

Welcome to the *Healthy Home Habitats House!*



This 2,100 SF, formerly, four-bedroom, two, full-bath house was built in 1900. It had been a rental property for at least the previous 30 years when I began managing it in 2012. In 2017 I assumed the property and began a renovation of the structure where I now live with my teenage daughter. The property serves as both my home as well as my experiment and showcase for the many possible steps that we can take, as homeowners, to live with less environmental damage each & every day.



Investing in solar power was the impetus to create a crazy-efficient, sustainable and regenerative property.

The Structure & Inside the House:

A 8.64 kWp system of 27 solar panels provides electric power for light, heat pumps, an induction range, a lawn mower, various gadgets, a high efficiency washer/dryer, a water heater and a basement dehumidifier. That said, a variety of additional steps have been taken to utilize each kilowatt of energy produced by the solar panels as efficiently as possible. To date, these are:

- Completing the NH Saves Energy Weatherization Program of attic, wall and basement rim joist insulation,
- Converting the property from a single family to a duplex home, within walking distance of downtown,
- Removing walls and doors for open-plan living spaces,
- Installing a "Hyper-Heat" Mitsubishi Mini-Split Heat Pump System, 2 heads inside and one condenser outside,
- Utilizing additional passive solar fixtures,
- Creating &/or utilizing interior storm windows, interior and exterior laundry-hanging fixtures and SnapPower light switches,
- Still working on basement air sealing, moisture management measures and foundation repairs.

Collectively helping to heal our world from home.

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Caveat, I also use an average of 1/2 tank or 150 gallons of heating oil each winter. The hyper-heat, wall-mounted heat pump system keeps the spaces a consistent 65 degrees. But I use the furnace to kick up the temperature slightly cozier for 1/2 hour in the early morning and upon arriving home in the afternoon.

Outside the House:

This standard, residential, 1/4-acre lot now has a variety of elements that have dramatically reduced the use of lawn chemicals, herbicides, pesticides and fossil fuel. Garden areas are now building healthier soil for healthier worms to feed healthier birds. The plants, shrubs and trees are a mix of native and non-native varieties to additionally feed our wildlife with berries and our pollinators with nectar. Water from seasonal rains is stored to use on the gardens reducing our water bill. Creative perimeter gardens grow healthy vegetables for our family. These elements are:

- An initial swap of a former, Shaded, Raised Garden Beds to Parking and the Sunny Parking Lot to Green Space.
- Replacement of the Front Lawn with a Mixed Perennial Garden,
- A North & South Side Rain Barrel Rainwater Storage System,
- Regenerative, Perennial, Perimeter Gardens along the Walkway and Perimeter Fence,
- A Backyard, Lawn Spiral to provide "Rough" Areas for Lightning Bug Habitat,
- A variety of Fruit Trees & Shrubs for feeding Wildlife & Humans,
- Hanging & Climbing Vegetable Growing areas along the fence.

"Healthy Home Habitats":

Healthy Home Habitats, is a Keene-based consulting firm inspiring and assisting individuals and families in designing fabulous pollinator & healthy food gardens as well as identifying resilient, residential, energy-saving options to collectively help heal our world from home.

Contact me any time for a consult at your home. Discover the actions that you can take, now, soon and in the future to have a healthier home habitat for yourself, your family and our world.

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