

## Big plans for Green Hanson

Contributed by Adam Swift  
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Since March of last year, the environmental group has grown to 65 members and worked on a number of projects, including the showing of Al Gore's "An Inconvenient Truth" on the Town Hall green and the opening of a community garden on High Street next to the Plymouth County Hospital.

Selectmen approved the use of the hospital land in March, and in its first year, there are 12 plots being used at the community garden.

Green Hanson Chair Marianne Dimascio

"It's good for the town," said Green Hanson Chair Marianne Dimascio. "It's a beautiful spot."

Hanson residents can sign up to use the community garden, free of charge, to plant everything from corn and squash to pumpkins and watermelons. While the deadline has passed to sign up for a garden plot for this year, Dimascio said she hopes more people take advantage of the project next year.

"We're talking about having a harvest potluck dinner (at the garden) so people can get to see what's there," Dimascio said. As a further outgrowth of the community garden, Dimascio said she's interested in seeing if Green Hanson can start some kind of farmers market in town for next year.

In addition to the community garden, Green Hanson has also been involved with an Earth Day celebration, an environmental tour of the new high school, and a Rally Around Recycling day at the town's transfer station.

"I don't know if it is related, but recycling rates have gone up," said Dimascio. "We're hoping to do another (recycling rally) in the fall."

"We're also hoping to do another green tour at the high school," said Green Hanson member and high school student Matt Dyer.

The earlier tour of the high school was part of a national event sponsored by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association.

"They sponsored tours of energy efficient houses and buildings throughout the country, and Whitman-Hanson High School was on the list," Dyer said.

While Green Hanson has already accomplished a lot in a short time, the group still has many more projects on the horizon.

Green Hanson member Nancy Marshall is the instructor for the Low Carbon Diet course being offered as part of the high school's Main Street Extension adult education program. The course highlights a 60-day program to reduce household carbon dioxide output by 15 percent. With the help of the Low Carbon Diet workbook, participants will learn to calculate their Co2 footprints, create cool household systems that will help save the earth while saving money and take on lifestyle practices to help reduce Co2 emissions.

The projects with the schools and the town highlight Green Hanson's willingness to work with a broad array of people and groups, Dimascio said.

"We're trying to coordinate programs with town departments and the schools," she said. "We're trying to accomplish our mission through education, participation, collaboration and advocacy."

Green Hanson's mission is to build a sustainable community, Dimascio said, and that mission is made easier when people work together.

Green Hanson's next meeting is August 14 at 7 p.m. at Needles Lodge at Camp Kiwanee. Anyone interested in joining Green Hanson or finding out more about the group's programs can visit its Web site, [greenhanson.org](http://greenhanson.org), or send an email to [greenhanson@gmail.com](mailto:greenhanson@gmail.com).

