

# green news

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEN DECADE COALITION / NEWTON



VOL.16 - NO. 2

MARCH/APRIL 2006

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*



Holistic veterinarian Dr. Regina Downey



Horticulturists Pat Beckett and Chip Osborne of the Living Lawn, Marblehead

*March 27*  
**"Pets and Pesticides"**

Horticulturists **Pat Beckett** and **Chip Osborne** of the Living Lawn, Marblehead's organic lawn and garden demonstration project, & holistic veterinarian **Dr. Regina Downey** of the Coastal Animal Clinic will speak. *See article above.*

*April 24*  
**"Earth Day:  
Innovative  
environmental  
projects  
in Newton  
schools"**



Come hear students, teachers, parents, administrators, and elected officials talk about our schools' environmental programs. *See article above.*

**Save the date for the  
May 22 Speaker Series**

**Join us at these free public presentations!**  
Refreshments - Please bring your own mug  
*For information call 965-1995*

## Speaker Series:

### Pets and Pesticides

The GreenCAP speaker series presents Pets and Pesticides with guest speakers: Horticulturists Pat Beckett and Chip Osborne of the Living Lawn, Marblehead's organic lawn and garden demonstration project, & holistic veterinarian Dr. Regina Downey of the Coastal Animal Clinic. Learn how you can keep a green lawn and your pets healthy too! Monday, March 27th, 7 pm, Drucker Auditorium at the Newton Free Library.

*by Lucia Dolan*

### Earth Day: Innovative environmental projects in Newton schools

Come hear students, teachers, parents, administrators, and elected officials talk about our schools' environmental programs. Our Earthday, April speakers series at the Newton Free Library will be on Monday, April 24 at 7pm.

Kids from Newton elementary, middle and high schools are doing interactive sustainable projects in the schools. Come hear what they have to teach us!

Hear how our teachers are inspiring their students with interdisciplinary environmental education.

Learn how each school at all levels has its own unique process for students, teachers and custodians recycling materials that otherwise would be thrown away at a cost of \$130 per ton. The more paper the kids and schools recycle the less money the City has to pay for trash disposal.

*by Barbara Herson*

### 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.



Maeve Ward, Paul Schramski of Toxics Action Center & Lucia Dolan. Paul was guest speaker at GreenCAP's Jan. meeting.

## GreenCap looking for workers

GreenCAP signed onto Toxic Action's "Refuse to Use ChemLawn - Be Truly Green" campaign. GreenCAP (Committee for Alternatives to Pesticides) is looking for people who want to help reduce the use of toxins in Newton. For more information, please call Co-Chair Lucia Dolan at 617-332-1893.

## Waste-not whatnots

**H**ave useable items that you no longer need? Help is here—the City of Newton has launched a website at [www.wastenotnewton.com](http://www.wastenotnewton.com) that is intended to reduce waste by helping residents reuse items that they don't need by giving, selling or trading them to other Newton residents. This is a great opportunity to reduce our waste stream, rid some houses of clutter, and help other residents find some great bargains. So far 239 residents have signed on to the website, and almost 5,000 pounds of waste have been diverted as a result, through 71 exchanges and 101 listings.

Since the main goal of the service is to reduce Newton's waste-stream, you have to be a Newton resident to post items, but anyone can take listed items.

Here's what some of the users have had to say:

- "My table is gone — another successful exchange."
- "The bulletin-board worked well."
- "Very easy exchange."

Here's how to get started:

1. Visit [www.wastenotnewton.com](http://www.wastenotnewton.com).
2. Post a listing for something you no longer want. Bonus points if you give it away free. Do it today, if you can. (Don't worry, you can always include the picture later.)
3. If you don't have something to give away or sell, then become a member — it's free.
4. Tell others who you think will be interested.
5. Look at the listings on the site... maybe you'll find something you need or want.

by Barbara Herson and Ira Krepchin

## Environmental resources for you on the web

**T**he Internet can be a great resource for environmental information. Here are a few items that we've come across:

- **10 Ways to Find Safer Cleaners:** look for safer cleaners, visit [www.turi.org/content/content/view/full/3600/](http://www.turi.org/content/content/view/full/3600/)
- **Healthier food uses of plastics:** Plastics are widely used to store and package foods and beverages. These web sites offer tips for parents and children on how to avoid environmental and health risks from plastic packaging of food. Visit [www.environmentalobservatory.org/library.cfm?refid=77083](http://www.environmentalobservatory.org/library.cfm?refid=77083)

- **Sustainable lawns:** A 40 page handbook called "SustainableTurf Care" is "...written for lawn care professionals, golf course superintendents or anyone with a lawn." It looks to have useful information and easy to read tables. It is available for download on-line from: [www.attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/turfcare.html](http://www.attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/turfcare.html)

- **Healthy schools:** The Healthy School Environments Assessment Tool (HealthySEAT V.1.0) is now available for download at [www.epa.gov/schools/healthyseat/](http://www.epa.gov/schools/healthyseat/). HealthySEAT brings together all of EPA's regulatory and voluntary programs for schools into a single, free software tool that school systems can use to establish and manage comprehensive school facility assessment programs. HealthySEAT is designed to be customized by states and school systems to reflect their own priorities and needs.

by Ellie Goldberg

## Fund-raiser needs volunteers

**T**he 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 organizing food and beverage donations, inviting people, and securing items for auction. Please contact Margaret Ford at 617-965-1995 if you are interested in helping. See also p. 4 by Amelia Ravin



## Thanks ! and . . . next deadline

For the next newsletter, please send submissions or requests by email to Ira Krepchin, [irapk@alum.mit.edu](mailto:irapk@alum.mit.edu) by Friday, March 10, 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: Marcia Cooper, Amanda and Jacqui Gross, Ruth Harris, Nancy Lester, Frank Propp, Ali Saminsky, Lynn Schiller, and Brian Washburn.

## Thanks for donations go to:



**PATRON:** Ilana d’Ancona, Jennifer Choi  
**DONOR:** Anonymous, Jane A. Brown, Carolyn Fine, Allison Friedman, Richard & Diana Gomberg, Katherine Howard, Virginia Lane, Mr. & Mrs. William Leitch, Brooke & Paul Lipsitt, Richard Ranti, Bob & Char Seeley, Social Action Committee/FUSN, Holly & Bob Zeeb.  
**KYOTO DONOR:** Lisle Baker (in recognition of Paul Eldrenkamp’s work)

**FRIEND:** Anonymous (2), Susan W. Abbott, AnnaMaria & Fred Abernathy, Sue Avery, Philip Bannatyne, Sarah & Octo Barnett, Peter J. Barrer, Diane Becker, Ann Berwick, Alburn Blankenship, Mayor David B. Cohen, George & Cynthia Cole, Alison Conant, Marcia Cooper, Ed Cunningham, Norm & Jean Doelling, Paul & Gail Doherty, Henry Finch, Tom Fitzgibbon, Mr. & Mrs. Michael Goldman, Marcia Herrera, Judy Hersh, Gus Kiley, Jean MacRae, Mike & Myrna Malec, Robin Maltz, William Marsh, Rustin McIntosh, Ira Morganstern, Eric Packer, Kathy Pillsbury, Frank & Edie Propp, Elaine Reisman, Tom Sheff, Howard Sholkan, Miles Smith, Andrew Strauss, Mark & Alla Webster, Benjamin Weisbuch, Gilbert K. Woolley, Ald. Brian Yates, Richard & Mary Jane Young

**BUSINESS DONOR:** Frank Gundal (NSTAR)  
**BUSINESS FRIEND:** Needham Garden Center

### We thank generous donors of office equipment!

Last fall, we posted a request for a computer for office use, and we appreciate the numerous offers received from GDC members and friends! We would like to take this opportunity to thank **Lois Levin** for the PowerBook laptop that she donated, and **Edward & Renata Selig** for their contribution of the Brothers fax/copier. The generosity of our members is one of the keys to the success of our organization and our work to improve the environment.

## Learn ecological landscaping

If you’re interested in landscaping in an environmentally sound way, you might want to attend the Ecological Landscaping Association 2006 Winter Conference & Eco-Marketplace. The event takes place on March 3 & 4 at the Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough. Learn the best ways to decrease chemical inputs and develop environmentally friendly and beautiful properties. Gain hands-on technical knowledge and tools to be effective on the job. For landscapers, garden designers, architects, and homeowners. Visit [www.ela-ecolandscapingassn.org](http://www.ela-ecolandscapingassn.org) for more information.

by Lucia Dolan



## Building green: saves energy, costs less

Whether you call it a “high performance building,” a “green design” or “sustainable,” a building designed using environmentally sound principles has many benefits, including lower operating costs and a healthy indoor environment. With a new high school being planned for Newton, it’s worth considering another benefit that’s not well-known—such buildings can actually cost less to construct than conventionally designed facilities. A prime example can be found in the Poudre School District in Fort Collins, CO. Two elementary schools and a high school have been built there in recent years and all have been built for 10 to 14 percent less than budget. One school, Bacon Elementary School, features energy costs that are 1/3 less than those of a comparable conventional school, and provides a wonderful educational opportunity as well—students actually give visitors tours and explain all the sustainable features. For more information, visit [www.cudenver.edu/Who+Am+I/Faculty+and+Staff/Newsletter/Archives/Archives+2004/Dec+2004/Dec+04+full+story/Wirth.htm](http://www.cudenver.edu/Who+Am+I/Faculty+and+Staff/Newsletter/Archives/Archives+2004/Dec+2004/Dec+04+full+story/Wirth.htm) and [www.todayfacilitymanager.com/tfm\\_05\\_08\\_green.asp](http://www.todayfacilitymanager.com/tfm_05_08_green.asp)

by Ira Krepchin

### 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 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  For Friend or higher contribution, we acknowledge your donation in green news unless you check here <input type="checkbox"/>
\$ 20	Basic	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a	
50	Friend	Basic	
100	Donor	Friend	
250	Patron	Donor	
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 Mar/ Apr 2006



## GREENING THE GARDEN CITY

### A 15th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Fund-raiser for the Green Decade Coalition/Newton

**Save the date!**  
**Saturday,**  
**April 29th at 7pm**

We are having a silent auction fund-raiser at the New Art Center, 61 Washington Park, Newtonville. Come celebrate our 15th Anniversary with live music by Juliet Lloyd, food, beverages and good company.

**We are also honoring Bev Droz for her outstanding work as President of the Green Decade Coalition from 2000-2005.**

We will have great items and services to bid for at the auction. Here are some examples:

- *Weekend at a Martha's Vineyard house*
- *Artwork from local and international artists*
- *Newton Symphony Orchestra tickets*

Many ecologically related items and more!

We are asking a donation of \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Contact a board member or call 965-1995 for more information.  
*by Ana Zarina Asuaje Solon*

## Rescuing a planet !

*"Now we have a comprehensive plan. It includes restructuring the global economy, eradication of poverty, stabilization of population & protection/restoration of the earth's forests, soils, and fisheries. The time is now and we may have to move at wartime speed simply because tomorrow may be too late. Nature is the timekeeper. The*

*threats we face today call for new priorities and new responses."*

*"Plan B 2.0: Rescuing a Planet Under Stress and a Civilization in Trouble" - by Lester Brown, available at [www.earthpolicy.org](http://www.earthpolicy.org).*

## CALENDAR

Mar 3/4 Fri/Sat	<b>Ecological Landscaping Assoc. Conf.</b> Royal Plaza Hotel in Marlborough For info <a href="http://www.ela-ecolandscapingassn.org">www.ela-ecolandscapingassn.org</a>
Mar 11(Sat) 10-12noon	<b>"Urban Ark Seminar &amp; Tour, \$20; GD members, seniors, students-\$15.</b> For more information call 617 969-5927.
Mar 12(Sun)1-3	
Mar 22 Wed 7:00pm	<b>Green Decade Coalition Board meeting,</b> call for location, 617 965-1995.
Mar 27 Mon 7pm	<b>"Pets and Pesticides",</b> Newton Free Library, see article page 1 this issue.
Apr 24 Mon 7pm	<b>"Earth Day: Innovative environmental projects in Newton schools,"</b> Newton Free Library, see article page 1 this issue.

Send environmental events to GREEN NEWS. email to Ira Krepchin by Friday, Mar. 10, 2006 [irapk@alum.mit.edu](mailto:irapk@alum.mit.edu). We will list as space permits.

### 2005-2006 Board of Directors

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## "Urban Ark" seminar & tour

The next series of Urban Ark tours and seminars is coming soon—Saturday, March 11, 10 to noon & Sunday, March 12, 1 to 3 pm, sponsored by the Green Decade Coalition/Newton. Entitled "Ecological Solutions for Economic & Environmental Security," the seminar and tour cover: Solar Heating, Green House Living, Sewage Avoidance, Energy & Water Conservation, and Washwater Gardens.

Registration & Information: Fran Seasholes 617-969-5927  
Additional information: urbanark@greendecade.org  
\$20/person per session (\$15 members, students, seniors)

Checks payable to: Green Decade Coalition/Newton  
Please specify seminar date you will attend: March 11 or March 12. Mail registration to: GDC/N, c/o Seasholes, 163 Cypress St., Newton, MA 02459. *by Fran Seasholes*

## NewTV GREEN Schedule

The next segment of the Green Decade-produced Environment Show, *Danger: Pesticides and Pets*, will be from Feb. 25 to Mar. 30. 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. *by Francoise LaMonica*



Photo by Margaret Ford

Brooke Lipsitt, Maeve Ward, Hope Walter, Arlene Bandes and Joan Bone helped mail 2700 membership renewal forms to Green Decade members

## Membership mailing

There is strength in numbers, and a number of volunteers were the key to the success of GDC's annual membership appeal, mailed out in early January. Nearly 2700 membership packets were collated, stuffed and mailed in a record two days, thanks to the coordination of Membership Committee Co-Chairs Rohna Shoul and Marcia Cooper.

We would also like to thank the following volunteers who proved that "many hands make light work": Arlene Bandes, Sarah Barnett, Joan Bone, Marcia Cooper, Shirley Eisenberg, Claudia Jacobs, Françoise LaMonica, Douglas Leith, Brooke Lipsitt, Frank Propp, Patricia Rand, Freda Rebelsky, Fran Seasholes, Demian Souza, Hope Walter, and Maeve Ward.

## Whole Foods Market: largest purchase of wind energy credits in the United States

Whole Foods Market, a national chain with a number of local stores, made a landmark purchase of renewable energy credits from wind farms. The purchase will offset 100% of the electricity used in all of its stores, facilities, bake houses, distribution centers, regional offices, and national headquarters in the United States and Canada. This is the largest wind energy credit purchase in the history of the United States and Canada and makes Whole Foods Market the only Fortune 500 Company purchasing wind energy credits to offset 100% of its electricity use.

**The purchase amounts to more than 458,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) of renewable energy credits from wind farms, and will avoid more than 700 million pounds of carbon dioxide pollution this year. The environmental impact is roughly the same as taking 60,000 cars off the road or planting more than 90,000 acres of trees.**

Whole Foods Market worked with Washington, DC-based nonprofit environmental think tank World Resources Institute (WRI) to help evaluate its options. Since 2000, WRI has been working with a number of Fortune 500 companies to increase their use of renewable energy. Said Jonathan Lash, WRI President, "Corporate leadership is essential to the growth of wind power and Whole Foods Market's historic purchase has set a new benchmark for the industry." (Ashley.Hawkins@Whole Foods Market.com, Austin, Texas, 01/11/2006) *by L. Maeve Ward*

## Green Energy Purchase

Newton residents can purchase green energy now and not only help cut our dependence on fossil fuels, but also help fund solar energy in Newton. I just purchased New England Biomass from Mass Energy Consumers' Alliance -- it covers my electricity use for the whole year, and my purchase is matched twice: once to Newton and once to renewable energy and energy conservation projects that benefit low-income residents. The Newton fund is matched by the City and is going to be used to put solar panels on our schools. Your purchase is tax deductible.

To participate, call Mass Energy (617-524-3950) and ask for the Biomass product (which is through their Green Start program). Mass Energy is also gearing up to provide another wind energy option. *by Katherine Gekas*