

# Green COMMONS

A catalogue of sustainability initiatives  
in Lawrence, Massachusetts

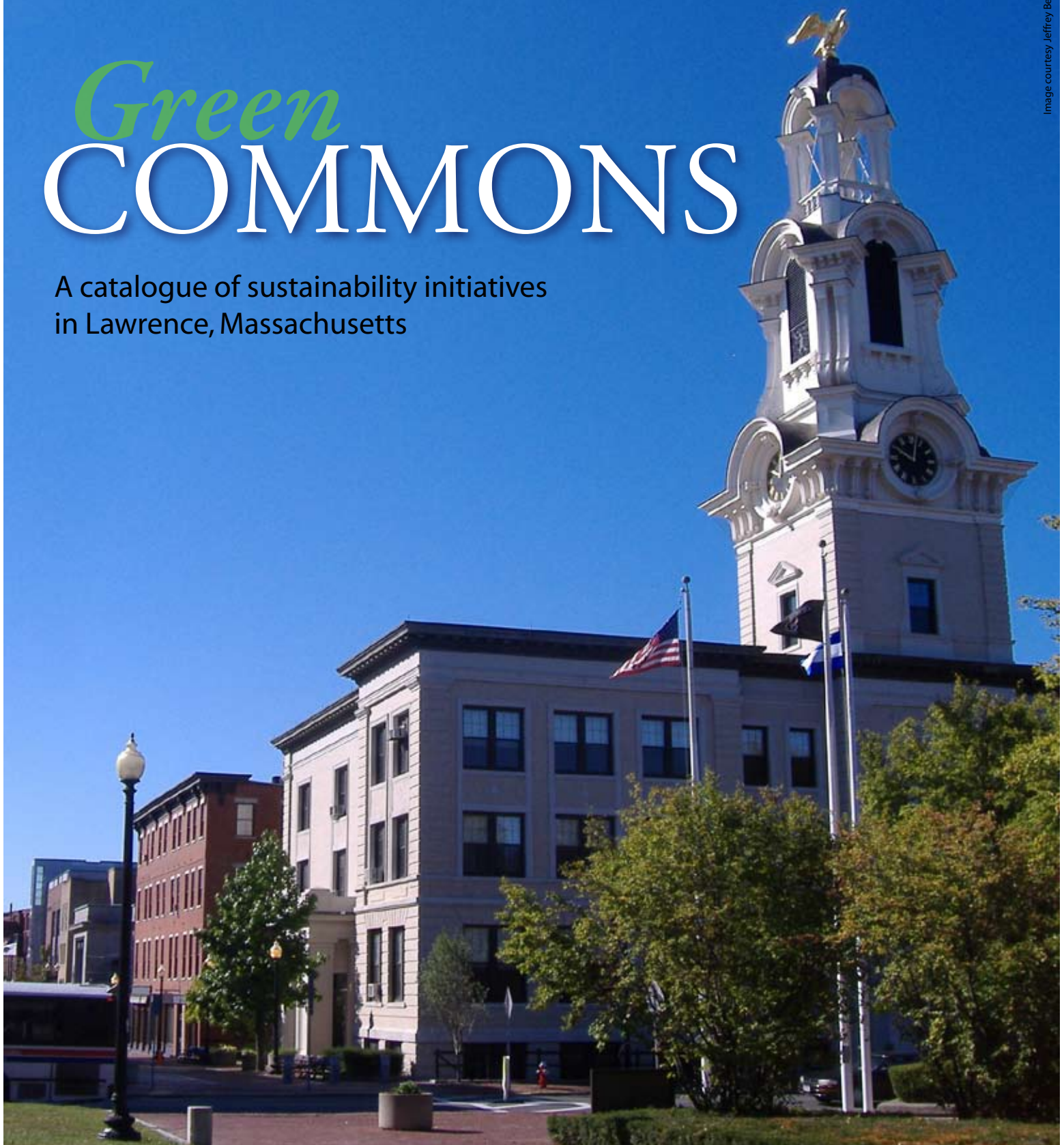


Image courtesy Jeffrey Beam

A PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN

Community Development Department



City of Lawrence  
Michael J. Sullivan, Mayor

MIT @ Lawrence

# The Greening of Lawrence

is not just for St. Patrick's Day anymore. Start-up companies as well as established leaders in the green building and renewable energy fields are rooted here along the Merrimack. The green movement has influenced everything in the City from affordable housing, to high tech renovations of our storied mills, to new park and open space design. To provide leadership and leverage for this green movement, the Mayor has established a Green Team with leaders from UMass Lowell and city planning officials who will be creating new policies and programs to support green initiatives.

The City's has placed a high priority on improving and increasing quality parks and open space in the community, as well as encouraging green building and businesses. A green community is a healthier, more enjoyable community, with increased efficiency, cost savings and job opportunities in a growing and sustainable field. So when you want to find a community on the leading edge of green industry, take a good look at Lawrence; you're going to love what you see.

For more information on the Greening of Lawrence, contact the City of Lawrence: (978) 620-3510 or [www.cityoflawrence.com](http://www.cityoflawrence.com).

## Public Sector Initiatives

### Mayor's Green Building Initiative (Green Team)

A mission to promote and advocate for green design, construction, and development practices through research, identification, and implementation of policies, programs, and education that will increase sustainability and reduce environmental impacts of building activity (Planning Department, (978) 620-3500)

### Mayor's Health Task Force

A broad base collaborative of health care, social services providers, environmental groups, academic institutions, local businesses, and city planners; mission is to "develop healthy public policies and activities that accommodate the changing conditions of the total community, and promotes improvement in the quality of life of its citizens"; five different initiatives: career disparities, new research, men's and women's health, youth department, and mental health services (Community Development Department, (978) 620-3510)

### Smart Growth Leadership Initiative

Selected as one of nine communities to participate in the 2004 Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program, a pilot program designed to provide communities with expert technical assistance to carry out Smart Growth reforms (Planning Department, (978) 620-3500)

## Green Building Projects

### Union Crossing

Redevelopment project that will transform a complex of mills into a new neighborhood, bringing investment, housing, and jobs to the city's historic center; utilizes an array of green building techniques, asset-building strategies for residents, opportunities for local businesses, and partnerships to increase affordability, sustainability, health, and economic development (Lawrence Community Works, [www.lcworks.org](http://www.lcworks.org))

### Scarito Homes

Ten units of affordable housing, available by lottery to low income residents that are Energy Star certified and powered with solar photovoltaic panels (Lawrence Community Works, [www.lcworks.org](http://www.lcworks.org))

### Our House



Photo courtesy Danielle Martin

### Allied Health and Technology Center

Part of Northern Essex Community College's expansion, a design and construction effort that will result in Lawrence's first LEED Silver Certified building by the US Green Building Council upon completion

### Our House

A 10,700 s.f. rehabilitation project creating a Center for Design and Technology as a community educational and economic development resource center with programs for families; aiming for LEED Gold Certification; includes 8 kW of photovoltaics, providing 16.5% of its electricity supply, with energy efficiency measures reducing heating needs by 86% and overall energy needs by 47% (Lawrence Community Works, [www.lcworks.org](http://www.lcworks.org))

### Powerhouse/ Powerpod

Design, engineering and marketing services for green modular housing; incorporating green materials, energy conservation and renewable energy production (Quincy Vale, [Vale@PowerHouse-Enterprises.com](mailto:Vale@PowerHouse-Enterprises.com))

## Riverwalk Properties

Adaptive reuse of complex of mill buildings, including installation of 121 kilowatt, 392 solar panel PV array funded partly by a \$500,000 grant from MTC's Renewable Energy Trust (Tom Parker, Chief Operating Officer, (978) 691-7777)



Photo courtesy Solar Works, Inc.

## Monarch on the Merrimack

Three phase adaptive reuse of 1.3M square foot 1906 Wood Mill building into residential loft units and office space; marketed as "New England's largest eco-friendly residential development"; incorporates geothermal heat exchange system, energy-efficient fixtures and appliances, renewable materials, roof garden, and is across the street from commuter rail connection to Boston (Shaw Rosen, Chief Operating Officer, (978) 683-2901)

## Green Industry

### Enel North America Hydroelectric

15 MW project located along the Merrimack River at the south end of the Great Stone Dam; placed into operation in 1981 for \$28M; plant generates enough power to electrify over 10,000 average New England households annually; owned by the Essex Company and Lawrence Hydroelectric Associates, Inc., subsidiaries of Enel North America ((978) 681-1900 or [www.enel.it/northamerica/](http://www.enel.it/northamerica/))

### Solectria Renewables

Founded in 2005 as a spin-off from Solectria Corporation; 100% focus and dedication to renewable energy for a sustainable future; parent company develops and manufactures a wide range of energy management components for automotive, power generation, and other industrial applications (James Worden, Chief Executive Officer, (978) 683-9700 or [www.solren.com](http://www.solren.com))

### Clivus Multrum, Inc. Composting Toilets/ Greywater Irrigation

Designs, manufactures, and sells composting toilets and greywater irrigation systems with the aim of conserving water and keeping nutrients in human waste from becoming a source of pollution (Clivus Multrum NE Representative, (978) 794-9400 or [forinfo@clivusmultrum.com](mailto:forinfo@clivusmultrum.com))

### Building Materials Reuse Center

A pilot program focused on construction and demolition waste diversion; partially built on the model used by the successful Boston Building Materials Resource Center (BMRC) in Roxbury, MA; Lawrence and surrounding communities donated materials to the center (reducing their waste stream), and homeowners from regional communities who could benefit from the unique and reduced cost supplies (Community Development Department, (978) 620-3510)

## Parks and Open Space

### Merrimack Riverwalk

A 1.3-mile pedestrian walkway along the southern bank of the Merrimack River; will be part of DCR's state park system and will provide a tremendous new amenity for residents, employees and visitors to the city (Planning Department, (978) 620-3500)

### Scarito Park (Brook Street Park)

Begun in fall 2005, a former mill/ laundry facility on a brownfield was converted to a neighborhood park; 1,400 cubic yards of contaminated soil, two concrete tanks, and building foundations were removed; now part of the City of Lawrence park system, includes playgrounds, picnic facilities, paths, courts and community gardens; first new park to be completed as part of the Spicket River Greenway (Community Development Department, (978) 620-3510 & Groundwork Lawrence, [www.groundworklawrence.com](http://www.groundworklawrence.com))



photo courtesy Groundwork Lawrence

### Arlington Neighborhood Park

A new one-acre green space along the Spicket River adjacent to Central Catholic HS. providing needed open space for local residents while helping to absorb storm water and minimizing the impact of chronic flooding in the surrounding neighborhood (Community Development Department & Planning Department, (978) 620-3500)

### Covanta Park

In 2006, the City received \$75,000 from EOEEA to examine the feasibility of remediating the 5-acre Covanta brownfield site and complete final design plans for a new park to serve as another Spicket River Greenway anchor park. abutting Stevens Pond and the Malden Mills property in the Arlington neighborhood. Oversight of brownfields remediation on the Covanta parcel was provided by Mass DEP (Community Development Department & Planning Department, (978) 620-3500)



photo courtesy Groundwork Lawrence

### Den Rock Park

120 acre wooded preserve on Shawsheen River, owned jointly by the City of Lawrence and the Town of Andover; Significant improvements made in last five years include trail maintenance, signage, interpretive signage, viewing platform at beaver dam, promotional/educational materials, and visitor parking (Planning Department, (978) 620-3500)

### Misserville Skate Park

Developed through a community-based process involving local teens and skateboard enthusiasts, the renovated park includes community garden beds for student use as an outdoor classroom, a grassy field, an artificial turf field, a basketball court, trees, trash receptacles, and a state-of-the-art skate park (Community Development Department, (978) 620-3510 & Groundwork Lawrence, www.groundworklawrence.com)

### Oxford Mills EPA Cleanup Grant

EPA brownfields cleanup grant (\$200k for hazardous substances). Grant funds will be used to clean up the 2.8-acre former Oxford Mill property at 21 Canal Street. The site is known to have been contaminated with heavy metals and PCBs. Funds also will be used to conduct community outreach (Planning Department, (978) 620-3500)

## Green Programs

### Community Supported Agriculture

A partnership with "Farmer Dave" to ensure that healthy, affordable, locally grown produce is available and locally distributed to Lawrence residents and that local agriculture business is supplied with steady, reliable income (Groundwork Lawrence, www.groundworklawrence.com or (978) 974-0770)

### Green Industry Career Pathways Project

Project focused on building sustainable construction knowledge and techniques in YouthBuild participants to prepare them to take advantage of emerging green construction industry and to add sustainable features to GreenBuild constructed houses (YouthBuild Lawrence, www.lawrenceyouth.com)

### Groundwork Green Team

A group of Lawrence teens who are engaged in the environment and taking a leadership role in their community to help change the way residents of the City look at and interact with their environment; year-round program integrates service-learning projects, leadership training, classroom and field-based environmental studies, and mentorship with younger students (Groundwork Lawrence, www.groundworklawrence.com or (978) 974-0770)

### Innovation Valley Initiative

A visioning initiative focused on showcasing innovation in the Merrimack Valley as a model of economic development (www.ivalley.org)

### EPA Brownfields Assessment Grant

EPA brownfields assessment grants (\$200k for hazardous substances, \$200k for petroleum); Hazardous substances grant funds used to perform Phase I and II environmental site assessments. Petroleum grant funds will be used to perform ten Phase I and six Phase II environmental site assessments. Both funds will be used to conduct community outreach activities in neighborhoods throughout the city (Planning Department, (978) 620-3500)

### Eat Right, Move More

An afterschool pilot program, sponsored by a Department of Public Health grant; engages sixth graders in the importance of healthy food choices and physical activity; activities includes cultivating fresh food in school yard gardens and conducting a walking audit (Groundwork Lawrence, www.groundworklawrence.com or (978) 974-0770)



photo courtesy Groundwork Lawrence

## Regional and Institutional Initiatives

**Merrimack Valley Economic Development** Clean Technology and Alternative Energy Initiative

**Cambridge College** Green Chemistry Program

**MIT@Lawrence** Green Workforce Development Program

**Northern Essex Community College** Laboratory of Science Program