



## Environmental Speaker Series

Cosponsored with the Newton Free Library at the library Mondays, 7pm

### Jan. 28: Deborah Lapidus, Corporate Accountability International's "Think Outside the Bottle"



The event will feature a screening of the award-winning documentary film **"Thirst."** The film, "Thirst" tells the stories of communities in Bolivia, India, and the United States that are asking fundamental questions about water.

Is water part of a shared resource, a human right for all people, or is it a commodity to be bought, sold, and traded in a global marketplace?

"Think Outside the Bottle" is a national education and action campaign that challenges the bottled water industry and seeks to galvanize support for our public water systems. As the proliferation of bottled water damages our ecosystems, its marketing is also eroding the long-held American value that communities should manage and control local water resources. This has opened the door for private industry to take over under-funded water utilities at a tremendous cost to ratepayers and the local environment. Learn why you should start your New Year with a pledge to think outside the bottle! Take the pledge today at [www.ThinkOutsidetheBottle.org](http://www.ThinkOutsidetheBottle.org).

### Feb. 25: Rob Gogan, Recycling & Waste Mgr. for Harvard Univ. Operations Services "Is Zero Waste Possible in Our Throw-away Society?"

Save the dates: Mar 24, April 28, May 19, June 16 for the rest of the speakers.

## New for 2008: Students for a Greener World



Kick-off meeting for Students for a Greener World. Front row: Zachary Rosenof, Noa Golan, Trevor Romich, Asya Bashin and Henry Carrera. Back row: Malini Gandhi, Antonia Nichols, Emily Walsh, Carolyn Ranti and Danylo Villano

**G**ood news: in the past two years, the number of students volunteering or working with the Green Decade on projects has more than doubled! So this year, we are starting the Student Advisory Board called Students for a Greener World (SGW) which will be comprised of students from the high schools and middle schools in Newton.

The purpose of this group is to have the students advise the Green Decade on ways to reach out to others their age and to help them learn and practice environmentally friendly actions.

- Activities designed for young people/students (contests, programs or fundraising event)
- A new section on the Green Decade website with information and links to other websites, books, programs & other resources that students will find useful
- New ways to volunteer for the environment (and Green Decade)
- Articles for the Green News, the Environmental Page and their school papers
- NEW-TV: the Environment Show and PSA's (public service announcements)
- YouTube video(s) about the Green Decade and how students can volunteer

Even more ideas were flying fast and furious at the group's first meeting in December at the Newton Free Library. The next meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan. 29. More information is available at the [www.greendecade.org](http://www.greendecade.org) <<http://www.greendecade.org>> or contact Margaret Ford at 617-964-0606 or [margford@yahoo.com](mailto:margford@yahoo.com).

by Margaret Ford

## Green Decade special events photo gallery



Step It Up 2 on Nov. 4 brought this excited group to City Hall to hear the Mayor, President of the Board of Aldermen and others exhort Congress to cut Carbon Emissions 80% by 2050. We also had two bands and refreshments to cut the cold.



Elva and David DelPorto (left) led another tour of their 'Urban Ark' house on Dec 1 & 2. Malini Gandhi & Amelia Williams from Day Jr. High (right above) enjoyed the tour. Chamber of Commerce Environmental Committee member Dean Shultz from Muzi Motors and owner Fred Muzi (far right) stood in the green house of the 'Ark.'



Mayor David Cohen (above) shows his support for wind power at Step It Up Day 2. Pete Smith (right) welcomes Mark Vasu as the organizer of the day!



Mayor Cohen (right) enjoys his new Prius hybrid in front of City Hall.



## Take action on the proposed solid waste contract!

Citizens for Responsible Waste Management (CREW) has proposed the Reduce & Recycle Incentive Program (RRI) as an alternative to the current proposed solid waste contract for the City of Newton. With the proposed solid waste contract collection will be automated; all households get a 64-gallon bin at no charge; all other garbage must be put out using bags

that can be purchased from the City or with the lease of a second bin.

The projected savings is \$0.5 million annually for using a 64-gallon bin.

Under the RRI alternative proposal, all households would get a 32-gallon bin at no charge and all other garbage must be put out using bags that can be purchased from the City or with the lease of a second bin. The projected savings is \$1.5 million annually for using a 32-gallon bin. In addition, a 32-gallon barrel will encourage recycling, and a 64-gallon barrel will not.

To support the RRI proposal, which saves the City money and encourages more recycling, write to your Aldermen and to the Solid Waste Commission (Chair, Ald. Sydra Schnipper).

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### Thanks ! and . . next deadline

For the next newsletter, please send submissions or request by email to Ira Krepchin, irapk@alum.mit.eduby Friday, January 18, 2008.

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, with their team for the last issue: Carolyn Ranti, Lisa Wilson, Jacqui Gross, Arlene & Dean Bandes, Danylko Villano, Sarah Barrett, and Marcia Cooper.

## 2008 Newton student energy conservation essay/art con-

Following the success of the 2007 Student Energy Essay Contest, the Green Decade, with funding from NSTAR, the Newton Schools Foundation and other organizations, is offering two student energy conservation contests for 2008. Students are invited to express what they are doing now ...and can do next ...to conserve energy and the earth's resources. The Essay Contest is back, but new this year is the Energy Art Contest, inviting creative and artistic expression with a variety of media, including recycled materials. The contests are open to all students in grades 1-12 who either live in or go to school in Newton.

Newton's energy consumption continues to climb in spite of increased awareness of the harm caused by CO2 emissions and global warming. The purpose of the contests and the publicity they generate is to increase awareness of the issue among Newton residents and to encourage them to choose more energy efficient products and to waste less energy. This year's contest chairpersons are Amanda Frank for the Art Contest and Oleg Kordinsky for the Essay Contest, familiar faces to our friends who stopped by the GDC tent at the Newton Farmers' Market last summer!

Students may enter either or both contests, and the award ceremony will coincide with Earth Day activities in April. First place winners in the essay contest will read their essays at the award ceremony. Art entries will be exhibited. All entries must be received by March 15, 2008.



Details of the contests including submission requirements, guidelines for both contests and prize information are available at [www.greendecade.org](http://www.greendecade.org). *by Margaret Ford*

## Energy savings with a new refrigerator

Today's Energy Star-rated refrigerators are much more efficient than their ancestors. On April 30, 2007, we bought a new Frigidaire Energy Star refrigerator for \$700 from Warrendale Appliance Co. of Waltham to replace our old one purchased in 1967. We loved the old one dearly but we knew it was an energy hog, and we kept it going until a part died and no replacement could be found by the repair service or by me on a serious web search.

We looked around and ended up with the same brand we had from 1967. It has a different personality, but now with 6 months of data from our electricity bills it appears that the new refrigerator will pay for itself in about 18 months. We plotted our energy use on a graph and found that after the purchase, beginning May 1, our use decreased by about 200 kWh per month, with a corresponding cost savings of about \$40 per month. Thus, \$700 cost / \$40 saved per month = about 18 months for a payback period.

We are getting used to the new refrigerator, and are liking it much better after seeing the accumulating cost differences! If we can just hold on to it for another 40 years we will be happy. Energy Star ratings were helpful in selecting this new pet, that's for sure. *by Douglas Leith*

## Thanks for

**BENEFACTOR:** Anonymous

**DONORS:** Liz and Alan Cody, Elaine Reisman, Mark Vasu, Meg Wilcox & Bob Warren

**FRIENDS:** Melanie & Chris Abele, Sue Avery & Bruce Demple, Cristina Cabrera, Frederick M. Gordon, Esther Greif, Christine Jameson, Christina Jameson, Jennifer Kaplan, Sarah Lamstein, Rosemarie Mullin, Anne Pearson, Virginia & William Robinson, Eleanor Rosellini, Irma Selling, Mary Jane Young

**BUSINESS DONOR:** Samadhi, Shaw's Newtonville store

**BUSINESS FRIEND:** Progressive Asset Management

Thank you to Whole Foods and Starbucks for their contri-



## New England Wind Fund update 2008

The City of Newton can once again earn solar panel arrays for our schools and other public buildings, and step one will happen when people who contributed to the New England Wind Fund last year renew their support. The Wind Fund is run by Green Decade's trusted non-profit partner, the Mass Energy Consumers Alliance. The Alliance represents us all in building wind power here in New England. Many Green Decade members donated to this charitable Fund last year, and we thank you all. To renew, or to support the Fund for the first time, please visit [www.newenglandwind.org/wind](http://www.newenglandwind.org/wind) *by Eric Olson*

## 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.



# Shop at Bloomingdale's and help the Green Decade

**M**ark your calendars for Wednesday, February 27th, 10am-10pm, to go shopping at Bloomingdale's in the Chestnut Hill Mall. The Green Decade Coalition/Newton is participating in a special event that day called "The Shopping Benefit" where there will be discounts for ticket holders (15-20% throughout the store on almost everything), special events, live entertainment, and fashion presentations.

Special tickets for this event are available for a \$10 donation to the Green Decade. If you enter the store that day with your ticket, Bloomingdale's will contribute an additional \$5 to the Green Decade to support our programs, and will donate even more if 70 folks with our tickets attend!

Watch for further details on our website and e-news. You can donate when you renew your membership online [www.greendecade.org](http://www.greendecade.org) or mail a check to The Green Decade, PO Box 590242, Newton Centre, MA 02459. Note "The Shopping Benefit" and we'll send you the tickets

## Bike Newton

Bike Newton, sponsored by Green Decade Coalition Newton, will take place on May 18, 2008 (Sunday), 1 pm at Newton City Hall War Memorial steps. The main speaker will be Anne Lusk, PhD, Harvard School of Public Health. Some Newton Police officers will provide a demonstration of instructive and skillful bicycle maneuvers.

The purpose of the rally is to demonstrate substantial and serious grassroots support for improved bicycle safety in Newton. Of course, it will also be an entertaining and congenial event, with food, demonstrations, merchandise.

Major US cities actively encouraging bicycling, and integrating it into all their short-term and long-range planning, include Washington, Chicago, NYC and San Francisco. Now Boston, thanks to a mayoral initiative, is involved in a big push for more and safer bicycling. Leadership from the mayor's office is often the spark that gets things moving. We are eager to encourage that same spirit in Newton.

Grants and private funds are available for more ambitious projects. We are a city increasingly choking on auto and truck traffic, especially at commuter hours. Small steps to get more people on bicycles will have the potential over time to significantly reduce congestion created by local vehicular traffic. This will conserve energy, make our city more sustainable and livable, while offering significant health and social benefits. There are also indirect benefits. Getting more people onto bicycles will increase public consciousness about the problem of the excessive amount of through traffic on our streets and build support for more public transit, so that people in neighboring communities will have better commuting options.

*by Lois Levin*

when they are available in January.

*by Peter Smith*

## CALENDAR

Jan 28 (Mon) 7pm	"Thirst" (film) "Think Outside the Bottle Campaign" Deborah Lapidus, Corporate Accountability International, Environmental Speakers Series, Newton Free Library. See box page 1 - FREE
Feb 25 (Mon) 7pm	"Is Zero Waste Possible in Our Throw-away Society" Rob Gogan, Recycling and Waste Mgr. for Harvard Univ. Operations, Environmental Speakers Series, Newton Free Library. See box page 1 - FREE
Feb 27 (Wed) 10am-10pm	Bloomingdale's "The Shopping Benefit" \$10 donation to Green Decade, 15% - 20% discounts throughout the store on almost everything, donate by calling 617 965-1995 or on line at <a href="http://www.greendecade.org">www.greendecade.org</a>
Mar 15 (Sat)	Deadline 'Newton student energy conservation essay/art contests' see art. p. 3
May 18 (Sun) 1pm	"Bike Newton" rally and demonstration Newton City Hall War Memorial, See article this page - FREE
Send environmental events to GREENNEWS. email to Ira Krepchin by Friday, Jan. 18, 2008 <a href="mailto:irapk@alum.mit.edu">irapk@alum.mit.edu</a> . We will list as space permits.	

*"We must be the change we seek in the world."* Mohandas K. Gahdhi

*"Let our descendants look back on this time as the time of the Great Turning, when humanity made a bold choice to birth a new era."*

*David C. Korten*  
(both quotes from: *The Great Turning - From Empire to Earth Community*, by David C. Korten)

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