



Greening the Abbe

The Greening the Abbe Initiative was launched with a paddle raise in July 2012 at the annual Gathering Gala benefit for the Abbe. The over-arching goal of this initiative is to make the Abbe environmentally responsible and sustainable. Thanks to 43 generous donors, \$31,000 was contributed last summer during the Gathering Gala paddle raise to Green the Abbe Museum. The “Greening Initiative” is taking place in three phases over the next three years. Our goal is to raise a \$425,000 (20% of which is for endowment) to address the specific areas of need outlined in a 2010 planning report that was made possible through a \$40K grant the Abbe received in 2009 from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

We have made the changes that we committed to do during Phase I. All of the greening donors received a letter in March 2013 that included the following update:



Replaced the system control software which regulates the heating and cooling in the Abbe Museum downtown (systems failures negatively impact the museum climate, which impacts the stability of collections and increases energy demands as the system recovers). With our new systems software, we are better able to monitor the climate in the Museum and fine-tune the heating and cooling needs. The cost for this major replacement was \$21,000; the savings has been significant as we have already lowered our energy consumption by 20%, which is a savings of \$500 per month.



Installed ultraviolet filters on the Circle of Four Directions windows, which now allows us to use this space for exhibits, while reducing energy consumption in this space by 20%. The cost was \$3,000.



Staff is more mindful of the impact that our daily work has on the environment and we are consciously reducing our individual energy consumption. We are using biodegradable cleaning solutions and we recycle whenever possible. Our newest exhibit, Wabanaki Guides, was built with 80% of the materials from the prior exhibit, (Indians & Rusticators), 10% was repurposed to improve storage organization in the exhibit prep space, 2% was recycled, leaving only 8% for disposal.



The remaining \$7,000 that was contributed during the paddle raise will be used to make necessary improvements to the steam humidifier and air flow balancing.

The Greening Phase II is costly and will include an overhaul of our entire lighting system, the chiller and Stage 1 of dehumidification. The timing for the work on Phase II is contingent upon receipt of a \$305,000 NEH grant which we applied for in December 2012. Award notification will happen in September 2013.