

Welcome!

*Thank you for helping create the
new Comprehensive Plan for
your city!*

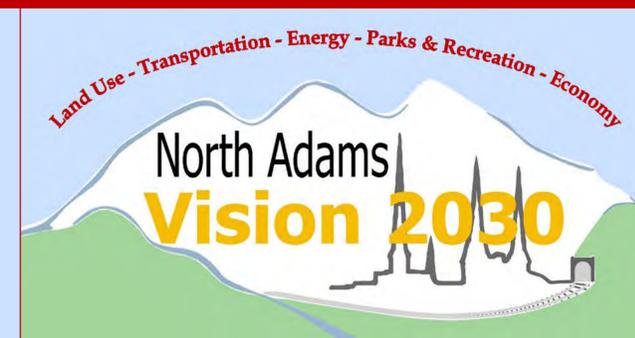
Agenda

1. Open House 7-7:30 PM
2. Presentation with Q&A 7:30-8 PM
3. Small Group Session 8-8:45 PM
4. Wrap-up 8:45-9 PM

A stylized graphic of a mountain range with a town silhouette at its base. The mountain peaks are white with a blue outline, set against a light blue sky. The town is represented by black outlines of buildings and a road. The foreground consists of green hills and a blue river winding through them.

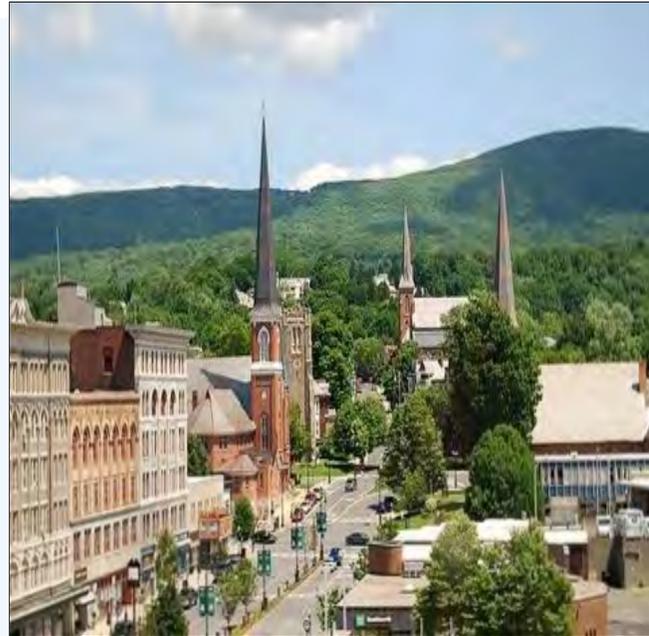
North Adams
Vision 2030

Planning Process



A Comprehensive Plan for North Adams!

The city is creating its first comprehensive plan in 40 years. This important document will help guide policy and investment decisions in the city through 2030 and beyond. The process of developing a plan that looks so far into the future is an important one—residents of all ages, interests, and backgrounds are encouraged to get involved and help shape the plan. Implementation of the plan will also be a community effort that will include residents, City government, business leaders, and non-profits. Working together, the city will be able to achieve its vision for the future!



Get Involved!

Let's Plan for the Future We Want!

Workshops

Six public workshops will be held throughout the process to share info and gather input.

Forums

Some topics will have working meetings with stakeholders and the general public to mine deeper into issues and develop meaningful strategies.

Stakeholder Meetings

Meetings with stakeholders will further develop strategies designed for implementation.

Online

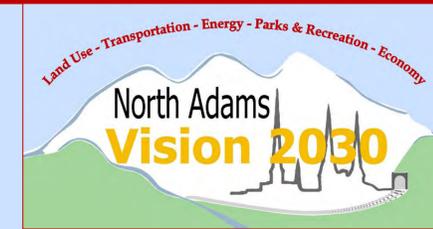
Visit the City website, www.northadams-ma.gov for up-to-date and readily accessible information on the plan including upcoming meetings and all work products plan.

Planning Process & Project Timeline

The three-year planning process will develop a vision with supporting goals, policies, and strategies in the areas of economic development, agriculture, open space and recreation, historic and cultural resources, housing and neighborhoods, health and wellness, transportation, infrastructure, energy, and land use. Implementation of the plan will begin during the three years at set intervals as sections of work complete.



Agriculture & Local Food



Local Food in North Adams



While the Berkshires as a region have a long tradition of agriculture, there is limited agricultural activity still present within North Adams.

- * agricultural producing lands occupy only 3 percent of the total land area
- * Much of the lands suitable for agriculture production are zoned for industrial use
- * The only organized farm activity in the city is the Berkshire Farms Apiary, a honey producer with hives located throughout North Adams and Williamstown.



This limited agricultural land supply has resulted in two trends in local food production:

- a strong relationship between farms in surrounding communities as the foodshed for the city through the farmers market and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares; and
- a keen interest in urban gardening within city neighborhoods.



* **Farmer's Market:** Farms and CSAs in Adams, Florida, Clarksburg and Williamstown MA, as well as Pownal and Stamford VT, all participate in the city's farmers' market. These products are available for purchase at the City's weekly Farmers Market. To ensure residents that are in need have access to fresh produce, many of the markets vendors accept WIC coupons.

* **CSAs:** There are several CSA operations in the northern Berkshire region, including Square Roots Farm in Clarksburg and Caretaker Farm in Williamstown. Hoosac Harvest, a non-profit working to improve access to affordable healthy food for northern Berkshire residents, partners with Square Roots Farm to offer subsidized shares to lower-income residents.



* **Community Gardens:** North Adams Regional Hospital has led the charge in the area of community gardening in the city through their grant-funded REACH program. With several gardens established, they are partnering with Hoosac River Revival and Mass MoCA to create a new garden along River Street (across from the Porches Inn) for summer 2011.

Tell us what you **THINK!**

What are the key issues the plan should address on this topic?



State of Agriculture in the Berkshires

Family Farms Dominate: 94% of all farms (and 87% of farm acres) in the Berkshires are family-run; 90 % are small family farms, 4% are large and very large family farms, and 6% are non-family farms.

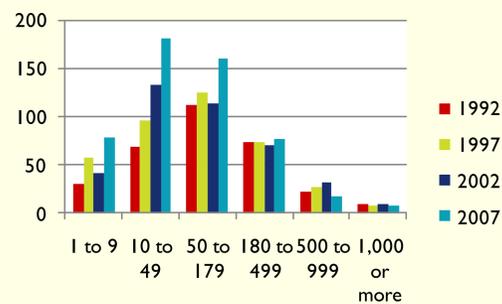
Number of Farms is Increasing: In 2007, there were 522 farms in Berkshire County, a 30% increase (+121 farms) in five years (2002-2007).

Acres in Cultivation on the Rise: 66,352 acres or 12% of the land in the county was in agricultural use; this is 6,000 more acres in cultivation than in 1992.

Permanently Protected Acres: The number of acres in the state Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) program increased 335% between 2000-2011. Currently a total of 21,164 agricultural acres are protected under the APR program.

Growth in Organic Farming: Organic farms increased 186% between 2002 (7 farms) to 2007 (20 farms).

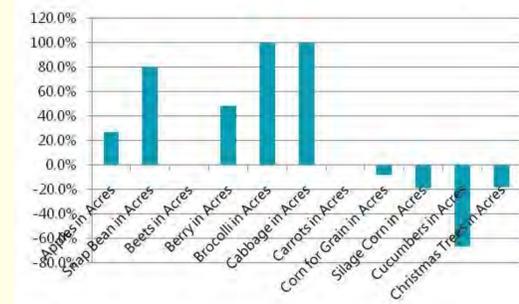
Number of Farms by Size



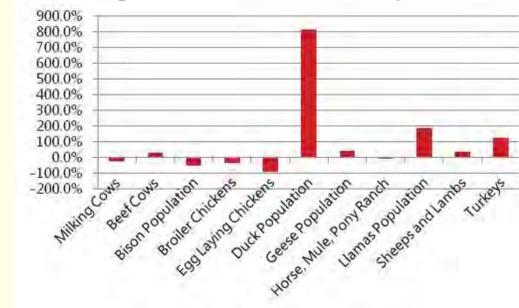
Changes in Animals Raised

	1997	2002	2007	2002-2007 % Change
Milking Cows	4,033	3,963	3,011	-24.0%
Beef Cows	1,000	770	1,039	34.9%
Bison Population		56	28	-50.0%
Broiler Chickens	497	680	442	-35.0%
Egg Laying Chickens		25,690	3,087	-88.0%
Duck Population		57	522	815.8%
Geese Population		67	98	46.3%
Horse, Mule, Pony Ranch		18	17	-5.6%
Llamas Population		66	191	189.4%
Sheeps and Lambs		46	64	39.1%
Turkeys	103	70	159	127.1%

% Change in Crops Raised (2002-2007)



% Change in Animals Raised (2002-2007)



Getting a handle on land use

Land use information can be looked at in three key ways:

- Zoning:** zoning is set at the municipal level and sets the parameters for what type and intensity of use is allowed on a parcel of land.
- State Land Use Data:** Every five years, the state takes aerial photos and uses them to develop a land use map that shows the development footprint of different uses without reference to parcel lines.
- Assessor Records:** Each municipality maintains records of land use activity by parcel for tax purposes. This data is not presented here because parcels are currently being updated for the city. This data will be available later in the process when we get to the land use section.



Mill conversion and reuse has been an important trend in the city for the past few decades including Mass MoCA, Eclipse Mill, and Clark Biscuit.

Add your Comments Here!

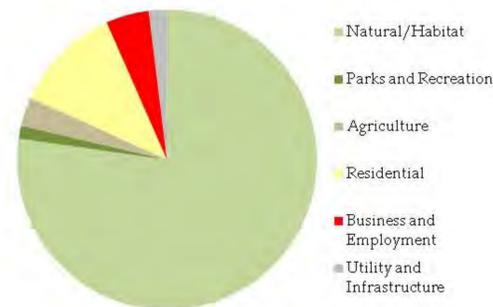
Tell us what you THINK!

What are the key issues the plan should address on this topic?

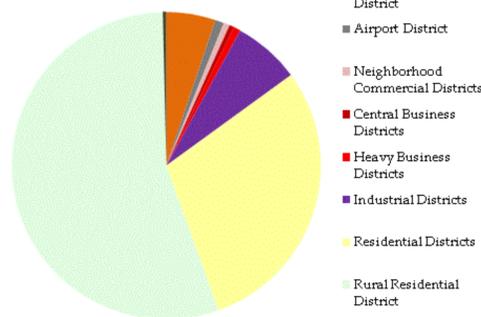
State Land Use Data for North Adams

Land Use	Acres	Percent
Natural/Habitat		
Brushland/Successional	7	0.05%
Forested Wetland	130	0.98%
Forest	9,531	72.24%
Open Land	158	1.20%
Water	183	1.39%
Non-Forested Wetland	185	1.40%
<i>Subtotal</i>	10,194	77.27%
Parks and Recreation		
Cemetery	84	0.64%
Participation Recreation	93	0.70%
Water-Based Recreation	8	0.06%
<i>Subtotal</i>	185	1.40%
Agriculture		
Pasture	135	1.02%
Cropland	278	2.10%
<i>Subtotal</i>	413	3.13%
Residential		
Very Low Density Residential	66	0.50%
Low Density Residential	266	2.01%
Medium Density Residential	335	2.54%
High Density Residential	564	4.27%
Multi-Family Residential	303	2.30%
<i>Subtotal</i>	1,534	11.63%
Business and Employment		
Commercial	248	1.88%
Transitional	22	0.17%
Urban Public/Institutional	132	1.00%
Industrial	155	1.17%
Mining	48	0.37%
Junkyard	7	0.05%
<i>Subtotal</i>	612	4.64%
Utility and Infrastructure		
Power line/Utility	110	0.83%
Transportation	117	0.89%
Waste Disposal	29	0.22%
<i>Subtotal</i>	256	1.94%
<i>Total</i>	13,193	100.00%

State Land Use



Zoning



North Adams Zoning

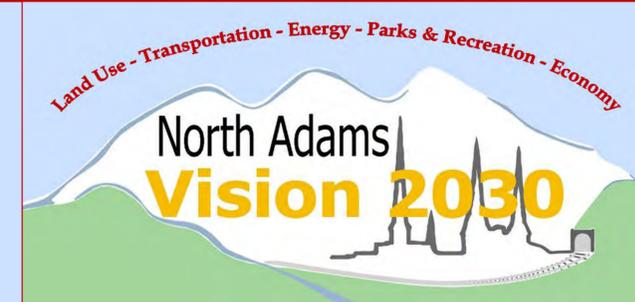
Zoning	Acres	Percent
Affordable Housing District		
AH-1	682	5.17%
Airport District		
AP-1	122	0.92%
Neighborhood Commercial Districts		
CA-1	62	0.47%
CA-2	18	0.14%
CP-1	4	0.03%
Central Business Districts		
CB-1	54	0.41%
CB-2	11	0.08%
Heavy Business Districts		
CC-1	77	0.58%
CC-2	20	0.15%
Industrial Districts		
I-1	681	5.16%
I-2	200	1.52%
I-P	46	0.35%
Residential Districts		
R-1	1,038	7.87%
R-1A	498	3.77%
R-2	1,490	11.29%
R-3	868	6.58%
Rural Residential District		
RU-1	7,273	55.13%
Urban Renewal Districts		
UR-1	30	0.23%
RU-2	18	0.14%
<i>Total</i>	13,192	100.00%

* City of North Adams' Zoning Ordinance was initially drafted and adopted in 1956.

* In the nearly 60 years since its adoption, there have been a number of minor modifications and updates implemented to address a specific local issues or needs but there has never been a comprehensive evaluation or re-write.

Existing Conditions & Key Trends

Housing and Neighborhoods



Neighborhoods

This plan will address housing in the context of their neighborhood setting: urban, suburban, or rural. We'll work to answer the question — what different strategies are needed to make each more livable and sustainable?

	1990	2000	2010	Total Units % Change 1990-2010	% Vacant 2010
North Adams	7,230	7,088	6,752	-6.6%	13.1%
Berkshire County	64,324	66,301	68,508	6.5%	18.1%
Massachusetts	2,472,711	2,621,989	2,808,254	13.6%	9.3%

Tell us what you THINK!

What are the key issues the plan should address on this topic?

Add your
Comments
Here!

Housing Trends in North Adams

Fewer Units and Fewer People

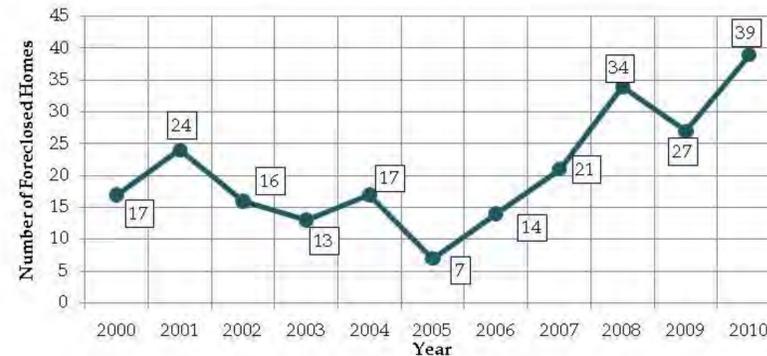
From 1990 to 2010, the number of housing units in North Adams decreased by 6.6 percent. In comparison, the county and state both increased.

Since 1990, the City has demolished 59 residential structures in which 170 residential units were eliminated.

Housing Costs Outpace Household Incomes

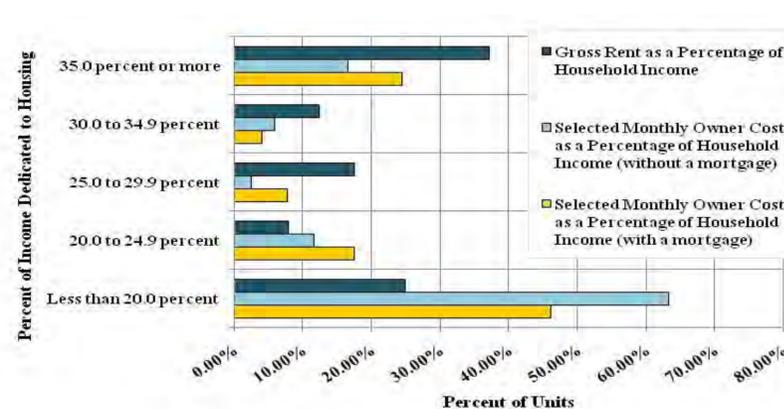
Single family home sale prices in North Adams have almost doubled over the last decade, while median household income grew at a much slower pace.

Trend of Foreclosures, 2000-2010



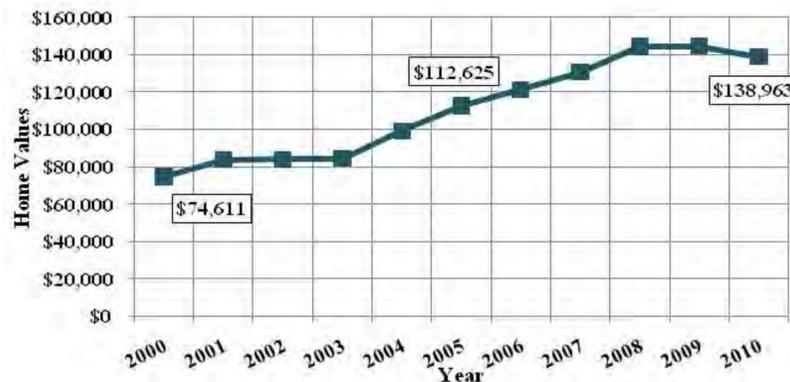
Source: Massachusetts Registry of Deed, Berkshire North office; 2000-2010 foreclosure data

Proportion of Housing/Rent Costs Relative to Household Income, 2009



Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Community Survey data

Trend of Average Single-Family Home Value, 2000-2010



Source: Massachusetts Department of Revenue, 2000-2010 data

Almost 40% of the renters in North Adams are spending 35% or more of their income on their rent.

Less Variety in Housing Options

Smaller multi-family units are losing ground in the City. This may be attributed to the demolition of multifamily buildings or the conversion of these units to single-family homes.

Year Built	# of Units
Built 2005 or later	103
Built 2000 to 2004	116
Built 1990 to 1999	108
Built 1980 to 1989	251
Built 1970 to 1979	498
Built 1960 to 1969	473
Built 1950 to 1959	582
Built 1940 to 1949	373
Built 1939 or earlier	4,019

Of the 6,523 housing units in North Adams, 61.6% of the housing stock was constructed before 1940.

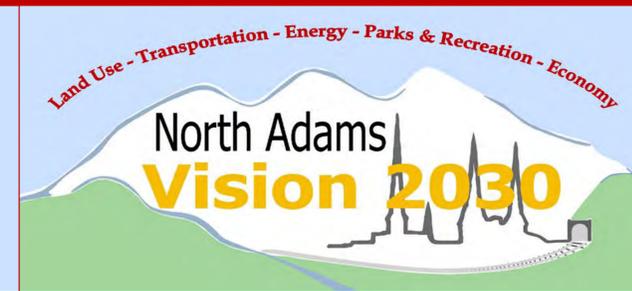
Older homes tend to be more expensive to maintain and less energy efficient.

	Total Units	1-Unit, Detached	1-Unit, Attached	2 Units	3 or 4 Units	5 to 9 Units	10 to 19 Units	20 Units or More	Mobile Home
2000 Census	7,088	2,719	68	1,347	1,366	642	127	537	282
2005-2009 ACS	6,523	2,713	142	1,223	1,114	498	182	440	211
% Changes	-8.0%	-0.2%	108.8%	-9.2%	-18.4%	-22.4%	43.3%	-18.1%	-25.2%

Information from this workshop will be available on the City's webpage (www.northadams-ma.gov) under the North Adams Vision 2030 tab.

Existing Conditions & Key Trends

Historic & Cultural Resources



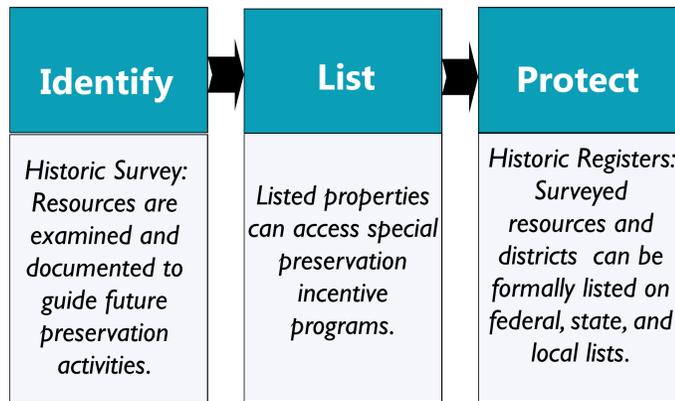
Historic Preservation

North Adams is Rich in Historic Resources

- Eight historic districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- 19 historic resources (buildings, cemeteries, sites, districts, structures and objects) are listed on the National Register of Historic Places
- Two state-designated Scenic Byways (Mohawk Trail Scenic Byway and Mount Greylock Scenic Byway)



Preservation Tools and Activities



How are we doing?

- **Survey:** The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a strong foundation of historic resource planning since the 1960's. The City surveyed and inventoried districts, sites and structures in the 1980's for historical and architectural significance, as well as information on people and events as they relate to those places of importance in the City's history. A renewed effort to survey and document additional historic resources began again in 2000's.
- **Listing and Protections:** Local listing and districts with historic zoning and design guidelines provide the strongest protection. North Adams does not currently have local zoning protections or process to protect historic resources in the City. No districts have design guideline protections as well.

Events and Venues

The City's distinctly creative nature is visible throughout the community at historic facilities and gatherings areas including: North Adams Museum of History and Science, the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art (MASS MoCA), Mohawk Theater (under reconstruction), North Adams Public Library, Western Gateway Heritage State Park, Studio 51, Solid Sound Festival, North Adams Farmers Market, Fall Foliage Celebration and many others!

Data/Information

There will be future opportunities to track and compare information about arts and cultural organizations within Berkshire County and the Commonwealth participating in the voluntary Massachusetts Cultural Data Project.

Preservation Partners

Local

Historic Commissions / Historical Societies

North Adams has both a local historical commission and historical society that assist businesses, organizations, and citizens in the effort to identify, preserve, interpret and develop the historical resource present in the community.



State

• **Massachusetts Historical Commission:** helps communities identify, evaluate, and protect important historical and archaeological assets throughout the Commonwealth

National

• **National Park Service:** administers the Federal Register and federal historic preservation programming.



Tell us what you **THINK!**

What are the key issues the plan should address on this topic?

Types of Historic Resources

Historic resources that can receive protection include:

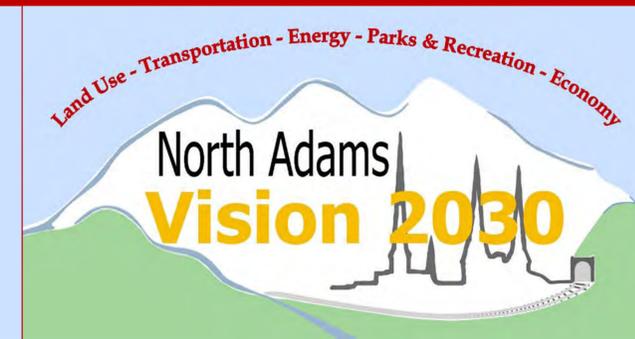
Historic sites—of a certain age, architectural quality, or a site linked to key historic figures or events.

Historic Landscapes: Open areas that are of historic significance (e.g., Olmstead Parks) or contribute to the overall character of historic places.

Thematic Resources: Scattered sites that are linked by a common history or architecture (e.g., historic mills)



Existing Conditions & Key Trends Health & Wellness



The City of North Adams has a reputation for providing extensive opportunities for outdoor recreation and the availability of fresh produce through the City's Farmers Market and nearby CSAs, however there are many health challenges facing Community residents and the healthcare system.



Tell us what you THINK!

What are the key issues the plan should address on this topic?



Five Major Categories of Health Challenges

1. Lack of adequate prenatal and infant care

	Berkshire County Actual Count	Berkshire County Percent	Massachusetts Percent
Mothers Not Receiving Prenatal Care (in first trimester)	230	18.70%	18%
Mothers with Adequate Prenatal Care	923	75.10%	82.80%
Mothers Receiving Publicly Funded Prenatal Care	614	50.20%	35.60%

3. Substance abuse (alcohol, drugs and smoking)

	Berkshire County Actual Count	Berkshire County Crude Rate	Massachusetts Crude Rate
Total Admissions to DPH Funded Treatment Programs	3,720	2,818.9	1,636.5
Injection Drug User Admissions	475	359.9	504.3
Alcohol and Other Drug Related Hospital Discharges	1,313	995.0	362.0

2. High obesity and chronic diseases

	Region 1: Western Mass			Massachusetts		
	Percent (%)	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	Percent (%)	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI
Overall	58.8	57.3	60.3	55.4	54.8	56
Gender						
Male	68.8	66.6	71.1	65.9	65.1	66.8
Female	49.5	47.5	51.4	45.3	44.6	46
Age						
Ages 18-34	51.3	47.6	54.9	44.5	43.2	45.9
Ages 35-44	59.8	56.7	62.9	56.9	55.7	58
Ages 45-54	63.4	60.4	66.4	61.9	60.7	63.1
Ages 55-64	66.9	63.7	70.1	65.4	64.1	66.7
Ages 65+	58.8	55.9	61.7	57.6	56.5	58.8

4. Injuries and environmental hazards

	Berkshire County Actual Count	Berkshire County Crude Rate	Massachusetts Crude Rate
Motor Vehicle Deaths	10	7.6	6.8
Suicide	16	12.1	7.8
Homicide	2	1.5	2.8

Healthcare Providers

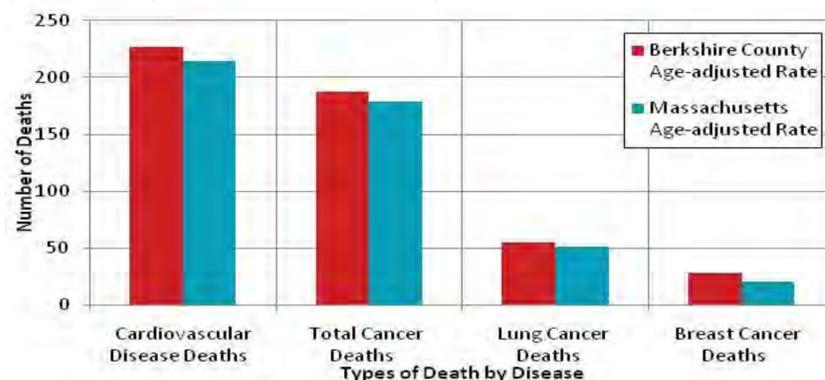
Healthcare providers in the North Adams include the Northern Berkshire Healthcare (NHC or North Adams Regional Hospital), the Brien Center, Visiting Nurses Associations (VNA & Hospice of Northern Berkshire), and a number of private medical practitioners.

While NHC does host satellite medical offices in other communities, the North Adams Regional Hospital is a full-service, community-based hospital with staff including internists, family care practitioners and a broad range of specialists. This facility has been in operation for over a century and provides 24-hour emergency services and is licensed for 120 beds.

At NHC and throughout the county new programs are emerging which focus on community wellness, prevention and which seek to address a number of the health challenges listed previously.

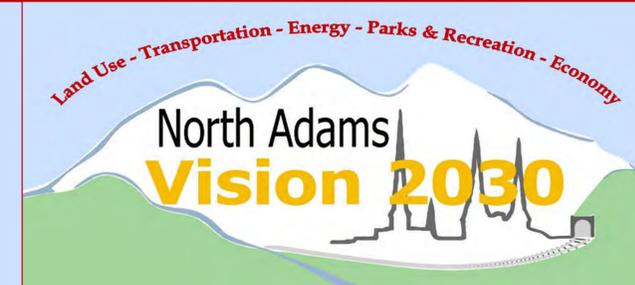
The REACH for Community Health is the community education arm of NHC. The REACH program includes Get Fit, REACH for Breast Health, Tobacco Cessation Programs and Horizon.

CI = Confidence Intervals. A confidence interval is a range of values determined by the degree of variability of the data and indicates the precision of a calculation.



Existing Conditions & Key Trends

Economy



Economic Activity

Dominant Sectors: The North Adams consistently has more jobs in the Education, Healthcare and Social Assistance; Arts, Entertainment and Recreation and Accommodation and Food Service; and Retail Trade industry sectors, compared to the county and state.

Decline of Manufacturing: Since the 1920's, the City has experienced a precipitous decline in the Manufacturing sector.

Industry Clusters: The following industry clusters have been identified for the City, but are also clusters present in the region: Healthcare, Social Assistance, Retail, Educational Services, Arts and Entertainment, Recreation, Accommodation and Food Service, and Manufacturing.

What is an Industry Cluster?

When businesses or industries develop in close proximity the diffusion of ideas, concepts and products are able to flow freely. This also increases the ability to collaborate, build common suppliers and markets, and common workforce skills, thereby improving competitiveness. Regionally, clusters can provide stability by dispersing economic activities and minimizes adverse impacts to one community.

Income

Median Household Income: The median household income has moderately increased. Persons making \$50,000 or greater have increased by 31% (658 persons) since 2000. Between 2000 and 2009, the median household income rose 21% from \$27,601 to \$35,020.

Income Gap: While the income gap is slowly shrinking, 37.5% of the City's population earns less than \$50,000 annually.

Poverty: Of the families with related children under 5, 32% are living in poverty; while 14% of individuals in the community are living in poverty

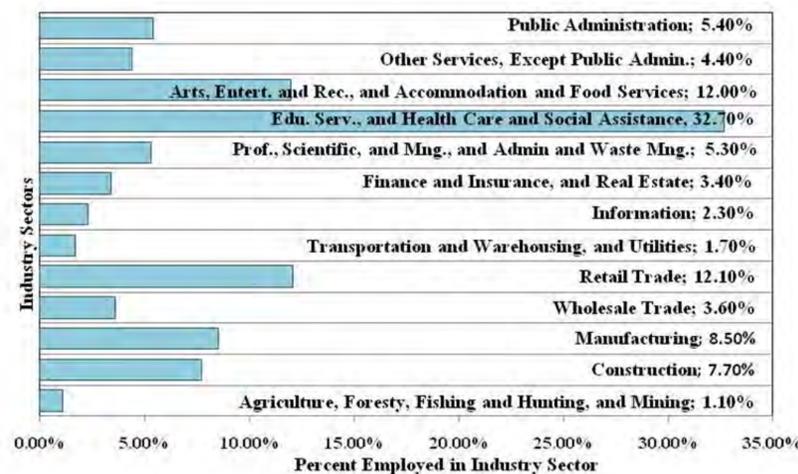
Labor Force and Unemployment

Employment: From the recent peak of employed workers in 2001 (6,968 persons) the city has lost 294 employed persons.

Unemployment: The number of unemployed persons increased between 2000 and 2010, the most dynamic shift occurring between 2007 and 2010, in which 339 persons potentially became unemployed. The unemployment in North Adams has been consistently higher than either the county or State over the last decade

Transitioning Workforce: The types of employment, continue to shift from traditional industry sectors to the Educational Services, Healthcare and Social Assistance, and the Retail Trade sectors.

Comparison of Employment by Industry Sector, 2009



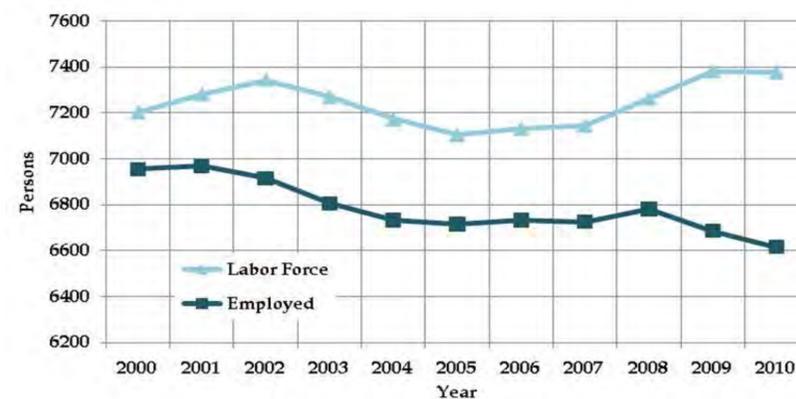
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005-2009 American Communities Survey data

Household Income, 2000-2009



Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 2000 Census and 2005-2009 American Community Survey data

Comparison of Persons in Labor Force and Employed 2000-2010



Source: Massachusetts Official of the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development, 2000-2010

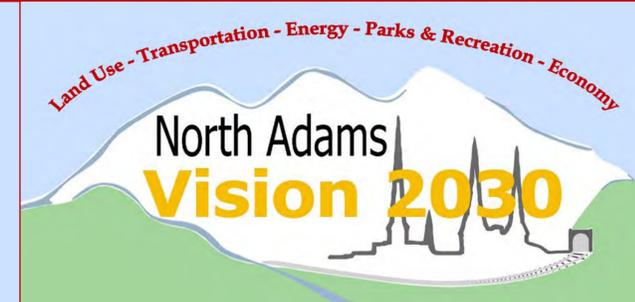
Tell us what you **THINK!**

What are the key issues the plan should address on this topic?

Add your Comments Here!

Existing Conditions & Key Trends

Transportation



- North Adams' roadway network includes state and local highways and streets
- The City manages and maintains app. 105 miles of roads (includes portions of Routes 2 and 8, bridges and sidewalks)
- Pavement condition assessments indicate most of City's roadways are in excellent to fair condition
- Challenges: traffic congestion caused by seasonal variation, downtown truck routes and special events continue to impact traffic flows



- The Boston and Maine Pan Am/Norfolk Southern line, a freight rail line, operates in the City
- This rail line travels from Williamstown into North Adams and on to Florida and Adams
- This line is commonly seen as a secondary rail provider in the county, since the line doesn't currently handle passenger service
- The increasing of weight limits is called for in the MassDOT 2011 Rail Plan along this route; however, timing and funding have not been identified



The City of North Adams is a participating community in the Berkshire Regional Transit Authority (BRTA). Through the BRTA system and Berkshire Rides, residents are able to access other parts of the community and region through an array of contracted transportation services.

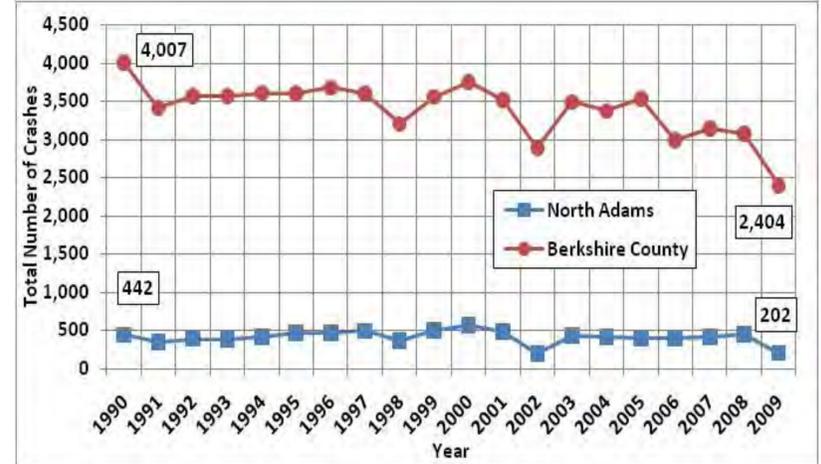


- The City has many on-road and separated pathways, sidewalks and trails suited for bicyclists, hikers, and/or pedestrian users. Some of these resources include:
- The Appalachian Trail bisects the community near the airport, but also traverses some of the communities majestic landscapes.
 - Local streets connect the many neighborhoods of the community to downtown
 - The Ashuwillticook Rail Trail expansion, may connect the City to the Town of Adams to Williamstown, as well as to fours other communities (*Lanesborough, Cheshire, Adams and Williamstown*)



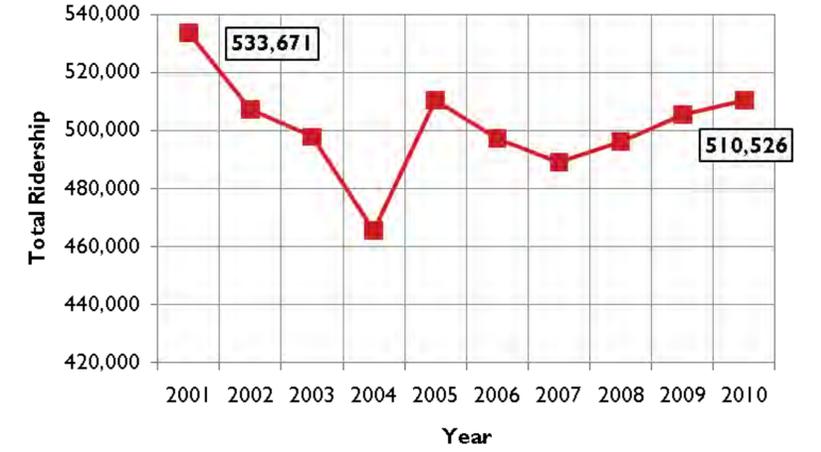
The Harriman and West Airport, a municipally owned and operated facility, is located on Airport Road off Route 2. Service to and from this facility is primarily general aviation with limited private jet usage. The facility recently completed a multi-million dollar runway and safety improvement project.

Comparison of North Adams and Berkshire County Motor Vehicle Crash Trends, 1990-2009



Source: Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Registry of Motor Vehicles; Accident Record System (1990-2001) and Crash Data System (2002-2009)

BRTA Ridership Trends, 2001-2010



Source: Berkshire Regional Transit Authority

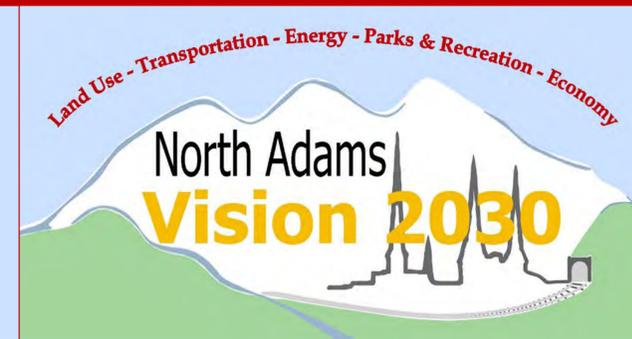
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Existing Conditions & Key Trends

Open Space & Recreation



A key defining characteristic of the city is its dramatic and scenic terrain. While much of the surrounding open space is in surrounding state lands, there are a number of other public and private lands, parks, and open space areas that contribute to and round out the open space and recreation system.

- 82% of the land in the City of North Adams is undeveloped. Of these lands, 90% is forested.
- 38% of undeveloped land in North Adams is protected from development.
- The City is home to 44 parks and recreation facilities, including amenities like parks, playgrounds, recreation centers, athletic fields and state parks.
- The City of North Adams owns or has oversight of 47% of Protected Lands within the city borders.
- Large blocks of protected open space lands are located in the eastern area (Hoosac Range Reservation and adjacent Savoy Mt. State Forest) and southwestern area (Mt. Greylock State Reservation and adjacent drinking water protection areas) of the city. See the Open Space & Recreation Map.



Benefits of Open Space Lands

- Our Heritage and Sense of Place.
Rural open space - forest, field and stream - a legacy entrusted to us by current and past generations. It defines the region and shapes the mindset of the people who live here. Will we be able to pass this legacy to our children?
- Tourist revenue.
Nature and the serenity it provides has been elevated from a supporting role to a level on par with our cultural assets. Berkshire Visitor Bureau's new motto:

“The Berkshires --
Nature - Culture - Harmony.”

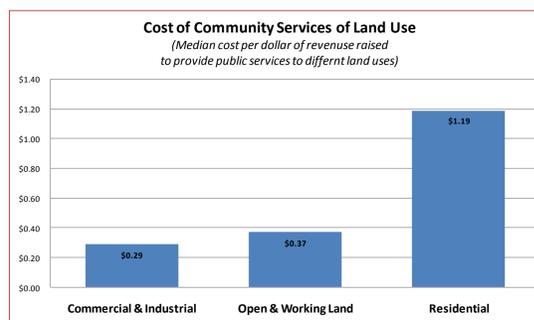


Open Space Lands in North Adams

Protected Lands		
Name	Oversight	Acres
Alcombright Athletic Field	City	26.22
Camp Decker	City	21.8
The Cascades	City	84.5
Historic Valley Campground	City	34
Hoosac Range Reserve	BNRC	736
Hoosic River*	MA	n/a
Joe Girardi Park	MA	5.9
Mt. Greylock State Reservation*	MA	860
Mount Williams Reserve	City	509
Natural Bridges State Park	City	47
Noel Field Athletic Complex	City	24.68
Notch Reservoir	City	1,037
Ragged Mountain Reservation	MA	33.6
River Grove Park	City	4.7
Savoy Mountain State Forest*	MA	547
Vietnam Veteran's Skating Rink	City	4.6
W Gateway Heritage State Park	City	7
Windsor Lake	City	123
Total Protected Lands		4,106.00
* Acres include lands only within city borders		
Unprotected Lands		
Alibozek Property	Private	90
Beaver Street Playground	City	0.5
Bernard Property	Private	46.15
Blackinton Playground	City	2.6
Brayton Field	City	1.6
Colgrove Park	City	0.4
Drury Senior High School	City	9.8
Elderly Housing Recreation Area	NAHA	0.05
Freeman Playground	City	2.5
Greylock School Playground	NAPSD	11.4
Houghton School Playground	City	0.5
Johnson School Playground	City	1.2
Kemp Park	City	8.2
Main-Ashland Street Mini Park	City	0.01
Joseph Zavatarrò Athletic Complex	MCLA	86
McCann Technical High School	City	7.5
Monitor Park	City	0.02
Mount Williams Dairy Farm	Private	140
River Street Playground	City	0.5
River Street Riverside park	City	3.63
Senior Center park	City	0.15
Upper/Lower Reservoir	City	11.6
Veteran's memorial park	City	0.4
West End Apartments play Area	NAHA	4
Wilk Horse Farm	Private	11
Witt's Ledge	Telesystems Corp.	29
Ziamba Property	Private	100
Total Unprotected Land		568.71

Cost of Community Services

As documented in more than 128 Cost of Community Services Studies across the U.S., taxes collected from residential development do not cover the full cost of the municipal services they receive. Inversely, taxes from industrial/commercial and agricultural/woodlands subsidize residential uses (see table below).



Goals from the Open Space & Recreation Plan

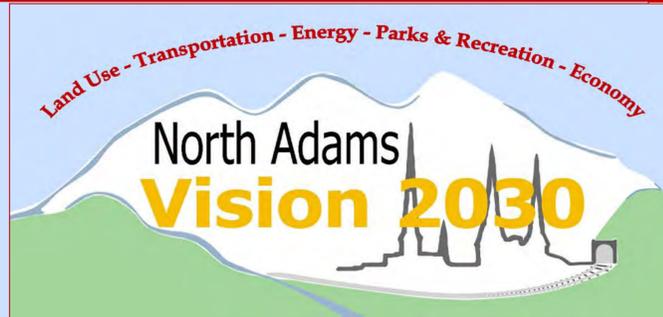
1. Increase environmental awareness throughout the City
2. Improve recreation areas and increase access throughout the City
3. Conserve areas of concern
4. Increase Open Spaces
5. Coordinate activities for the City's youth
6. Promote North Adams
7. Improve the care of existing vegetation, and the identification and care of municipal trees and other shrubbery

Tell us what you THINK!



Existing Conditions & Key Trends

Natural Resources and Habitat



The City of North Adams has a wealth of natural resources and rich habitat. Together these resources are a key defining characteristic of the community. From its complex water network to the dramatic and scenic landscapes, in many instances, these resources have played an important role in the city's economy, history and way of life— they are assets for residents and visitors alike.

Sensitive Environments: What and Where are they?

The Northern Berkshires is a rich, biodiverse landscape. BioMap Core Habitat areas in the city are mapped in green, and Critical Natural Landscapes are mapped in yellow. Important habitats that have been identified and mapped in North Adams include:

- Rare Species - There are 23 known rare species in the city. Many of the rare plants are wetland or riverine species that live in the river corridor, and a few are high-elevation species. Core Habitat areas harbor most of the rare species.

Taxonomic Group	Number of Species
Fish	1
Butterfly / Moth	1
Dragonfly / Damselfly	3
Vascular Plant	18
Total	23

- Blocks of unfragmented forest - important in one of the most densely developed states in the U.S. Needed for wide-ranging animals like moose, bear and bobcat. Forests blanket the hills that extend outward from the narrow Hoosic River Valley.
- Spruce/fir forests - cooler species typical of more northern climates and located here on higher ridgetops. The upper elevations of the Mt. Greylock and Hoosic Mountain ranges are examples.
- Rare Species Habitat - concentrated along the natural flowing sections of the Hoosic River and its tributaries, and within the drinking water protection areas of the Notch and Mt. Williams reservoirs.
- Vernal pools - breeding pools of forest-dwelling rare amphibians and invertebrates; important as 1/3 of the state's amphibians are listed as Species of Special Concern. 24 potential vernal pools have been identified in North Adams.

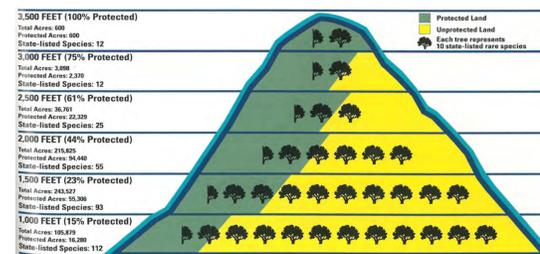


The Hoosic River Watershed

- 4% of North Adams is mapped as being open water, streams, rivers or wetlands.
- Aquatic habitats and their surrounding uplands are some of our most biologically productive areas.
- The Hoosic River suffers from thermal and bacterial pollution, but the rivers and many of its tributaries support a vast array of rare species, including fish and a rare turtle.

Protecting Rare Species in the County

The greatest proportion of protected lands are found in our highlands 3,000 feet or higher, but --



Inversely the greatest numbers of rare species are found in our lowlands 1,500 feet in elevation or below.

Threats to the Natural World

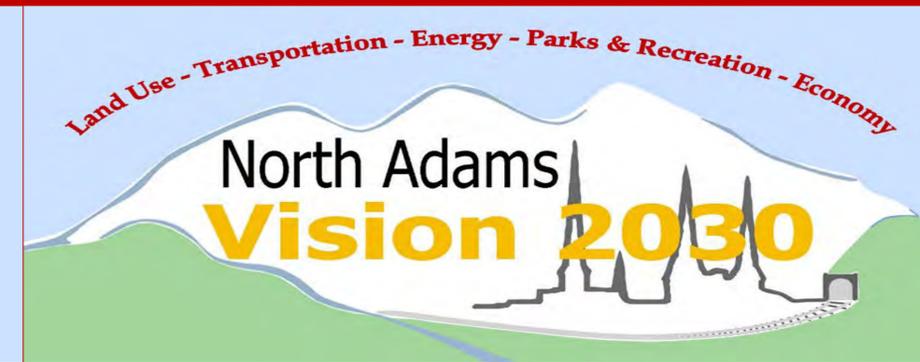
- The cumulative effect of these conditions causes our landscape to support diverse and healthy ecosystems. The result is a loss in Ecological Integrity.
- Direct habitat loss - larger homes house fewer people
 - Fragmentation of large undeveloped blocks
 - Water pollution: including bacteria, thermal, sedimentation
 - Invasive species: plants and invertebrates
 - Loss of Ecological Integrity - ability to support species
 - Climate Change

Tell us what you **THINK!**



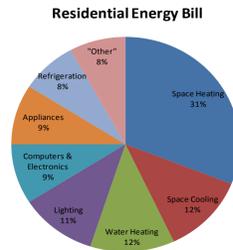
Existing Conditions & Key Trends

Energy and Climate Change



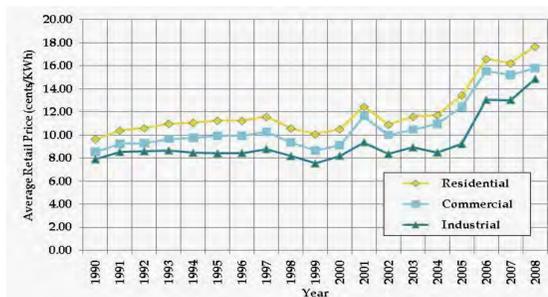
Energy Use in the Berkshires

- . Vehicle fuel is our largest single source of greenhouse gas emission.
- . Our electricity is largely generated by the burning of natural gas.
- . Electricity use is expected to continue to rise due to our love of electronics.



- . The Berkshires have the most expensive electricity in the state outside of the Cape.

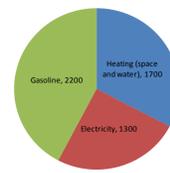
Energy Costs 1990 - 2008



The Cost of Energy

The cost of energy is expected to increase. Energy efficiency in our buildings and vehicles becomes all the more important to our economic well being.

2008 Energy Cost of \$5,200 for Avg. Mass. Homeowner



MassSave

MassSave offers free Home Energy Audits for your home's thermal envelope and mechanical systems. They then provide information on the financial incentives available to you to install the improvements, such as:

- . Save 75% on the cost of adding insulation and sealing air leaks in your home, up to \$2,000.
- . 0% interest loan (up to \$15,000) for additional upgrades.

Call **1-866-527-7283** or visit **MassSave.com**

CET



CET helps Berkshire residents, farms and businesses work in new ways to:

- . Reduce energy use
 - . Conducting energy audits of buildings
 - . Installing better insulation
 - . Offering ideas on energy efficient lights and heating
- . Compost waste
- . Recycle waste
- . Consider renewable energy options
- . **Contact them: 445-4556 or www.cetonline.org**

Our Leaking Buildings

Many of our buildings are not air-tight, allowing our expensive heat to escape. This thermal image shows that leaks can occur in unlikely areas



Mass. Green Communities Act

North Adams is pursuing Mass. Green Community designation. Williamstown received a \$142,000 grant to conduct energy conservation measures at several municipal buildings, install a 6 kW solar PV array, and fund an energy education and outreach program -- all due to its Green Community status!

Tell us what you THINK!

