

**From:** Caryn Connolly <cconnolly@burlingtonvt.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 11, 2023 11:52 PM  
**To:** Scott Gustin <SGustin@burlingtonvt.gov>  
**Subject:** Topic for Conservation Board discussion

Hi Scott,

In our board discussions on how to use the funds from the tax assessments towards nature-based climate solutions and conservation, I have not heard much about education, but I feel it is very important. I live in the New North End. Wards 4 and 7 tend to be the most conservative in the city, perhaps 20-30%. Without buy in from individual land owners willing to voluntarily do their part, in ten years we are going to end up with a few parcels of land conserved and maybe a few pocket parks in the downtown.

To make a long-term change, I believe we need to educate. It doesn't have to be expensive. Even a mailing each spring describing two or three recommended activities that homeowners can make that are inexpensive but help advance the purpose of the Conservation Board—maybe planting a butterfly garden, or a list of native plants that grow best in different soils, recommended trees, or even the lighting we discussed (a change of lightbulbs that will cause less light pollution)—would go a long way towards raising awareness. If some of this can get into the schools, even better. Prior to being a member of the board, I wasn't aware of the nature-based solutions booklet that was recently updated. People are moving into the city all the time. I'm sure most residents of the city also might not be aware of all the initiatives and how they can help. I think we should discuss allocating some funds towards an educational endeavor.

Caryn Connolly