

To: Hanover Sustainability Master Plan Advisory  
Committee

Date: 06/28/2022; Revised 03/27/2024

Project #: 15404.00

From: VHB

Re: Final Vision Statement

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The following presents the final Vision Statement for the Hanover Sustainability Master Plan (the Plan). Its development was informed by input received from the Advisory Committee, Town staff, and the general public through the early stakeholder interviews (September/October 2021), greatest strength/wish surveys (December 2021), the public visioning forum and survey (March 2022), the Development Solutions Workshop (May 2022), and public comment (September/October 2022 and February 2024). In addition, baseline data (i.e., on land use, housing, economic development, etc.) suggested issues and opportunities to be incorporated.

This Vision Statement is comprised of eight values that serve as the titles of eight of the Plan chapters. These value-based chapters are built out with related characterizations of baseline conditions, goals, and strategies. The remaining chapters detail the planning process and implementation framework for the Plan.

### Final Vision Statement

Founded in 1761, Hanover is a community that boasts the activity of a downtown center, the charm of a small New England college town, and a commitment to preserving our natural environment. We will build upon this unique identity and our heritages by leveraging the passion and resources of our community, including students, businesses, and civic leaders. Our vision for the future is centered around the value statements that guide our Sustainability Master Plan and will inform ongoing development and decision-making. We welcome visitors and new residents and appreciate the diversity they bring to Hanover.

**Expanding Housing Opportunity** – *We will promote economic and cultural diversity through improved housing choice and affordability. We strive towards enabling people of all economic means to live in and travel within Hanover.*

**Fostering Inclusive Economic Resilience** – *We will work to build a more resilient, sustainable and diverse economy for our region with emphasis on ensuring equitable access to economic resources and opportunity. The economy of our future will be resilient to future shocks and stresses and be consistent with our renewable energy vision.*

**Preserving Our Character** – *We value the contributions of, and interplay between, our built and natural environments. We will enable these environments to continue to evolve, while maintaining their health and distinctive attractions and benefits.*

**Advancing Multi-Modal Transportation** – *We will better connect persons living, working, studying, and recreating in Hanover and throughout the Upper Valley by designing, developing, and managing a transportation system that prioritizes safety, accessibility, affordability, and zero-emission modes, and connects persons to key regional resources.*

**Promoting Downtown Vibrancy** – *Our downtown will be a dynamic mix of locally beneficial businesses and cultural assets, a variety of housing types and mobility options, and ample public spaces available for community gathering.*

**Addressing Climate Change** – *We will continue to be a model community by reducing our energy consumption and making bold transitions to rely solely on renewable sources of electricity by 2030 and renewable sources of fuel for heating and transportation by 2050. We recognize the potential adversity being brought about by climate change and will commit our resources to preparing and adapting local and regional systems and resources.*

**Improving Health and Well Being for All** – *We will strive to meet the needs of all residents for physical activity, education, mobility, social interaction and sense of community, healthy food, health care, and public safety. We will do so by helping residents where their needs are the greatest.*

**Being Accountable and Collaborative** – *Our municipal government will provide high quality public services in a manner that is equitable, transparent, and consistent with all other values in our Sustainability Master Plan, and by engaging in local and regional partnerships to achieve mutually shared goals and objectives.*