conditions – are at higher risk for more severe impacts.

The degraded air quality was caused by a broad plume of wildfire smoke originating from a series of active fires in western Ontario, Canada. Prevailing weather patterns carried the smoke hundreds of miles southwest, demonstrating how regional events directly impact our local air shed.

Key Tips for Future Smoke Events:

- Monitor real-time AQI using AirNow or PurpleAir.
- Limit outdoor exertion when AQI reaches the “unhealthy” (red) zone.
- Keep windows closed and use HEPA air purifiers to maintain clean indoor air.

Protecting Nashua's Urban Wildlife Sanctuary at Joyce Park

Tucked away in the middle of the city, Joyce Park Wildlife Sanctuary serves as a vital natural oasis for local plants and animals. Volunteers recently gathered at the conservation area for a habitat restoration workday organized and led by the Nashua Conservation Commission to help maintain this urban haven.

The crew focused on clearing litter and removing two particularly damaging invasive species along the trail: oriental bittersweet, a heavy vine that girdles and kills native trees, and black swallow-wort, an invasive vine that smothers surrounding vegetation and poses a lethal trap for monarch butterfly caterpillars.

Visitors looking to explore the sanctuary can access the trail via Ingalls Street, where a new parking area and informational kiosk are located.

To get involved in future cleanups and help steward Nashua's green spaces, visit the Nashua Conservation Commission website.

Nashua Conservation Commission

Opportunities to Serve: Nashua Environment and Energy Committee and Conservation Commission Looking for Members

Are you looking to make a direct impact on the future of local sustainability and conservation? The City of Nashua is actively seeking dedicated community members to join the Environment and Energy Committee or the Conservation Commission. Serving on these advisory bodies offers a hands-on opportunity to help guide local climate action, shape municipal energy policies, protect natural habitats, and preserve public open spaces for years to come. Whether you bring background expertise in environmental science or simply a strong passion for a greener Nashua, your perspective and time can make a tangible difference. Visit the City of Nashua website today to learn more about current open seats and how to apply.