

Define and publicize “Sustainability” in the context of current town operations.

The official United States government definition of sustainability is as follows:

“Sustainability is everything that we need for our survival and well-being depends...on our natural environment. Sustainability creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist...fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations.”

In Exeter, this means addressing the many urgent climate and environmental priorities cited in the Master Plan and raised by citizens, including:

- Climate change impacts – while rapidly reducing our emissions, we must simultaneously mitigate for impacts already occurring and increasing, including sea level rise, flooding, changing precipitation patterns, impacts on agriculture, etc. This means incorporating new ways of operating from the macro to micro levels
- Pollution – visible and invisible – on land, and within our rivers, tributaries and estuary, including plastics, trash, toxic chemicals/pesticides, fertilizers, etc.
- Water quality – for drinking, for wildlife, and for a healthy estuary that supports healthy marine ecosystems
- Air quality
- Maintaining and monitoring open spaces, conservation land, wetlands
- Sense of community – safe, walkable, bikeable, equitable, supportive of arts, music, local business, and a diverse inter-generational citizenry