

## COMMUNITY FACILITIES CHAPTER

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**Figure 1.** Built in 1865 this building formerly housed a school, police station, and Selectmen's quarters, and is currently used for Family Mediation Services.

### A. Introduction

One of the primary responsibilities of local governments in New Hampshire is providing community facilities for its residents and businesses. The availability and quality of these facilities are often major factors in determining the quality of life and character of a community. It is extremely important to consider the effect population and economic growth will have on a Town's ability to provide such facilities and essential services for its residents.

A primary focus of a master plan is the use of land now and in the future and its capacity to accommodate growth and development. Use of the land affects community facilities and services just as community facilities and services affect the use of land. It is important then, to look at community facilities and services both in terms of the quality and quantity of services rendered, as well as the impact of those services and facilities on land use. From this perspective, the town can identify facility deficits and barriers and assess future needs.

Table 1 below lists the number of employees for each community facility as of 2009 [Source: 2009 Atkinson Town Report].

**Table 1. Community facilities and number of municipal employees as of 2009.**

<i>Community Facility</i>	<i>Number of Employees</i>
ACT-20 Production Staff	6
Building Inspector	1
Code Enforcement	2
Community Center	1
Deputy Wardens	6
Electrical Inspector	2
Fire Department (Officers-6, Members-29, Clerk-1, Inspectors-3)	38 total
Health Officer	2
Highway Department	4
Police Department (5 full-time, 21 part-time)	26
Plumbing Inspector	1
Town Staff	19
Kimball Library	11

The following sections contain an inventory and description of the community facilities and other town resources.

**B. Municipal Buildings**

**1. Kimball House- Historical Society and Museum**

Kimball House was built by Reverend Stephen Peabody, around 1772, when he purchased a twelve-acre parcel of land from Oliver Knight. The colonial style far house has a southern exposure, as so many old houses did, to fully utilize heat from the sun. The original eight room house which still contains the gunstock beams, several Christian doors, and pegged, hand-hewn timbers in the double-thick granite and brick cellar.

Dr. Isaac Hovey came to Atkinson in 1822 and for nearly fifty years practiced medicine in this house. The Walter Maddocks family of Boston bought the house in the early 1900s from the heirs of Dr. Hovey, who modernize it, according to the Victorian style that was popular at the time. They constructed the large bay windows



on two floors, elevated the roof, and added the two great central dormers at the front of the house.

The Kimball House was the original permanent home of the town's public library – as well as the Librarian and her family - from 1907 until the new library was completed.

In 1975, the Town voted approval of the Kimball House to become a Museum. Today, the Atkinson Historical Society (AHS) maintains a museum in the Kimball House and is under the jurisdiction of the Kimball Library Trustees through the New Hampshire Charitable Trust. This historic building has exhibits in several of the rooms on both the first and second floors, and is open to the general public one day each week. The building does not meet ADA requirements currently. The AHS organizes an open house for the Kimball House each December.

## **2. Historic Kimball Public Library**

### *Kimball Charitable Trust*

In 1912, Joseph Kimball donated land and the historic Peabody home to the Town for use as a library and possibly a museum with permission to use a portion of the land as a cemetery. The donation falls under the jurisdiction of the State of New Hampshire Attorney General's Office, Division of Charitable Trusts, with decision making responsibility resting with the Kimball Public Library Trustees.

The Historic Kimball Public Library is actually an addition to the historic Kimball House, built in 1974/5 with Federal Revenue Sharing Funds. During the first several years, the lower level of the new Library was an open room, used by various local organizations, and filled an important function as a gathering and meeting space in town. Various organizations were able to use the area for their meetings. Town Government also took advantage of the space for public hearings on issues that would have drawn attendance exceeding the limits of the Old Town Hall. Elections were conducted in this building, too. As the numbers of library patrons increased, the Library expanded first in to the old Kimball House, where a Children's Library was created. When the needs of the children exceeded this space, the Children's Library was moved to the lower level. With continued growth in population and the explosion in media technology, the Kimball Library experienced issues with respect to modernizing its facility and adding services within the limitations of the building. While the building has exterior handicapped access to both the upper and lower levels, there is no handicapped access between floors within the building, including bathroom facilities located on the lower level.

In 1996, Aaron Cohen Associates, Inc. was hired to do a study of the library. This comprehensive document, on file at the Library, identifies both major and minor library service and facility problems. The standard space needs analysis recommends that a library should provide two square feet of space for every resident of the town. Kimball Library, at 4800 square feet, falls far short of meeting the needs of a town with a population of 5,795. The Library has 1,131 linear feet of shelving for the adult section. Included on those shelves are videos and CDs. The children's area contains 735 linear feet of shelving. There is limited space for additional shelving, and old books must periodically be reviewed and removed, to make room for the new. The parking area, shared by the Library and the Fire Department, presents concerns, particularly considering children who may

be in the parking lot when firefighters are responding to an emergency fire call. The quality of water from the Library well, which is shared with the Fire Station, is poor. Both departments maintain bottled water for drinking purposes.

### 3. New Kimball Library

Kimball Library was built in 2008 and its design incorporates energy efficient construction. The building is 11,400 square feet housing 11 total employees, 2 full-time and 9 part-time. The building has an average of 150 visitors per day.

The Trustees of the Kimball Library endeavor to oversee the management of the Library for the optimum benefit of the citizens of Atkinson. The trustees will insure that the Mission Statement of the Library is considered in all decisions and will always be mindful that the powers granted by the start allow the adoption of rules, regulations and by-laws to govern the Library. The



The preparation of an annual budget and the authority to expend all monies raised and appropriated by the Town will ensure that the Library will continue to be a valuable asset to the community.

Circulation in 2009 was 93,880 items, which is an 18 percent increase over 2008. There has been an increase in requests for all types of materials due largely to the increasing cost of new books, music and other media. Public internet and WiFi services are also on the rise. In early 2010, the library began loaning Kindles (electronic book reader devices).

The library provides a variety of programs and services to the community including:

- Meeting rooms
- Displays of artwork by local residents
- Homebound Services program, open to all residents offered in conjunction with the Atkinson Elderly Service
- Halloween Fest, which was visited by 350 people in 2009
- Children's Room activities including story hours, art classes for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders
- Library Buddies program, pairing teens with children 3 to 8 years old to read and do activities together
- 6 week summer reading program "Summertime...and Reading is easy" for pre-K-Grade 5 with 104 children participating
- 32 children's summer programs and 35 teen programs offered in 2009
- Monthly adult programs offered with help from the Friends of the Library

In 2009, 433 programs were offered with 5,503 people attending these events and provided meeting

space for 38 non-library organizations. The Friends of the Library sponsor various events including museum passes, programming, special book collections, and fundraisers in support of library services.

#### 4. Fire Station

##### *“Historic Fire Station”*

In 1947, the original Fire Station was built on Kimball Trust land with permission of Town Meeting, with the approval and compensation of the Charitable Trust. In 1988, Donald Bliss, a consultant for Boyer, Bennett and Shaw, Inc., prepared a Fire Department Study in which he cited the need for a new fire station.

At the April 1944 town meeting in the Atkinson Fire Department was established as an all-volunteer department which is still functioning in the same capacity today. The volunteer membership has grown from the days of the past from 7 original members to 36 State certified members trained in Fire and Emergency medical services. The number of calls for service has also grown from a hand full each year in the early years to more than 500 in 2010.

In 1947 the original station was built on Kimball Trust land at 7 Academy Avenue with permission of town meeting. It was a small two-bay building that served the towns’ needs for many years. However, over the years as the Town continued to grow and through the volunteerism of the members, the station received several additions. In 1988, a study was prepared by Boyer, Bennett and Shaw which cited among other things, the need for a new fire station.

##### *New Fire Station*

The 1990 Master Plan mentions plans to construct a Safety Complex to house the Police Department, Fire Department and emergency dispatch center. At Town meeting in 1999 citizens voted to fund and build a new fire station. By September of 2000, the new state of the art fire station was complete and the Fire Department had a new home at 1 Academy Avenue, just up the street from the old station. The new station was built to handle the future needs of the community. The new station has meeting rooms, office space, sleeping quarters along with kitchen facilities. The facility was designed and built as a receiving center for Atkinson’s citizens in the event of major storms and also acts as the Emergency Management communication center when necessary.



The Department is looking closely at approved development projects to determine what impact they may have on Emergency services and will consider the possibility of a new Fire/EMS Substation to provide adequate protection to anticipated growth areas.

The members of the Department continue to respond to all calls for service and they are now paid on a pay-call based system. We currently have a private contract ambulance service stationed at 1 Academy Avenue, on a twenty-four hour a day, seven days a week schedule. They provide emergency transport service to several area towns along with the Town of Atkinson. This arrangement has worked well and has allowed the department to remain a call department. We currently are accumulating data that tracks call volume and response time of personal and believe that in the near future, there will be a need to hire full time personnel to assure that the community is adequately protected and that we meet the needs and challenges ahead.

Many of the members volunteer their time to provide educational training to the community. Members work with the school children of all ages on fire prevention and safety. They also work with businesses, by training the employees in CPR and first aid along with fire prevention and safety. The members are very proud of these outreach programs that have proven to save lives. Fire prevention has for many years performed annual inspection on all commercial business. These inspections have allowed the Fire Department to become increasingly familiar with building conditions and any changes within businesses and buildings throughout town.

The Town's response equipment has increased throughout the years to our current fleet of 9 vehicles. Included are 3 pumper trucks, 1 tanker truck, 2 ambulances, 1 utility/forestry unit, 1 special service trailer, and 1 command unit. We also have mutual aid agreements with the surrounding communities when additional resources are needed.

For many years the Department relied on fire ponds with a dry hydrant installed in them to supply the water needed for fire protection within the community. We still rely on fire ponds in many areas of town however; we have been developing a pressurized hydrant district through a joint effort between Hampstead Water Company and local officials. We have been able to install 74 pressured hydrants on the privately owned water system, located mostly on the west side of town. The goal would be to work closely with water company officials to provide fire protection coverage to the whole town with a reliable pressurized hydrant system and have the use of the existing fire ponds as a backup.

The Department continue to work with the planning Board and other town boards and officials so that we can create reasonable zoning ordinances and building and fire code regulations that will allow for and service future development while continuing to maintain a relatively low tax impact Fire Department. The Fire Chief also serves as the Emergency Management Director and leads development, implementation and update of the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan.



## 5. Old and New Cemeteries

Neither the New Cemetery (part of the Kimball Trust, located behind the Kimball Library) nor the Old Cemetery (Main Street) have plots available. Cemetery plots are available in Section III, a one-acre parcel adjacent to the Old Cemetery. Cemetery Trustees have voiced concern about the rapidly dwindling availability of space. The purchase of the 1 Academy Avenue parcel did provide land to connect the Old and New cemeteries, thereby expanding the cemetery to accommodate growing needs.



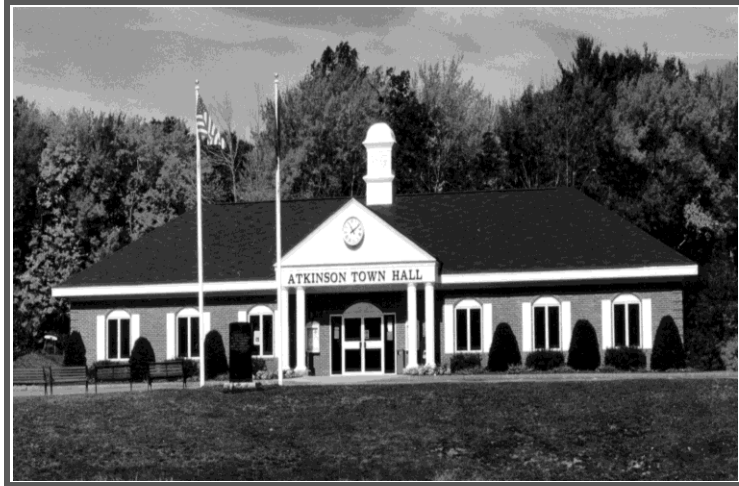
## 6. 1 Academy Avenue

Voters purchased this 8 acre parcel of land at the corner of Main Street and Academy Avenue, in March 1995 at a cost of \$215,000. The initial intent of the warrant article was to purchase only a portion of the land for future expansion of the cemetery. The acquisition of the total parcel offers multiple opportunities. In addition to cemetery expansion, the land now houses a new Town Garage and the new Fire Station. Upon removal of the house, there was an opportunity to realign Academy Avenue which will afford easier access for Fire Department vehicles. This roadway realignment had been a long standing recommendation of the State Department of Transportation, which owns both roads. The realignment of Academy Avenue provided an opportunity to enlarge the Town Common which serves to enhance the character of Atkinson's Town Center. Each of the preceding Master Plans and subsequent updates has reported the lack of identity of Town Center, which was also cited in the recommendation section.

The 1997 Town Meeting voted to authorize the exchange of a quarter of an acre of the land located on Academy Avenue and owned by The Trust for four acres of back land from the 1 Academy Avenue parcel. This exchange will facilitate the use of the 1 Academy Avenue land for town purposes, including the construction of a new garage and new fire station. Once the new fire house is completed and occupied, the old building will become the official property of the Library Trustees, to do with as they choose.

## 7. Town Hall

Atkinson Town Hall was built in 1985 and dedicated in 1986. It replaced the Atkinson Grange Hall, built in 1913, which was located on the land abutting the former Grange property where the Atkinson Academy is now located. The Grange was ultimately razed, creating more parking for Atkinson Academy. To commemorate the U.S. Bi-centennial in 1976, the Grange donated a pair of stained glass windows which are the focal point of the Town Hall atrium. Town Hall was architecturally designed to be in harmony with the community and is attractively landscaped. The facility was projected to adequately provide public services to a maximum population of 10,000.



The Town Hall houses four full-time employees and houses several part-time elected and appointed officials, including the Tax Collector, Treasurer and their deputies; building, electrical, plumbing and fire inspectors; the Health Officer; and the Code Enforcement Officer.

Since 1988, vacant or seldom used office space has been permanently assigned to new staff employed to meet increased demands for services. A storage room, spacious in 1986, is nearly filled with documents that the town is required by state law to maintain. Many of these documents have been put on microfilm and stored in the Town Clerk's Office. In addition, several of the committees with no offices of their own maintain file cabinets in the storage room, and the postage meter and FAX are located there as a central convenience to all departments. The copy machine was moved to the hallway off the main lobby.

The Selectmen's Office and meeting room can hold approximately 60 people. This room can be partitioned into two meeting rooms in addition to the Selectmen's Office. The middle room, which is small, is seldom used. Since all committees are staffed by volunteers, most committees meet in the evenings. It is not uncommon for several committees to meet on the same evening, occupying the Planning Board, the Selectmen's Office, and the back meeting room. Tax maps and assessing information are kept in the Selectmen's Office to be accessible to the public, and transient professionals, such as the auditors or assessors who use the Selectmen's Office for their work.

A very small room off the Selectmen's Office houses cable television and video equipment. As there is no extra space, television cameras are left in the Selectmen's Office, where they are most frequently used to televise Board of Selectmen and Planning Board meetings. Other, accessory cable television equipment is stored in the closet. The Selectmen's Office is also used for various other town meetings, programs and public hearings.

The pond in front of Town Hall serves multiple purposes. In the winter, the pond is used for ice skating; in the fall, it's a resting place for migratory birds, and, year-round, and serves as a fire pond for the Fire Department.



## 8. Police Station

### *Historical Overview*

In 1992, the Timberlane School District offered to give the Town ownership of the Rockwell School (which was being used as a storage facility) in exchange for approximately two acres of land between the new Town Hall and Atkinson Academy, plus the sum of \$25,000 to be used in combination with school money to pave the parking area. The exchange gave the Timberlane School District additional land to apply to density requirements, if a future addition to the Academy is necessary, and it gave Atkinson a building in which to house the Police Department.



### *Police Station and Facilities*

The 1993 Town meeting approved the sum of \$238,720 to remodel the Rockwell School for use by the Police Department. The Police Department occupies this small on Academy Avenue. With very limited space for storage, the building has no area large enough to accommodate a departmental meeting, no private area for interviews, and no containment area for detainees held for transport to the Brentwood facilities.



The building houses the five full-time and twenty one part-time police officers. The renovated building was designed to match, as closely as possible, the original building, built in 1845 as a Unitarian Church. The new station, re-named the Rockwell Building, includes a dispatch station, training room, detention facilities, juvenile office with adjoining conference room, Chief's office, officers office, interview room, viewing room with two-way mirrors, prosecutor's office, armorer's room, equipment room, evidence rooms, squad room, file room, and utility room. With the expanded facilities, the Police have been able to add more sophisticated and modern law-enforcement equipment. The building is handicap accessible. The Chief's major concern since

occupying the new building has been the lack of a facility for the safe transfer of suspects from the cruiser to the station. A second ongoing concern is lack of a local firing range. The officers who are required by State law to qualify each year currently use private land for practice.

Parking at the station is limited. Meetings or functions involving large groups have presented problems in the past (for example, a flu clinic for the elderly held at the new station had to be moved to the Town Hall, where there is adequate parking).

### *Police Department Services*

The Police Department provides a variety of services to the community including the following:

- Annual firearms safety course
- Neighborhood Watch programs
- Neighborhood patrols (3 days per week) to survey remote areas for improved safety
- Developed a 5-year Master Plan, pending approval by the Board of Selectmen, which will enable establishment of a \$25,000 capital reserve fund for staffing, services and facility improvements

## **9. Highway Department and Town Garage**

The 1998 Town Meeting approved funding of \$190,000 to construct a new Town Garage on the 1 Academy Avenue parcel. Construction on the new Town Garage began in September, 1998, and was completed in November 1998. The Town Garage (a 60 foot by 40 foot building) houses the town's one fully equipped truck, 4 plow hitches, four sander trucks, an office and bathroom facilities. The town leases equipment to perform routine cleaning of catch basins (a requirement of the town's EPA MS4 permit).

### *Highway Department*

The Town Garage houses the Highway Department and Care of Grounds, both directed by Road Agent Edward Stewart. The Highway Department is responsible for construction and maintenance of roads, municipal drainage infrastructure, and responds in the event of natural hazards and storm events which impact road function and public safety. The Department employs three part time staff to assist the Road Agent. Care of Grounds is responsible for maintenance of town grounds, properties and facilities, except the cemetery.

The Highway Department is responsible for the following tasks and activities:

- Prepare the annual report to EPA in compliance with MS4 permitting requirements
- Implement specific actions outlined in the MS4 permit under the 6 Minimum Requirements (i.e. infrastructure maintenance, public education, and public involvement)
- Participation in the development of the town's Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Highway Department has initiated the following projects and programs:

- Hydrologic Study of Island Pond Road and Hog Hill Brook Watershed (funded by the I-93 Community Technical Assistance Program)
- 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (2009-2019); several projects in the plan have been implemented through the actions of the Road Agent, approval by the Board of Selectmen and by vote at town meeting

## 10. Community Center

In 1985 Atkinson purchased the former Trinity House Camp on Main Street, a parcel of greater than 50 acres. The land was originally sold to the New Hampshire Society for the Preservation of Forests (NHSPF), which subdivided the parcel into two lots. One lot including the house and five acres was sold to the Town. The second lot was sold to the Conservation Commission, but remains under the supervision of the NHSPF to guarantee it will remain undeveloped.



The Town was enthusiastic about the acquisition of the facility, which has been renamed the Atkinson Community Center. Since this acquisition, voters have approved several articles to improve the meeting room and the kitchen in compliance with current building code. Its large meeting room was considered ideal for use by many of the civic and non-profit organizations in town which needed a place to meet. The building is now very actively used by those organizations, and is frequently rented for private functions as well.

In 1995, the Town approved major renovations to the attached house (previously used for storage), and placed the building under the supervision of the Recreation Commission. The Community Center is the hub of the town's Senior Program activities, weekly and monthly programs, and luncheons. In 2010 the Senior Program plans to implement monthly educational health promotion workshops. One of the Center's downstairs rooms is available to senior citizens who might wish to play cards, read or watch television. This meeting room has appropriate ramps and bathroom facilities. The second floor rooms however are not handicapped accessible, therefore are not currently in use.

## C. Recreational Facilities

### 1. Parks and Public Recreational Areas

Located in the geographic center of Atkinson, Woodlock Park seemed a very appropriate location for recreational opportunity in 1969, when the Town voted to purchase five acres of woodland on which to create a ball field. Most of the work to create the first ball field was done through volunteer effort, and, in 1972, the first ball field was opened. A key attraction at Woodlock Park seems to be the Tyke Towers, a playground for small children, which is in use throughout the day in warm weather. Parking is a problem at Woodlock Park, where the safety of children is the major concern.



In the 1970s, a Federal Grant gave Atkinson the money to develop new recreational opportunities, including tennis courts and a second ball field. The plans also called for the creation of walking paths throughout the area. In the 1990s, state funding, together with matching town funds and donations from the Timberlane Soccer League and Atkinson Youth Baseball, allowed the addition of yet another ball field, along with bathroom and storage facilities and an outdoor pavilion to accommodate the needs of a growing population.

Today, all athletic fields are in frequent use during the respective seasons, and the Recreation Commission is looking to add another soccer field, allowing use of one while the other spends a year in rehabilitation.

Dyke Auditorium is used during winter months for basketball. Older children participate in programs held at the Middle School and High School facilities in Plaistow. The Town runs a summer recreation program on the Atkinson Academy grounds for six weeks during the summer for elementary school aged children.

## 2. Public Water Access

A canoe launch to Big Island Pond was built on town land off Stickney Road for use by the general public. After five years without a functional public launch, and over 20 years since the first launch was opened, Atkinson has a canoe and kayak launch again with parking for up to ten cars. There is no public swimming facility in Atkinson.



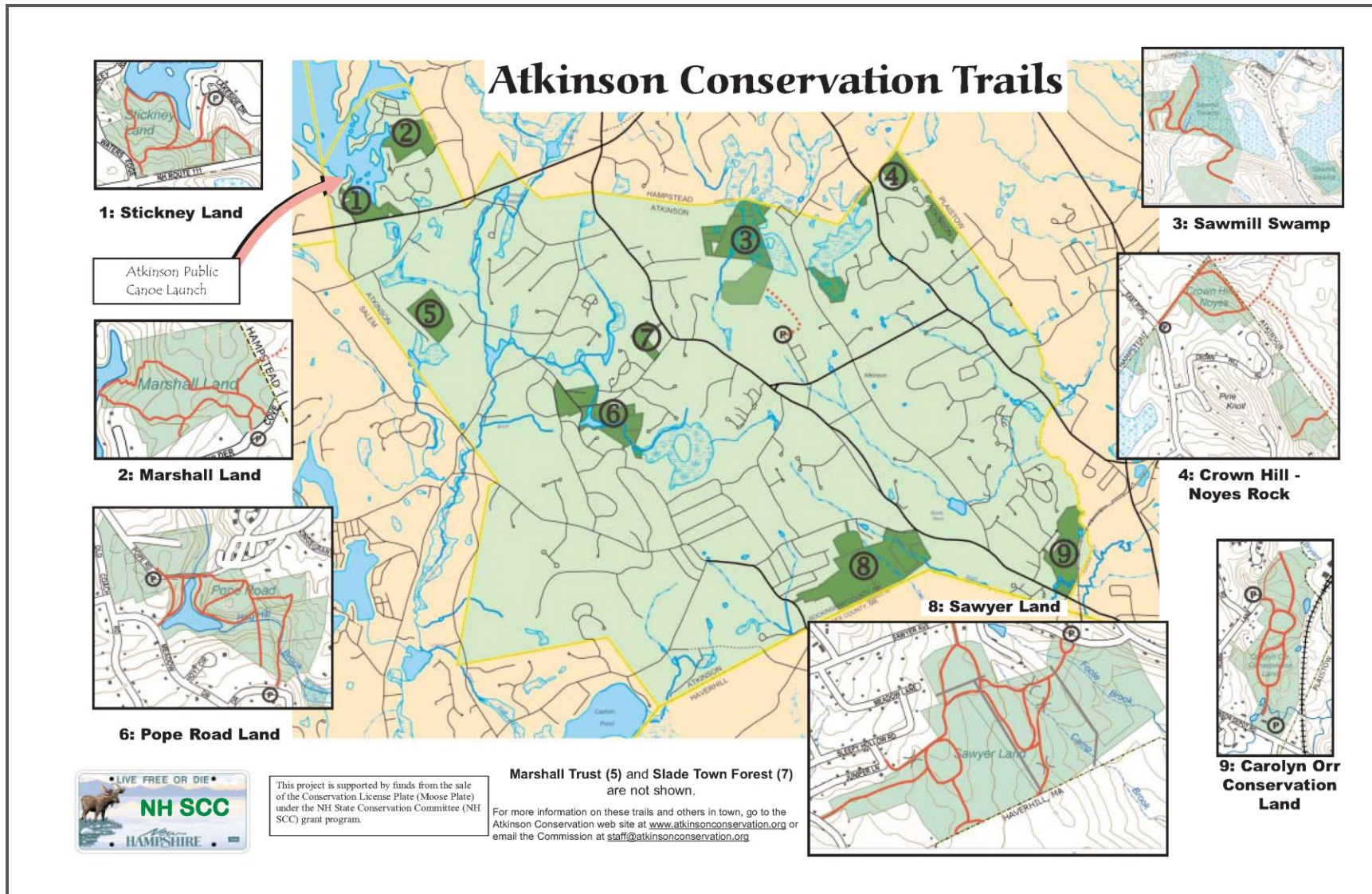
## 3. Public Trail System

The map on the following page is an excerpt from the Atkinson Conservation Trails brochure, which shows the location, access points and configuration of trails, and provides a general description of conserved lands and the natural features and resources found on them. Public trails are located at the following town owned conservation properties: Stickney Land, Marshall Land, Pope Road Land, Sawmill Swamp, Crown Hill-Noyes Rock, Carolyn Orr Conservation Land, and Sawyer Land. Refer to *Figure 2* on the following page for a map of public trails.

## 4. Public Water Access

After years without a functional public launch, and over 20 years since the first launch was opened, Atkinson has a restored canoe and kayak launch at Island Pond. The launch is on Stickney Road off Lake Shore Drive and has parking for up to ten cars.

**Figure 2. Map of trails on public conservation lands.**



## **D. Solid Waste Disposal Facility and Services**

Atkinson has transitioned its solid waste disposal from the colonial family dump (many older properties have one buried in the yard), to a town dump operated prior to 1970 on Meditation Lane, to a transfer station located on Woodlock Park Lane (formerly Pope Road) and now implement curbside trash and recycling pickup. Curbside weekly pickup is performed through a contract with a private company. The trash removal contract also provides for disposal of one piece of furniture and one tire weekly. Residents may drop off white goods and electronics free of charge at Windfield Alloys, a private recycling company located in town.

A compost and brush dump area is open from April to the first snow fall to accommodate disposal of yard waste. The facility no longer accepts construction debris. The facility produces wood chips and compost from yard waste materials, both of which are available to the public at no charge. Car parts and anything else which might be hazardous are not accepted.

Recycling began through the efforts of a large group of volunteers who were anxious to see Atkinson join other communities in actively doing their part to protect the environment. Proceeds from the sale of recyclable goods, though relatively insignificant, were returned to the town's general fund. Recycling is not mandatory in Atkinson. A facility attendance receives the recyclable materials dropped off by residents. Recyclables, including glass, plastics and aluminum cans, are accepted at the Recycling Area. The facility also accepts scrap iron, cardboard, and mixed paper. The recycling facility is open Saturdays and Sundays 9:00am to 4:00pm, and Wednesday from noon to 4:00pm. Newspapers, packaged in paper or bundled and tied, are left curbside and picked up every other week.

The area itself is relatively unprotected, lending to access at any time of day or night which sometimes creates problems. For example, some residents tend to drop off their goods whether the station is manned or not, creating undesirable situations.

## **E. Educational Facilities**

Atkinson, Danville, Plaistow and Sandown are members of the Timberlane Regional School District. Each town maintains its own elementary school, while students in grades 6 through 12 attend the Timberlane Middle School and Senior High School on Greenough Road in Plaistow.

### **1. Timberlane Regional School**

The Town's educational responsibility is met by providing funds to the Timberlane Regional School District by paying for its proportional share based on the number of students enrolled from Atkinson. In 1998, the Town instituted School Impact Fees in accordance with State Statutes to help pay for required capital improvements necessitated by growth. Impact fees can be used to pay for improvements to Atkinson Academy or help pay the town's proportional share to the Timberlane Regional School District. Total student enrollment statistics are provided in the table below.



**Table 2. 2011 enrollment statistics for Atkinson Academy, Timberlane Regional Middle School and Timberlane Regional High School.**

Grade	Atkinson Academy	Grade	Timberlane Regional Middle School	Grade	Timberlane Regional High School
Pre-School	31	06	75	09	76
K	62	07	94	10	83
01	50	08	96	11	82
02	75			12	70
03	88				
04	71				
05	83				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>429</b>		<b>265</b>		<b>311</b>

*Total 2010 student enrollment for Atkinson = 1,036 students*

**2. Atkinson Academy**

Atkinson Academy, the second-oldest co-educational school in the country, was founded as a boys' school in 1787 by Reverend Stephen Peabody, General Nathaniel Peabody and Doctor William Cogswell with funds gifted by Colonel Atkinson. The school began admitting girls in 1791 and today is the oldest co-educational school in the nation. The school building burnt to the ground in 1802, and was rebuilt in 1803 at a cost of \$2,500. The 1803 building remains a part of the Academy, with only four classrooms.

Atkinson's elementary students, grades K through 5 attend Atkinson Academy. In 2010, enrollment totaled 429 students.



**3. Other Schools**

Hampstead Academy and Countryside Schoolhouse, both located on Maple Avenue, offer kindergarten to Atkinson's pre-school children. There are other private kindergartens in surrounding communities.

## **F. State and Federal Facilities**

### **1. State Properties**

The State of New Hampshire owns two parcels in Atkinson. One very small parcel is located at the intersection of Hall Farm Road and the new Route 111. The other parcel is located on east Road near Lisheen Drive, and once served as a source of gravel for the state. In 1995, Atkinson unsuccessfully attempted to obtain this parcel for use as a town garage site.

### **2. Post Office**

The U.S. Post Office is located at 9 Main Street. According to Postmaster Edward G. Maciejewski, as of 2011, the Post Office delivers mail to approximately 2,800 customers along 5 home delivery routes, and serves 675 box holders.

## **G. Town Property and Conservation Lands**

Appendix 1 identifies town-owned lands and their uses, conservation land and open space lands.

### *Dow Common*

Dow Common is located at the heart of Atkinson's historic town center. Land for Dow Common was donated to the town by William Cleaves Todd (1823-1903) and formerly dedicated at a ceremony held on December 4, 1888. The Common is named after Sergeant George P. Dow (1840-1910), a former Atkinson resident and Civil War veteran who received a Congressional Medal of Honor. The park contains four stone benches, two garden benches, a monument with the names of veterans who served in several wars and conflicts, and a plaque with names of residents that helped with the town's "Beautification Project".



## **H. Other Public Facilities**

### **1. Hospitals, Medical Facilities and Services**

Atkinson is served by Merrimack Valley in Haverhill, MA, the Exeter Hospital in Exeter, NH, Lawrence General Hospital in Lawrence, MA, the Parkland Medical Center in Derry, NH and the Holy Family Hospital in Methuen, MA. Hampstead Hospital, on East Road in Hampstead, offers substance abuse and mental health assistance and services.

Ambulance services are provided contractually through Trinity Ambulance Service which maintains a substation in Atkinson.

## 2. Family Mediation Services

The former police station on Academy Avenue has been used in past years as Selectmen's quarters and a school when originally built in 1865. After discussion regarding appropriate use of the building for town purposes, the building was designated for use by Family Mediation, one of the service agencies supported by the Town.

Family Mediation & Juvenile Services is dedicated to providing quality resources to youth and families in order to reduce delinquency and out-of-home placements, and to empower them as individuals, family members, and citizens of the community. The service offers the following programs: Parent-Child Mediation, Substance Abuse Awareness, and a Restitution Program.



The agency is funded in part by: the towns of Atkinson, Danville, Hampstead, Kingston, Newton, and Plaistow, the Rockingham County Incentive Funds, and private donations and grants. The Board of Directors consists of representatives from Atkinson, Danville and Hampstead.

## 3. Churches

The Atkinson Congregational Church on Main Street, and Pentucket Baptist Church on East Road serve residents of Atkinson. Other denominations attend churches in nearby New Hampshire and Massachusetts communities.



## I. Municipal Energy Use

The Atkinson Energy Committee (AEC) was formed in 2007. In 2008, Atkinson was one of 165 municipalities that passed the New Hampshire Climate Change Resolution that calls on the federal government to prioritize climate change policy and enables the formation of a local energy committee for the Town of Atkinson, and to address municipal energy efficiency and conservation, emission reductions, and other energy related issues. In 2010, the town adopted its first Energy Chapter of the Master Plan.

In 2009, the Atkinson Energy Committee helped prepare an energy report with the Rockingham Planning Commission in partnership with and funded by a grant from Clean Air-Cool Planet through the NH Charitable Foundation. This report is a summary of municipal energy use, energy costs, and greenhouse gas emissions for the Town of Atkinson, New Hampshire for the years 2007 and 2008. The report focuses on energy use associated with municipal facilities and operations, with special emphasis on town-owned buildings. The report does not include information about private residential, commercial, or industrial energy use. The report does not include the Kimball Library as construction had just been completed and a full year of energy use data did not exist. Following is information and data excerpted from this report.

Atkinson's municipal buildings evaluated for this report total 30,945 square feet of building area. Municipal building information is summarized in Table 3 below.

**Table 3. Summary of municipal buildings and infrastructure included in this inventory.**

<i>Building Name</i>	<i>Year Built</i>	<i>Floor Area (sq ft)</i>	<i>Energy/Fuel Types</i>
Community Center	1914 (1950's)	6,800	electric, propane
Fire Station	2000	11,000	electric, propane
Police Station	1800 (1900's)	3,575	electric, No.2 heating oil
Town Highway Dept. Garage		2,970	electric, propane
Town Hall	1800's	6,600	electric, No.2 heating oil, geothermal system
Kimball House	1800's	2,506	electric, No.2 heating oil
<b>Total Floor Area</b>		<b>30,945</b>	--

Atkinson's vehicle fleet is described below; combined, the police, fire, emergency services and other service vehicles total 17.



**Table 4. Inventory of municipal vehicle fleet.**

<i>Vehicle Fleet</i>	<i>Vehicle Type</i>	<i>Model Year</i>
<b>Police Department</b>	2 SUV's, 6 Crown Victoria cruisers	---
<b>Fire Department</b>		
Engines 1 and 2	Central States	1992 and 2004
Engines 3 and 4	Mack	1982 and 1972
Tanker 1	Mack	1985
Rescue 1 and Utility 1	Ford F450	1989 and 1995
Ambulance 1	Ford F450	---
Forestry 1	---	1965

**Table 5. Energy use, equivalent carbon emissions, and costs, by energy sector (2007-2008).**

<i>Municipal Sector</i>	<i>Energy Use (MMBtu)*</i>	<i>Energy Use (%)</i>	<i>CO<sub>2</sub> (tons)</i>	<i>CO<sub>2</sub> (%)</i>	<i>Total Energy Cost</i>	<i>Energy Cost %</i>
<b>2007</b>						
<b>Buildings</b>	2,521	50.1	353,662	41.9	\$48,058	39.6
<b>Vehicle Fleet</b>	1,805	43%	283,858	30%	\$42,275	28%
<b>Street Lights</b>	708	17%	206,246	22%	\$31,124	20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,034</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>843,766</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$121,457</b>	<b>--</b>
<b>2008</b>						
<b>Buildings</b>	1,804	39.4	215,724	28.8	\$51,701	39.5
<b>Vehicle Fleet</b>	2,063	43%	325,044	33%	\$48,093	33%
<b>Street Lights</b>	711	15%	207,049	21%	\$31,245	22%
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,578</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>747,817</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>\$131,039</b>	<b>--</b>

\* MMBtu = one million British Thermal Units *Note: 2007 and 2008 energy data includes the Kimball House.*

The Fire Station has the highest total annual energy cost and annual energy cost per square foot, followed closely by the Town Hall. The Police Department has the highest energy use intensity rating (kBTU/sq ft), followed closely by the Fire Station and Kimball House. The Town Hall has the highest carbon dioxide emissions, followed closely by the Police Station and Kimball House.

**Table 6. 2008 energy use, carbon emissions, and costs by municipal building.**

<i>Municipal Buildings</i>	<i>MM BTU</i>	<i>Area (sq ft)</i>	<i>EUI* (kBTU/sq ft)</i>	<i>CO<sub>2</sub> (lbs)</i>	<i>lbs CO<sub>2</sub>/sq ft</i>	<i>Total Energy Cost</i>	<i>Cost/sq ft</i>
Community Center	208.6	6,800	30.7	15,895	2.3	\$7,607	\$1.12
Fire Station	700.6	11,000	63.7	48,259	4.4	\$16,980	\$1.54
Highway Dept. Garage	154.6	2,970	52.1	5,578	1.9	\$3,497	\$1.18
Police Station	309.8	3,575	86.7	37,897	10.6	\$8,014	\$2.24
Town Hall	282.5	6,600	42.8	84,216	12.8	\$12,403	\$1.99
Kimball House	148.1	2,506	59.1	23,879	9.5	\$3,200	\$1.28

\* EUI = Energy Use Intensity

*2010 Energy Audit of Municipal Buildings*

In 2011, the Atkinson Energy Committee contracted with Arbogast Energy Consulting (AEC) to conduct a detailed and comprehensive energy audit of municipal buildings. The goal of this audit is to identify infrastructure improvements to increase energy efficiency of the facility, thereby reducing municipal energy expenditures. This report “*ASHRAE Level II Audit Town Buildings, Town of Atkinson, New Hampshire*” is available to the public at the Board of Selectmen’s Office. Key municipal energy use data (2009/2010) from this report is provided on page 21.

The 2010 energy report by AEC captured energy use data for the Kimball Library – which was not included in the 2009 RPC report – because by 2010 several years of data were available to analyze. A summary of energy use data for Kimball Library for 2009/2010 is provided on page 20.

**Meter Data and Utility History Summary**

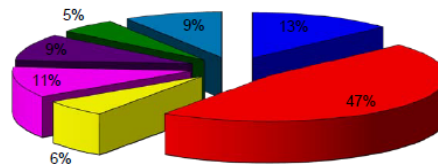
**Town of Atkinson, New Hampshire  
Kimball Library  
Utility Analysis Period:**

8/01/2009 to 7/31/2010

	Current Year		Previous Year	
	8/1/2009 Electric	to 7/31/2010 Propane	8/1/2008 Electric	to 7/31/2009 Propane
Utility Costs	\$13,506	\$6,202	\$10,945	\$15,808
Utility Usage	91,840	3,716	84,840	8,292
\$ Cost/Unit (kWh, Therm, Gal)	\$0.15	\$1.67	\$0.13	\$1.91
	CDD	HDD	CDD	HDD
	419	6,689	324	7,366
<b>Current Year Vs Previous Year</b>	<b>Electric</b>	<b>Propane</b>		
Change in Cost	23%	-61%		
Change in Usage	8%	-55%		
Change in \$ Cost/Unit	14%	-12%		
Change in Degree Day	29%	-9%		

Electric usage increase proportional to CDD and Propane Usage decrease proportional to HDD  
 CDD - Cooling Degree Day  
 HDD - Heating Degree Day

**ENERGY USAGE PROFILE**

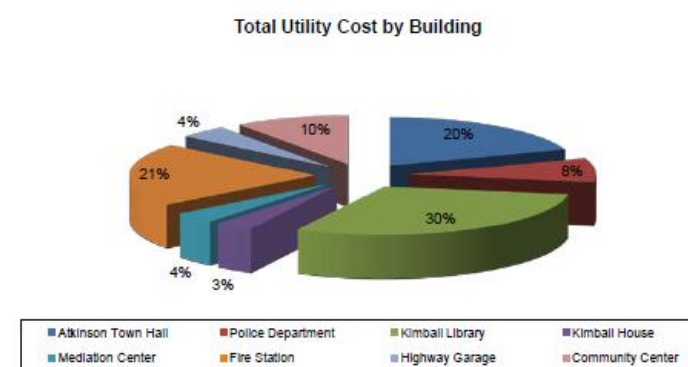
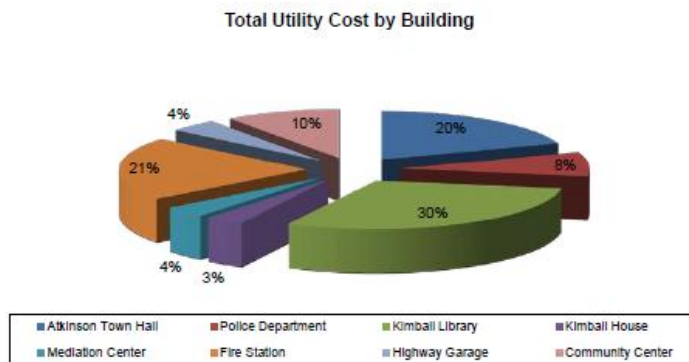
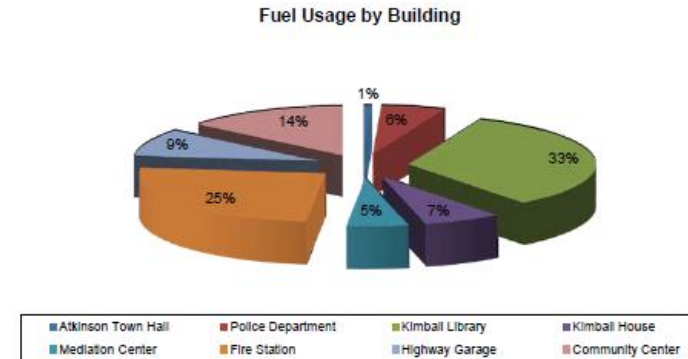
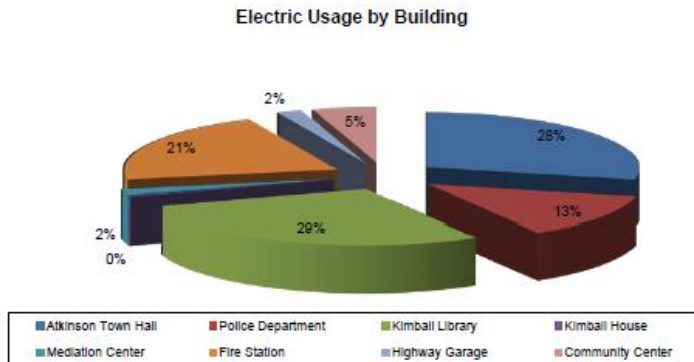
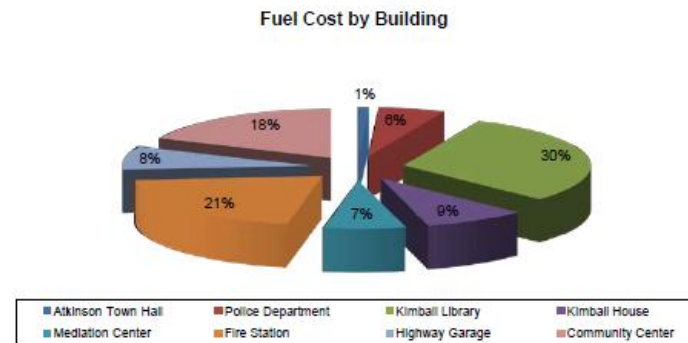
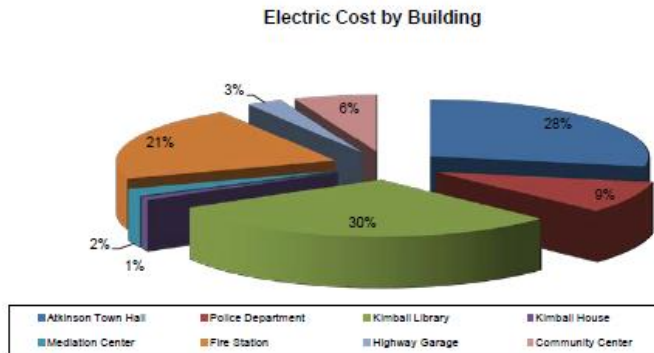


■ Cooling ■ Heating ■ Pumps ■ Lighting ■ Fans ■ Domestic Hot Water ■ Plug Load (Include Computers)

Total Facility Site Consumption		652 (Millions of BTU/hr)
Cooling	13.1%	
Heating	46.7%	
Pumps	5.9%	
Lighting	10.8%	
Fans	9.4%	
Domestic Hot Water	5.2%	
Plug Load (Include Computers)	8.9%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	



Key energy findings from the report *ASHRAE Level II Audit Town Buildings, Town of Atkinson, New Hampshire* [AEC, 2010]



**J. Recommendations**

1. Restructure Highway Department funding, staff and budget to improve efficiency and effectiveness of services to the community.
2. Make the solid waste facility more accessible to the public and encourage the public to use the compost and wood chips produced there.
3. Increase full-time patrol and support positions and capacity of the Police Department.
4. Address deficits in the communications systems coverage for the Police Department and Fire Department. Implement recommendations in the investigative report (2010) produced by the Emergency Radio Communications Committee (appointed by the Board of Selectmen).
5. The Town should maintain Zoning Ordinances that will protect itself from incurring the expense of constructing public sewer or public water facilities.
6. The Board of Selectmen and the Planning Board should work cooperatively to assure that there is a committee for the on-going planning of community facilities (this function is presently served by the Building Needs Committee).
7. The Town should establish a committee to develop the Master Plan for the Town Center. Within the Town Center, provisions should ultimately be adopted to allow for community services and facilities of a specialty retail nature and civic function as well as professional services. The Town should maintain functional and design control over the District to create a community focal point that is aesthetically and visually functional.

**APPENDIX 1: Town Property and Conserved Lands**

The following information was compiled by the Conservation Commission, reflects acreage of town properties and conserved lands as of January 2012.

<i>Type</i>	<i>Acreage</i>
Conservation Land	179.6
Town Conservation Land	24.6
Conservation-Town Forest	352.2
Set Aside for Open Space Subdivisions	697.07
Recreation	24.4
Town Property/Buildings	44.3
Town Cemetery	3.5
Town Common	0.5
Town Miscellaneous	20.1
Other Lands	11.3
<b><i>Total</i></b>	<b><i>1,357.57</i></b>