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## Sustainable MetroWest Gathering Assabet River National Wildlife Refuge June 15, 2013

In the heart of the MetroWest where Sudbury, Maynard, Marlborough and Stow meet, stands the Assabet River Wildlife Refuge visitor center building open to the public since 2010 – an appropriate site for a recent Sustainable MetroWest gathering.

The event was attended by 32 MetroWest environmental leaders and representatives to initiate, renew, and strengthen cross-community relations. After an optional walk to Crystal Lake, presenters from 18 MetroWest communities delivered summaries of successful initiatives, best practices, lessons learned, future plans, and cross-community collaboration ideas.

They represented a respectable cross section of MetroWest communities: Acton, Ashland, Ayer, Bolton, Boxborough, Carlisle, Concord, Framingham, Groton, Harvard, Hudson, Littleton, Marlborough, Maynard, Stow, Sudbury, Wayland, and Westford.

Lunch was followed by group discussions centering on energy including incentivized solar projects and other cost saving energy technologies, local land and aquifer protection, local food availability via farmer's markets, community farming, youth programs, and future community events.

Jen Boudrie, the event organizer, noted that the work of each environmental organization contributes significantly to its community's sustainability. "This event is an opportunity learn from and inspire each other, and collaborate in the MetroWest region."

Carolyn McCreary from Ayer's Green Community Committee and Energy Committee shared the success of Ayer's solar net metering contract and overall municipal energy reduction implementations and plans. "I'm proud of the sustainability work Ayer has done. We have very successful recycling programs, energy reduction activities, and plans for continued work in these areas."

For information, visit the [www.ayer.ma.gov](http://www.ayer.ma.gov) link to committees/green community. The picture shows Boudrie front row, left; McCreary second row, third from the left.