



Speaker Series:

Global Petro-Politics: the struggle over the world's oil

Kicking off our speaker series in January is Michael Klare speaking on "Global Petro-Politics: US, China, and the struggle over the world's oil". Klare is the Five College Professor of Peace and World Security

Studies, a joint appointment at Amherst, Hampshire, Mount Holyoke, and Smith Colleges and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. He is the author of several books, including *Rogue States and Nuclear Outlaws* (1995), *Resource Wars* (2001) and his most recent book, *Blood and Oil...The dangers and consequences of America's growing dependency on imported petroleum*. Prof. Klare will have copies of *Blood and Oil ...* for sale and will sign them after the talk.

" 'Oil', says Michael Klare, 'makes us strong, but dependency makes us weak.' His clear, informed, and troubling diagnosis of America's greatest addiction comes as oil's rising cost in blood and treasure requires us to understand the greater perils to come. *Blood and Oil* proves that oil's substitutes -- and especially their efficient use -- are an even greater bargain than they look."

*Amory B. Lovins,
Co-founder and CEO, Rocky Mountain Institute*

Prof. Klare's talk last year was snowed out, but his subject is more timely than ever, so please join us at the Newton Free Library, Monday, January 23rd from 7 to 9pm.

Hurricanes Growing Stronger?

Devastating hurricanes do not just affect people and habitats in the southern US; over history they have had profound effects on New England and many other regions throughout the world. On **Monday, February 27th**, at 7pm, Dr. Kerry Emanuel, author of *Divine Wind: The History and Science of Hurricanes* and professor in MIT's Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences, will discuss his recent discovery that the strength and duration of hurricanes is intensifying.

The consequences of this trend for disaster preparedness in New England will be a focus of discussion following the talk. This second 2006 Green Decade Speaker Series event will be held in the Druker Auditorium, Newton Public Library.

by Eric Olson

The Green Decade Coalition/Newton
Co-sponsored with the Newton Free Library

Environmental Speaker Series at Newton Free Library

Druker Auditorium

Mondays at 7:00pm



January 23
"Global Petro-Politics: U.S., China & the struggle over the world's oil"

Author Michael Klare will speak. See article above.



February 27
"Hurricanes growing stronger?"

Author Kerry Emanuel will speak. See article this page.

Save the dates for
March 27, April 24 & May 22 Speaker Series

Join us at these free public presentations!

Refreshments - Please bring your own mug

For information call 965-1995

When wastewater is not wasted

Instead of investing billions of dollars in advanced wastewater treatment plants, wouldn't it be more productive to invest in distribution systems that can directly put that waste water to use? That's a question posed by Green Decade founding member David Del Porto. His answer is a resounding yes, and his proposed solution is compelling—use wastewater to grow algae, grains and grasses that can be processed to replace imported petroleum. The result: a win/win/win process that simultaneously reduces wastewater pollution, eases the energy crises, and reduces the international national security threat from certain petroleum producers—all this and creating jobs at the same time.

For background, David notes that the US EPA has estimated that American communities in the last twenty years spent \$1 trillion on drinking water treatment and supply and wastewater treatment and disposal. Current estimates are that another trillion dollars will be needed in the next 15-20 years due to aging infrastructure and the need to upgrade to meet current regulations.

As an alternative to that massive expenditure, he proposes investing in a system to transport secondary wastewater from existing treatment plants to deserts and brownfields in order to grow bio-based fossil fuel alternatives. The benefits could come pretty quickly—this approach would drive down the price of petroleum and contribute to the security of the international community in only the time it would take for the plants to mature.

In support of the concept, David cites several factors:

- One of the obstacles to growing petroleum alternatives is the cost of fertilizer, which requires natural gas and petroleum to produce. Another is the limited amount of fertile land not already in service to growing food. By using wastewater and otherwise unusable land, these obstacles can be overcome.
- There are hundreds of millions of acres of unusable land in the world that could be farmed to grow petroleum alternative crops with the water and nutrients in wastewater.
- Most petroleum-based chemicals, fuels, lubricants, plastics, pharmaceuticals, and other products can be replaced by inedible oils, grains and biomass grown on American lands by experienced farmers without significant changes in the refining, processing and distribution systems now in place.
- The existing infrastructure of the petroleum industry—be it refineries, distribution, or chemical factories—can, with minor modifications, easily convert from petroleum to oils from seeds and beans, and alcohols from grains and grasses.
- The water and nutrients in human domestic wastewater can, without additional treatment sustain tens of millions of acres of grain or biomass for ethanol production or soybeans or rape seed per year for petroleum-derived



products. This number can be doubled or tripled by adding poultry and other animal wastes to the equation.

- Farmers are in need of new crops to replace tobacco and other crops that compete with foreign imports and many farmers are still paid to NOT grow crops at all! Growing petroleum alternatives creates more jobs in areas where employment is needed without threatening the existing farming community.

An analysis of the sewage available from Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada, shows that it could produce nine million barrels of oil per year in the surrounding deserts. At today's prices that is worth more than \$535 million!

David is currently pursuing sources of funding to further develop the concept.

excerpted by Ira Krepchin from a proposal of David Delporto

Fund-Raiser needs volunteers

The Green Decade Coalition/Newton still needs volunteers to help organize our first ever spring fundraiser. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS** for "Greening the Garden City," our 15th Anniversary Fundraiser on April 29 at the New Art Center in Newton from 7-11pm. We need help with organizing food and beverage donations, selling tickets, and securing items for auction. Please contact Margaret Ford at 617-965-1995 if you are interested in helping.



by Amelia Ravin

Our Mission

The Green Decade Coalition/Newton is conducting a campaign to make a significant improvement in resource use by businesses, institutions, and residences in Newton. We establish goals and seek to achieve measurable results in energy and water use, waste disposal practices, and pollution prevention through research, education, and action. Our goal is to make Newton a model of ecological and environmental integrity in a sustainable world community.

Thanks ! and . . next deadline

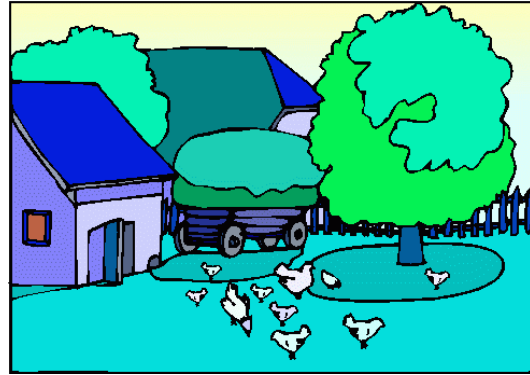
For the next newsletter, please send submissions or requests by email to Ira Krepchin, irapk@alum.mit.edu by Friday, January 13, 2006.

Thanks for making this newsletter possible to Managing Editor Ira Krepchin, Co-editors Peter Smith/Louise Bruyn, and those who wrote articles. Many thanks to our Newsletter Collator Chairs Marcia Cooper and Frank Propp, and their team for the last issue: Sarah Barnett, Marcia Cooper, Jacqui Gross, Frank Propp, Pat & Will Rand and Alie Saminsky.

Angino Farm comes back to life

I hope you all saw the beautiful expanse of light green rye growing in a field on the corner of Winchester and Nahanton Road this fall. The "last farm in Newton" is springing back to life and will produce crops again after lying fallow for several years. It's future looks bright. The Angino family farm is now owned by the City, which bought it with Community Preservation Act funds last May.

Who's in charge now? The Angino Farm Commission has been created and empowered by the Board of Aldermen to make policy decisions regarding its operation. (I was honored to be one of the appointees to represent environmental and sustainability concerns. As such, I am learning a great deal about the details of restarting this farm.) The Commission first met in September. A major decision was made to select a group to run the farm and in November, after soliciting proposals from a broad list of potential operators, the group selected was the Newton Community Farm, Inc. It is in process of becoming a 501(C)(3) organization. Many of its members came together initially to advocate for the City to purchase the



land when it was known to be available. And many of those were members of the Newton Conservators. The Commission believes

they have the commitment and expertise to bring this enterprise to fruition. (It was that group who helped out in October by tilling the field and planting the rye as a gift to the project.)

The farm group will hire a farmer. (In the lag time between writing articles and printing and mailing this newsletter, this may already have been done.) Meanwhile, the house and barn are having work done on them to bring them up to code and make them comfortable and safe for whoever will live there. The house is expected to be ready for occupancy by January or February, 2006.

People have great expectations for this farm. It's tiny, but can produce an abundance of food. It will remain as open space, will be a reminder of the history of the farming culture in that location since the 1600s, and will be a center for education of children and adults regarding that culture and today's organic methods of farming, as well as sustainable energy and water usage.

We'll follow up with more information on how you all can be involved as supporters of the project, advisors on methods, and/or volunteers. At this point it's all new and in process.

by Louise Bruyn

Thanks for donations go to:



KYOTO PROJECT BENEFACTOR: Anonymous

BUSINESS PATRON

& SPRING EVENT SPONSOR: UNICCO

PATRON: The Holborn Foundation / Marcella & Pieter Boelhower.

FRIENDS: Kevin Dutt, Margaret Ford & Tom Boyd, Esther Greif, Kristina Jones, Susan Korn, Rosemarie Mullin, Jeremy W. Russo, David Wiener

JOIN THE GREEN DECADE

Enclosed is: New member Renewal

(\$20.00 suggested annual individual donation) (additional donation) **TOTAL**

NAME: _____
(For address labels)

ADDRESS: _____

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(Please print clearly !)

Yes! I am joining/renewing for calendar 2006!

Most of our budget comes from memberships. Membership and contributor lists are not given out. You get the bi-monthly GREEN NEWS, discounts at selected local businesses, and more!

Amount	Person/Family	Business	Please circle your category <i>For Friend or higher contribution, we acknowledge your donation in green news unless you check here <input type="checkbox"/></i>
\$ 20	Basic	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a	
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100	Donor	Friend	
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500	Benefactor	Patron	
1000	Really Green	Benefactor	

Thank you! Please send your tax deductible check payable to: GDC/N, P.O. Box 590242, Newton, MA 02459 Jan/Feb 2006

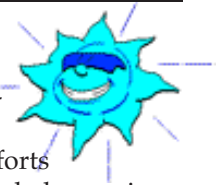
CALENDAR

Jan 23 Mon 7pm	"Global Petro-Politics: U.S., China & the struggle over the world's oil" , Newton Free Library, see article page 1 this issue.
Jan 25 Wed 7:30pm	Green Decade Coalition Board meeting , call for location, 617 965-1995.
Feb 11 Sat 1-4pm	Workshop: Insulating your historic home Call for location 617 965-1995.
Feb 27 Mon 7pm	"Hurricanes growing stronger?" author Kerry Emanuel, Environmental Speakers Series, Newton Free Library, article page 1

See web site greendecade.org for up to date events schedule!

Send environmental events to GREEN NEWS. email to Ira Krepchin by Friday, Jan. 13, 2006 irapk@alum.mit.edu. We will list as space permits.

Report from MCAN



The Green Decade Coalition is a member of the Mass. Climate Action Network (MCAN), which coordinates efforts among groups around the state to combat global warming. The last meeting focused on several projects and issues:

- Green Buildings for cities and towns: MCAN has decided to use its staff and resources to encourage cities and towns to adopt green building practices. Newton is already well-along in this effort, with the High-Performance Building Coalition. We should be a model.

- RGGI—smoke and mirrors in greenhouse gas regulation: The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a much touted groundbreaking regulation under which 9 Northeastern and Middle Atlantic states would do what the Federal government has failed to do—restrict greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. Unfortunately, this law would actually do very little to achieve this aim, and could well result in no new reductions. In fact, the current Massachusetts laws are stronger than the RGGI regulations, so Massachusetts may have higher emissions under the 9 state agreement than under current law. The quandary is that this law sets a precedent in regional regulative cooperation and so may lead to stronger future measures. This has to be balanced against the possibility that the law will convince people that there is progress where none exists. The MCAN board voted to support RGGI, but to lobby for improvements, especially around the issue of who should pay—a technical issue of how many free and tradable “permits to pollute” should be given to utilities. MCAN’s effort is to make the polluters pay for these permits, and to make sure that RGGI does not end up simply enriching the utilities while achieving no environmental goals.

- MCAN decided not to hold a regional conference this year on global warming, despite the success of past conferences. For further information on any of these issues, please contact Fred Gordon at 617-964-9914 or FGordon574@aol.com. *by Fred Gordon (Fred is a member of GDC’s Kyoto Committee and an MCAN Representative).*

counting down !

“• *Shrinking of glaciers in the Alps each year since 1970: 1%*

• *Years until the Alpine glaciers melt completely, if summers continue to be hot and dry: 50*

• *Size of the blanket that a Swiss ski resort is using to try to save its glacier: 3–4,000 square meters.*”

“the page that counts down” - page 11, YES, a journal of positive futures, Fall, 2005.

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Happy New Year: Green Decade Coalition launches new website !



As of November 2005, the Green Decade has a redesigned website—an all new look at the same address: www.greendecade.org. Have a look and you'll find not only information about the Green Decade's committees and events, but colorful graphics, including photographs of board members and more! In our News section, you can download the most recent edition of the Green News, plus the preceding 5 issues; and there are links to the Environment Page (Newton TAB) and the Environment Show (NewTV).

The new site also features at least one page of information about each committee, such as GreenCAP, Energy and High Performance Buildings, plus a list of, and links to, resources for more information. In addition, there is a Volunteer section that shows activities for each committee and describes other events, such as the annual plant & garden sale and the farmers' market. A quick click will take you to a form that you fill out and submit, to be followed up with a phone call or e-mail from the committee chair.

The Events section features an Event Calendar that lists all events planned for 2006, and will be updated throughout the year. For events that require advance reservations and/or tickets, you will be able to register and pay on-line with MasterCard or Visa. The Environmental Speaker Series, which is free to the public, will be listed on the calendar and on its own page (in the Committees section). Upcoming Events will also be listed on a separate page with more details about each event. Soon to come—a photo gallery with pictures from GDC events and activities.

Especially important at this time of year is our new on-line membership feature – new members, renewals and gift memberships can all be paid for by credit card as well! Of course, on-line contributions can also be made – to GDC or to a specific committee, project or event – as you wish.

The new website's design and content is a cooperative effort of WSI Active Web Works in conjunction with Bev Droz, Margaret Ford, Douglas Leith and the many committee chairs and board members who contributed information. WSI's Andrea Lempel-Federmann and Benji Federmann have worked with us for many months to create the new site. GDC gratefully acknowledges outgoing webmaster Boulat Bash for his years of service and expertise and welcomes new webmaster Tom Boyd, who will manage the new website.

by Margaret Ford

Greening the Faith



About two years ago Dan Ruben, Vice Pres. of the Green Decade, and Executive Director of CERC, (Coalition for Environmentally Responsible Conventions) presented a seminar on the subject of "greening" hotels. He greatly impressed one of the participants—ecotourism writer, Colette Wood.

This past fall Wood, who is also Chair of the Taskforce on Faith and the Environment for the Diocese of Massachusetts, organized a "green" Convention for that organization. "I folded Dan's innovations into some inspirations of my own," she states.

When the delegates picked up their information packets upon arrival at the Convention, they found a green sheet entitled "2005 Diocesan Convention Goes Green!" Seven "Green Initiatives" greeted them. Starting with reducing the use of paper by having emailed the prospective attendees, the organizers provided nondisposable mugs for tea and coffee, as well as glasses and pitchers of water and cream (in place of small plastic tubs). They encouraged delegates to recycle their lunch packaging, as much as possible, and to leave their name tags behind for future use. The leaders set up extra bins for recycling drink containers, and Abitibi Paper Retriever supplied barrels for recycling paper.

Those staying at hotels found "hotel guest room initiatives" in their rooms. They found non-disposable glasses, and opportunities for reusing linens and donating unused shampoo bottles and soaps to a homeless shelter.

In addition, the Diocese teamed up with Mass Energy to purchase renewable energy for the Convention. Mass Energy replenished the New England Power Grid with "green energy" from renewable sources like wind and solar facilities in an amount equal to what the gathering used, thus offsetting the environmental impact of the Convention. Conventioneers raised \$600.00 to pay for this service.

The organizers also factored time into their schedule for representatives from Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light (MIP&L)—a partner of Mass Energy—to report about its objectives and accomplishments. MIP&L offers Massachusetts congregations of every religious tradition a way to reduce energy consumption, lower operating costs, and promote renewable energy in houses of worship.

The Parish of St. Paul (Episcopal) Newton represents at least one of MIP&L's satisfied customers. As Co-Warden, Philip Whitbeck says, "We have found our participation in MIP&L to be beneficial and we would strongly encourage other faith communities to inquire about the benefits offered by them."

Following the Convention MIP&L presented an award to Wood for her environmental stewardship.

by Maeve Ward - In addition to being a member of the board of the Green Decade, Maeve is Chair, Faith and the Environment Committee, Parish of St. Paul (Episcopal), Newton.

National declaration on the use of toxic lawn pesticides

The GreenCap committee of the Green Decade Coalition encourages homeowners, individuals, and groups to sign the National Declaration on the use of toxic lawn pesticides to protect our environment from unnecessary and involuntary pesticide exposure.

The Declaration is a national call-to-action to build safer communities through the adoption of natural, organic and least toxic land care methods that end the reliance on toxic lawn chemicals associated with acute and chronic illness.

The National Coalition for Pesticide Free Lawns collaboratively created the Declaration based on the growing awareness among the public and decision makers that the use of lawn pesticides for aesthetic reasons poses unnecessary risks to people, pets and wildlife and causes unmitigated problems in our communities. The Declaration is not a consensus document, in that it does not compromise; rather, it captures our primary concerns and unifies our message and actions. Large numbers of signatories from the Newton area can boost the political will of Newton and local area decision makers to support policy changes.

To sign the Declaration go to: www.beyondpesticides.org/pesticidefreelawns/declaration/index.htm by *Karen Albert*

NewTV GREEN Schedule

The next segment of the Green Decade-produced Environment Show will be aired from December 31, 2005 to January 26, 2006. You can view it on the Newton public access NewTV Blue channel—number 10 on Comcast and 15 on RCN. The schedule is as follows: Mondays: 3:00 pm. Tuesdays: 1:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m. Wednesdays: 11:30 am. Thursdays: 12:00, 4:00, and 7:30 pm. Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.

GIVE the GIFT of GREEN DECADE



While the holidays are past, you can still give your friends and loved ones a 2006 GIFT MEMBERSHIP to the Green Decade Coalition. (New Year's, birthday, Valentine's, anything!)

It's as easy as 1 - 2 - 3 !!!

1. Send in your payment of \$20 (or more if you'd like) per gift recipient. Make check payable to and mail to: GDC/N, Box 590242, Newton, MA 02459.
2. Provide their name and complete address.
3. Indicate when you would like them to receive the Gift Card (allow 3 weeks) and what it is for (birthday, anniversary, Christmas, Chanukah, etc.)

We will send a thank you acknowledgment to you, and we will send the recipient an appropriate Gift Card from you. They will receive the Green News during 2006 along with membership benefits and other important environmental information.

Kyoto Project: Results of insulation workshop and Energy Action Day



It was standing room only! We filled the house and more for the 3rd Kyoto project insulation workshop. The turnout was equally impressive for the Energy Action Day on October 15th. The premise behind both of these workshops is that demonstrating weatherization tools, tests and techniques helps residents understand what is needed and therefore they are more willing to get the work done.

Both workshops occurred at the Jackson Homestead which serves as a test case for the the various techniques under discussion. We tried out the blower door test (a means for detecting air leaks), used the infrared camera (to detect heat leaks) on the walls, and examined the attic. Energy Action Day featured an actual old window that helped attendees see how to apply weatherization improvements.

For those unable to attend the workshops, the Kyoto project will offer another insulation workshop in February 2006. In the meantime you may want to consider checking your house for problems that need to be fixed before weatherization improvements such as:

- structural weaknesses
- leaks in roof/eave, window/wall and plumbing
- excessive indoor humidity (bathroom, cooking, basement and plants).

Another way to prepare for weatherization is to have a blower door and infrared test done on your house both before AND AFTER construction and/or insulation. We at the Kyoto project are collecting before and after data from these tests for a database that we hope will guide and inspire homeowners who have not yet insulated their homes. Please contact Michele Davis at (617) 795-0546 for more information.

by *Michele Davis*

Get your dues in early!



Now is the time to join GDC for 2006! Our membership grew to 400 members in 2005, and hundreds more donating in other ways. Membership dues and accompanying contributions accounted for nearly 50% of our 2005 revenues! This vital support underwrites the GDC budget. We are 99.5% volunteer. In January we'll send our Annual Appeal to ask for your membership. Please join quickly for 2006 by sending in the enclosed membership slip today so you won't miss the March/April newsletter. And please give 2006 Gift Memberships to friends and loved ones (see box on left).

New this year: Join/renew online, paying with Mastercard or Visa. Go to www.greendecade.org and click on Membership (instructions are at bottom of the page).