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Green Decade presents a showing of the Al Gore film:

An Inconvenient Truth

**Saturday, December 2nd
at 1 PM**

followed by discussion led
by Eric Olson, Chairperson
of Green Decade Coalition
Energy Committee

Free Admission

Druker Auditorium

Newton Free Library

Kyoto Project calls for volunteers

The Kyoto Committee is intent on reducing energy use in existing homes as part of the effort to achieve the goals of the Kyoto agreement (which calls for bringing energy consumption to 7% below 1990 levels). The committee would like to start by testing and verifying energy savings in 20 homes. These will be used for advertising and outreach to the Newton community to demonstrate the benefits of the investment made in energy conservation. We need 20 homeowners, especially from the Green Decade community, who are willing to pay for air sealing and/or insulating their homes, and then pay the \$200 fee for a blower door and infrared camera test (this is a reduced rate that we achieved by grouping 4-5 houses in a work day).

In our experience, the blower door test (to check for leaks) and infra-red scan (to check for gaps) are necessary to make sure that the work is effective. We want to be sure that you will receive the energy savings you expect after paying for the work, and also that you receive any available rebates. Please refer to the Kyoto page of the greendecade.org website for more details about the rebates and federal tax credit (click on Energy Committee, then Links and Resources, then "How to get free money for saving energy" – a pdf file).

Air sealing is much less expensive than insulation, but is responsible for around 38% of the energy savings from an ordinary home. Generally, with rebates and tax write-offs, a homeowner (especially with Keyspan) can get the work done for under \$1000, and often can recoup around 60-70% of the money. In most cases, homeowners recoup their air sealing expenses in one to two years, while reducing drafts, cold floors and dry interior air.

Please contact Michele Davis, Kyoto Project Coordinator, at 617-795-0546 or ReuseRecycle@rcn.com for more information or to sign up!

by Michele Davis

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.

Green Decade workshop on insulating your historic home

If you live in one of Newton's typically drafty older homes, you may already know that insulating your home properly is one of the fastest and most cost-effective ways to minimize your energy waste and maximize your energy dollars. What you may not know is that it is possible to weatherize your older home without compromising its historical character! Once again, GDC's Paul Eldrenkamp leads this popular workshop at the Jackson Homestead – one of Newton's most historic homes. The seminar includes demonstration of various energy-saving tools, such as blower doors and infrared cameras, plus an objective look at the different products and techniques available for increasing energy efficiency.

Wendy Johnston, Alan Field and Irina Golfman Rosenblum attended the February 2006 workshop and shared their comments afterwards. Wendy moved forward on her home energy audit after learning "how to go about

the process, where to start, whom to contact" plus some new technical terms about what to watch for during the audit. For Alan, the most valuable information came from "Seeing the infrared and blower tools" and the "presentation about how and where to place insulation." Irina, who was living in a 150-year old uninsulated Victorian house, especially liked "the slide presentation that showed all the possible problems one might encounter with an insulation project" and "the information on insulating crawl spaces and the pitfalls of that."

The next workshop will be held at The Jackson Homestead (527 Washington St., Newton); Saturday, November 4, 1:00 - 4:00 pm. Admission is \$30; \$15 for Newton Historical Society members. The proceeds will go to co-sponsors, the Green Decade Coalition and the Newton Historical Society. Register through Newton Community Education at www.newtoncommunityed.org or 617-559-6999.

by Margaret Ford



A small but enthusiastic group enjoyed the Healthy Cosmetics Spa on Sept. 21. Shown are GDC's Lucia Dolan, instructor Leise Jones and Silke Jacob making an organic exfoliant from strawberries, lavender and other natural ingredients.

Coalition teaches green

In a cooperative effort with Newton Community Education, Green Decade Coalition organized environmental courses for this fall. Here's a look at what happened at two of them (in the next column two still to go):

- On Thursday, September 21, Leise Jones taught a class called **Healthy Cosmetics Spa**. Students learned how to select (and create) cosmetics that are safe for the user and for the environment; and how to use a web-based tool that helps consumers make conscientious decisions.
- The **Newton Solar Homes Tour**, Saturday, October 7, was over subscribed! Students visited four homes, each of which are tapping the sun's energy instead of relying on harmful fossil fuels, and the Fessenden School, which heats buildings with geothermal energy.

Thanks ! and . . . next deadline

For the next newsletter, please send submissions or requests by email to Ira Krepchin, irapk@alum.mit.edu by Friday, November 17, 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: Linda Christian Herot, Ruth Harris, Nancy Lester and Sarah Barnett.

- Paul Eldrenkamp, who leads GDC's Kyoto Project, will teach a class on **Insulating Older Homes**. Participants in the Saturday, Nov. 4, 1-4pm event will take part in hands-on demonstrations of various energy-saving tools, such as blower doors and infrared cameras; and take a look at different products and techniques for increasing energy efficiency. The workshop will be at The Jackson Homestead 527 Washington St., Newton (see article above).

- In the class '**Urban Ark' Tour: A Model of Green Living**, David and Elva Del Porto will give a guided tour of the home that they have spent 25 years transforming into a model of sustainable living. As of this writing there are a few spaces on the tour offered on Saturday, Nov. 4, 10-noon. The Sunday tour is filled.

To sign up for a class or to get more details on time, place and fees, see the Newton Community Education catalog; call 617 559-6999 or visit their website at <https://newtoncommunityed.org>. Information is also available on the Green Decade website, www.greendecade.org, under "Upcoming Events".

by Margaret Ford



Green Decade table volunteers give out information at the September 23rd AltWheels festival on Boston City Hall Plaza. From left to right: Margaret Ford, Ana Zarina Asuaje-Solon, Peter Smith and Lori Segall from Somerville.

Electrifying news

Most Green Decade members have heard by now of the New England Wind Fund, that provides a way for Newton residents to stimulate the rapid growth in new wind energy in our region. The basic offer still stands: For every dollar contributed by a Newton household, the City of Newton receives a matching dollar which we can use for solar panels and energy education in our public schools. In addition, these fully tax-deductible contributions generate a second match, this one for energy projects to benefit low-income housing.

Now comes a new twist: **if we can get 150 households to sign up by March 31st, 2007, Newton will win an entire 2 kW solar panel system instantly!** We did the math, and this is 50% better than the existing solar-on-schools match! So you more than double your money. Call Eric Olson, Chair, Energy Committee — 617-558-6866 — for details.

"The Matching Grant Clean Energy Choice Program is the best thing the state has going, when it comes to renewable energy development" says Newton's Energy Engineer David Tannozzini.

How GDC takes a Stand

From time to time, the Green Decade Coalition / Newton is asked to take a position on subjects of local interest. To develop a consistent policy on these kinds of questions, a Public Affairs Committee (presently Kevin Dutt, Brooke Lipsitt and president Ana Zarina Asuaje-Solon) was formed. Here's the policy that they proposed, which was adopted at the September Board meeting:

"Any policy or position adopted by the Green Decade Board of Directors may be publicly presented by any Board Member as a representative of the organization. On any other subject, Board Members may take public positions, but should avoid identifying their GDC affiliation in connection with those positions. To avoid confusion due to their public recognition as leaders of GDC, the President and Vice President, in their personal capacity, may not take any public position on subjects which might be construed as within the GDC scope of work unless GDC has adopted a position on the matter."

The Committee also addressed the issue of how the Board goes about adopting positions, recommending the following, which was also supported by the Board:

"Any member may request that the Green Decade, through its Board, adopt a position in support of the organization's mission on a matter of public interest. Such requests will be transmitted to and through the President and Vice President who will make an initial evaluation of the consistency with the organization's mission, in consultation with the Public Affairs Committee if needed, and add appropriate items to the agenda for the following Board meeting for discussion and decision. Any Board member may also introduce an item for discussion and decision at a regular or special meeting of the Board."

by Brooke Lipsitt

JOIN THE GREEN DECADE

Enclosed is: New member Renewal

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

NAME: _____ (For address labels)

ADDRESS: _____

ZIP _____ PHONE: _____

E-MAIL _____ (Please print clearly !)

Yes! I am joining/renewing for calendar 2007!

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



Mayor David Cohen congratulated Whole Foods Market, the Green Decade Coalition/Newton and the Mass Technology Collaborative on their shared contribution of \$5,000 to support solar panels for Oak Hill Middle School. The donation was made possible by Whole Foods' 5% Day on August 8th, which supported the Green Decade, who in turn made the contribution to Mass Energy/Mass Technology Collaborative, who then wrote their check to the City of Newton. Left to right are: Ana Zarina Asuaje Solon (GDC); Chuck Gorman and Pirjo Silen (Whole Foods), Mayor Cohen with Lynay Smith (WF), Martha Broad (Mass Technology Collaborative), Larry Chretien of Mass Energy, and Dan Ruben (GDC).

Materials Exchange update

Since the City launched its online reusable materials exchange, an estimated 8,400 pounds of material has been diverted from the waste stream. The website, WasteNotNewton.com boasts almost 400 members and lists items ranging from couches to clothing and toys. Most items are free, but all must be under \$100. Anyone can respond to a listing, but only Newton residents can post ads.

CALENDAR

Nov/Dec	Sign up: reduce priced house energy test call Michele Davis, ReuseRecycle@rcn.com 617-795-0546 -1st come,1st picked. see p.3
	Following are N. Community Ed programs (see pg. 2)
Nov 4 (Sat)	Insulating Older Homes
Nov 4 (Sat)	'Urban Ark' Tour: a green living model
Nov 9 (Thurs) 7pm	"Hidden life of garbage" Journalist and filmmaker Heather Rogers, at the Center for New Words, 7 Temple Street, Camb. FREE - see article on special page.
Nov 15 (Wed) 7pm	Newton Centre Task Force Meeting War Memorial Auditorium
Nov 19 (Sun) 8:30am-6pm	Global Warming Action Conference, MIT MassClimateAction.org - call 781.643.5911
Dec 2 (Sat) 1pm	"An Inconvenient Truth" film w/Al Gore Newton Free Library, See box p. 1 - FREE
Send environmental events to GREEN NEWS. email to Ira Krepchin by Friday, Nov. 17, 2006 irapk@alum.mit.edu. We will list as space permits.	

"Barrels of oil the U.S. consumes per day: 20 million. Barrels saved in 2006 if U.S. implemented 40mpg fuel standards in 2001: 500,000. Consumers would have saved this year: \$8.7 bil. CO2 tons reduced: 34 million."

— The page that counts (YES! a journal of positive futures, p. 16 Fall 2006.)

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Lucia Dolan's daughter, Dorothy, with her dog Venus, are regular volunteers at this year's Tuesday & Friday farmers markets! (Lucia is CoChair of GreenCAP)

Farmers' Market wraps up successful 2006 season

“What's here that I can use tonight? I am going to my condo association meeting. Want to persuade them not to use pesticides--it's going to take some doing,” asks a Farmers' Market shopper. “How? what? why? where?”--that's what we constantly hear at our Green Decade table under the red tent; fortunately we have the resources to help or refer.

Our eye-catching display catches attention, too (even if people don't stop). Caladiums, sunflowers, zinnias and daisies grace a melange of colorful pamphlets, posters and goods featuring information on organic landcare, healthy personal care products, energy, recycling, and upcoming events. The Green Decade and GreenCAP banners top off the visual feast. Thanks to our participation at the Market, we've signed up several new Green Decade members and added many more names to our GDC Monthly E-Bulletin mailing list this year, along with those who will be attending our fall events co-sponsored with Newton Community Education!

Overall, much excitement -- like a fair! Kids and grownups (and sometimes dogs) licking ice cream cones, grownups unexpectedly finding old acquaintances, vendors greeting us like old friends (especially the organic farmers), maybe a local band, and even Lucy, the beautiful black-and-white goat -- you will see anything and everything at the Newton Farmers' Market.

Thanks for our success this year go to our volunteers: Karen Albert, Ana Zarina Asuaje Solon, Eileen Chodos-Beth, Ariella Cohen, Marcia Cooper, Lucia & Dorothy Dolan, Margaret Ford, Nick Kelley, Françoise LaMonica, Lois Levin, Andy Martin, Kelly Muellman, Eric Olson, Rohna Shoul, Susie Taylor, Anne Verhulst and Maeve Ward, along with Farmer's Market managers' Judy Dore and Mary Flynn. And special thanks to our best greeters -- our dogs whom the kids love: Annie, Venus, Riley and Chelsea -- come see us again at next year's markets!

*by Maeve Ward, Co-Chair, GreenCAP,
Committee on Alternatives to Pesticides*

Look Toward Tomorrow

If you feel like environmentalists are too caught-up reacting to immediate problems and don't have to time to formulate a big-picture strategy, you're not alone. That trend drove the folks at the Lowell Center for Sustainable Production at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, to organize their Toward Tomorrow program.

According to their website, “The overall purpose of Toward Tomorrow is to provide inspiration and tools that enable a wide range of organizations to envision a sustainable future and take effective steps towards it. The initiative seeks to develop an agenda for action on health and the environment by bringing together leaders and scholars from diverse fields—both people late in their careers and those who will shape and implement programs and policies over the next forty years.”

They state: “We aim to identify goals that will guide the next generation as they address the complex linkages between human and ecosystem health: linkages critical for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of global health threats. Toward Tomorrow is predicated on the belief that scientists, government officials, and community, health, environment and business leaders can find common cause in recognizing human consumption and production as sources of both problems and solutions.” Check out the web site and share your vision at www.towardtomorrow.com.

Learn about the hidden life of garbage

Eat a take-out meal, buy a pair of shoes, or read a newspaper, and you're soon faced with a bewildering amount of garbage. The United States is the planet's number-one producer of trash. Each American throws out 4.5 pounds daily. But garbage is also a global problem; the Pacific Ocean is today six times more abundant with plastic waste than zooplankton. How did we end up with this much rubbish, and where does it all go? Journalist and filmmaker Heather Rogers answers these questions by taking readers on a grisly, oddly fascinating tour through the underworld of garbage. Come hear her speak Thursday, November 9 at 7pm at the Center for New Words, 7 Temple Street, Cambridge—admission is free.

Said to “read like a thriller” (Library Journal), *Gone Tomorrow* excavates the history of rubbish handling from the 1800s to the present, pinpointing the roots of today's waste-addicted society. With a “lively authorial voice” (New York Press), Rogers draws connections between modern industrial production, consumer culture, and our throwaway lifestyle. She also investigates controversial topics like the politics of recycling and the export of trash to poor countries, while offering a potent argument for change. More info: Center for New Words, Where Women's Words Matter, www.centerfornewwords.org or phone: 617-876-5310.

Newton joins Plug-In Partner Campaign

Mayor Cohen recently joined the Plug-In Partner Campaign by placing a soft order for plug-in hybrid vehicles. Plug-in hybrids use the same technology as the hybrids on the road today, but have a larger battery that can be recharged by plugging into a standard home outlet. Overall efficiency is about 30 to 50 percent better than standard hybrid models, according to the Plug-In Partners web site (www.pluginpartners.org). The organization is promoting plug-in hybrids as a means of reducing dependence on foreign oil and combating air pollution and global warming.

Plug-In Partners is a national grass-roots initiative to demonstrate to automakers that a market for flexible-fuel Plug-in Hybrid Electric Vehicles exists today. Partners include local and state governments, utilities, and environmental, consumer and business organizations. The campaign intends to present automakers with a "soft" order for sedans, vans, SUVs and other vehicles by specific governmental and business entities. Those making fleet orders will agree to strongly consider purchasing flexible fuel plug-in hybrids if they are manufactured. There is no financial commitment involved in making a "soft" fleet order.

A recent study of the technology by the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy cautions that the large batteries could make the vehicles expensive, and the environmental benefits will be mixed. In regions where electricity is generated primarily by clean fuels, plug-in hybrids will contribute to a reduction in greenhouse gases, but in areas where coal is used to generate electricity, more pollutants may be generated. If cleaner fuels and renewable energy come to dominate the grid, then plug-in hybrids would provide a hybrid benefit—cleaner skies and energy independence.

by Ira Krepchin

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By popular demand !

late breaking calendar item: 'Urban Ark' Tour: A Model of Green Living Saturday, Dec. 2, 10-12noon. See article on page two. Since the Sunday tour in November was filled early, this is a reprieve for those of you who would have otherwise missed out! The Green Decade is offering this extra tour: \$20; GD members, seniors, students-\$15. Call for reservations and more information 617 969-5927.

News from Newton Centre Task Force

The official Newton Centre Task Force has worked on the Centre "Renaissance" during the past two years. After encountering a strong opposition from local merchants in March the Task Force split into 3 basic groups: Group 1 called "Smaller and Better" for a low density development, Group 2 - medium density, and Group 3 "Smart Growth" - for high density.

On September 9, 2006 all groups showed their proposals at the Druker Auditorium of the Newton Free Library. All three proposed to remove the parking lot from the central triangle between Beacon and Langley streets and build a Village Green in its stead with fountains, benches, kiosks and greenery.

Group 1 wanted to use the entire triangle for greenery and kiosks. To substitute for the loss of 150 parking spaces the group suggested diagonal parking along Beacon, Langley, Centre and Lyman streets. They showed no additional parking, no traffic remediation, no new construction and wanted no overlay zoning for a higher density development.

Group 2 proposed a commercial building within the footprint of the former Mason school and a new music bandstand at the tip of the triangle with a Village Green in between, a three-level parking garage on Lyman Street, and a three-four-story new construction on Beacon, Langley and Union Streets. They wanted the aldermen to establish an overlay zone for the Centre which would allow these changes.

Group 3 suggested a similar commercial building and the Village Green at the triangle; new 4-story development on Langley, Beacon, Centre and Union streets; a piazza between Langley and Lyman streets; three parking garages on Lyman, Pelham and Cypress streets, and parking with residential development over the MBTA line from Herrick to Langley roads.

I recommended language describing the use of alternative sources of energy but did not find a support for that idea. Together with Russell Feldman, I also proposed the MBTA air rights project mentioned above.

The next step for the Centre is a public hearing planned for Wednesday, November 15 at 7pm in the War Memorial Auditorium.

by Anatol Zukerman, Architect