

green news



NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEN DECADE / NEWTON

VOL.19 - NO.2

MARCH/APRIL 2009

Environmental Speaker Series

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

Monday, March 16 - 7pm:

A film celebrating the works of Rachel Carson
“A Sense of Wonder”



In conjunction with the effort to raise awareness about Carson's enduring legacy of environmental stewardship, this month's

Environmental Speaker Series presents a screening of the film: “A Sense of Wonder.”

Using many of Miss Carson's own words, actress Kaiulani Lee embodies this extraordinary woman in a documentary style film, which depicts Carson in the final year of her life. A discussion of Rachel Carson's legacy will follow the film.

Monday, April 27 - 7pm:
“Organic Gardening 101: Sustainable Practices”



A panel of three professional landscapers will speak on organic gardening practices, providing step-by-step information for the home gardener, focusing on healthy soil preparation, sustainable water usage, and pest management. Ted Chapman, Risa Edelstein, and

Henrietta Light will all show you how to garden organically and thereby better protect the environment.

Save dates: May 19, June 16 for rest of the speakers. Tea will be served. Please bring your own mugs!

Organic Gardening 101: Sustainable Practices

Did you know that:

- **Organically managed soils can store (sequester) more than 1,000 pounds of carbon per acre, while non-organic systems can cause carbon loss ?**
- **Global warming could increase the world's irrigation needs by 26 percent ?**
- **Synthetic fertilizer encourages lush plant growth, which attracts insect pests ?**

On April 27, GreenCAP's Organic Gardening and Landscape subcommittee will present a panel of three professional landscapers who will speak on organic gardening practices, providing step-by-step information for the home gardener, focusing on healthy soil preparation, sustainable water usage, and pest management. Questions and Answers will follow the lecture. Healthy, living soil is the starting place for organic gardening.

Learn from **Ted Chapman** what healthy, living soil means, and how to create the soil conditions that foster healthy plants that we enjoy, that in turn nurture us, and that make the environment healthier. Ted is a certified landscape designer/organic land care professional. He has gardened organically for 35 years; his gardens have been featured on the Green Decade's organic garden and Newton garden tours and his home on the annual solar home tour.

Risa Edelstein will consider how water can be harvested and used in a sustainable landscape and present ways to conserve water and use smart irrigation methods. She will explain what you can do about storm water and describe rain gardens and the role they can play in your yard. Risa is a landscape designer trained at the Landscape Institute of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. She is a certified Massachusetts Arborist, accredited with the National Organic Farming Association (NOFA) as an organic land care professional. She uses organic landscape standards and is interested in helping people understand how easy it is to create sustainable and eco-friendly yards.

Henrietta Light will speak on pest management in the home garden using organic methods. She will describe how to manage pests through companion planting, attracting beneficial insects, weed control, and utilizing compost to create healthy soil. Henrietta has been a horticulturist at the Lyman Estate in Waltham and is now a garden consultant and designer. She is a founding member of CURE (Chem-ical Use Reduction and Education) a task force of the Wat-ertown Citizen's for Environmental Safety.

by Sue Avery and Sheila Clawson

Support Newton Green Streets - wear green on last Fridays

The Green Streets Initiative has come to Newton in the form of "Newton Green Streets." Put your feet on the sidewalk, latch into your bike pedal, or climb aboard public transportation and participate in a once-a-month event to get Newton residents and employees out of their cars and into a green mode of transportation. The Green Streets Initiative started in Cambridge in 2006 and quickly spread to Somerville, Medford, Portland ME, and more.

A team led by Newton's Department of Health and Human Services and the Community Safe Routes to School program is bringing the Green Streets model to Newton. The concept is simple; **on the last Friday of every month** willing adults and children go green by leaving their car at home and choosing an alternative mode of transportation: walking, biking, school bus, public transportation, and employee shuttles, for example.

This throng of Walk/Riders stands out from the rest by **wearing something green** to show support and to be eligible for work or school-based incentives or discounts at city retailers. One less car trip per day across the entire city quickly adds up. The benefits to the community include improved traffic safety, increased physical activity, and greater awareness of the environmental and health benefits of green transportation.

As in Cambridge, the Newton Green Streets program is an outgrowth of a parent-led effort to make walking to school safe and enjoyable. Last winter a group of parent volunteers concerned about pedestrian safety at the elementary schools formed a Safe Routes Task Force and succeeded in receiving funding from the Community Safe Routes to School Program, supported by WalkBoston and Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Foundation. The Task Force established walking school buses (students and parents

walking a route together) at each school and created incentives to encourage more children to walk. The Safe Routes Task Force recognized that launching a Newton Green Streets program in January would bring attention to the difficulties of walking with unreliable snow removal, and would expand a school-based program into a citywide event.

The small but repeated commitment of participants and word-of-mouth involvement is the basis of the success of Green Streets. Motivation to participate comes from simply putting a date on a calendar. Experience shows that even if people don't participate the first month, many will the next. Organizers in Cambridge report that people of all ages and situations look forward to and feel proud of their involvement. Newton Green Streets is asking members of Green Decade to demonstrate a commitment to this program, and to spread the word in any way possible. Most importantly, find something green in your closet and leave the car at home on every last Friday of the month.

by Jean Fulkerson, Community Safe Routes to School Coordinator, with text from www.gogreenstreets.org

Whole Foods supports Green Decade

Customers who shop at the Whole Foods Markets in Newton during the month of April will have the opportunity to purchase \$2 and \$5 coupons at the checkout as a convenient way to contribute to Green Decade. Two of Green Decade's current projects will benefit from the donation of all proceeds from coupon sales. One project is our sponsorship of an art/essay contest in the Newton schools, and the other project helps to promote Green Decade's EcoTeam program to help reduce home energy usage. Both Whole Foods Markets in Newton will also feature Green Decade at information tables on Earth Day, as well as other days throughout the month of April. If you would like to volunteer to staff one of Green Decade's resource/outreach tables please email Marcia Cooper at marciac@aol.com or call 617-964-8567 to let her know your availability.

by Marcia Cooper

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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.edu by Friday, March 23, 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: Nate Berman, Grand Berman, Spencer Milliman, Omri Cohen, Alex Shames, Rowan Davis, and Jarrett Gorin.

Thanks for donations go to:

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BUSINESS FRIENDS: Boston Green Building (NL), Nick Falkoff / Auburndale Builders LLC, Think Preservation

Dump the Dumpster

A seminar for home builders will focus on how builders can reduce the waste stream from residential construction sites, and describe how they can make their material handling more efficient. The goal is to reduce the need for the 30 cubic yard dumpsters that are present at almost every construction site, and reduce the cost of disposal. Topics covered will include recycling, reuse and reduction strategies for construction materials, as well as handling strategies to make the site more efficient. The seminar will provide builders with resources for alternatives to disposal and methods to reduce the cost of disposal. The seminar will be led by Jay Walter, a local architect and founder of the Sustainable Waste Management Collaborative. The event will take place Saturday, March 7 from 10 am to noon at the Jackson Homestead. Cost will be \$20 person; \$15 for Green Decade and Newton Historical Society members.

by Margaret Ford

Our Mission

Our mission is to create an environment in better balance with the natural world by making significant, measurable improvements in the way we use resources.

Goals include helping households, businesses and institutions to: Increase energy efficiency and seek alternatives to fossil and nuclear fuels; Use IPM and organic alternatives to pesticides; Promote high performance (green) building measures; Prevent pollution through source reduction and reduced consumption; Promote reuse and recycling practices; Improve waste disposal practices; Conserve water and other resources.

Our programs are designed to build awareness, to provide opportunities for public dialogue, and to

Why I volunteer for the Green Decade

I have always been concerned about the environment, but I don't think I was fully aware of my passion for most of my childhood. I was always interested when older kids came into our elementary school classrooms to make presentations about recycling. I loved nature and frequently went on hikes with my mom, eager to learn the names of the trees and plants. I was shocked when I heard the latest news about global warming, and couldn't believe what humans were doing to this only home we have.

Yet it wasn't until very recently that I began to act on my passion, that I began to realize that just being interested wasn't enough. It began in the summer before 7th grade. I had just become Science/Technology editor for THE DAYTIME, the award-winning student-run newspaper for my middle school. I was sitting down with my mom in early July, asking her for ideas on articles I should cover for the September edition. She suggested creating an Environmental Awareness Corner; she had seen articles in the Newton Tab advertising upcoming events for the Green Decade Coalition that might be interesting to report on. Desperate for articles and eager to prove myself as an editor, I agreed.

It was these events I reported on for my Science/Technology page that inspired me to volunteer. From the Urban Ark Seminar and Tour to the "Think Outside the Bottle Campaign" lecture at the library, I suddenly saw people who were devoting their lives to protecting the environment. I must have reported on 7 or 8 events that year, and I drank in every word. Over December break, I read three books about global warming cover to cover. I slowly began to realize that I couldn't just sit back and complain: I had to act and do my part to make the world a better place, like so many of the people at the events I was reporting on were doing.

Since then, I have joined the Students for a Greener World Committee (SGW) where I have met kids like me passionate about the environment and worked on projects to raise awareness and promote environmentally-friendly actions. In addition, I have volunteered at several events for the Green Decade, including the Science Club for Girls Kick-Off and the Green Fair and Trade Show. I have also become much more interested in educating others about the environment. When I heard that a boy was writing an editorial for our newspaper about how humans are not causing global warming, I decided to write a rebuttal to his article arguing that humans are causing global warming and we need to do something about it.

We are the adults of the future. We are the generation that will be faced with the challenges of saving our world from the threat posed by global warming. The time to act is now. It's not enough just to be interested: we need to act on our passion and participate in the movement to save our planet. *by Malini Gandhi, 8th grade F. A. Day Middle School*

CALENDAR

- Mar 7 (Sat)** 10am-noon **"Dump that Dumpster"** Homebuilders Waste Management Seminar, Jackson Homestead, \$20 (\$15 for GD members)
- Mar 16 (Mon)** 7pm **"A Sense of Wonder"** (Rachel Carson film & discussion to follow) Environmental Speakers Series, Newton Free Library. See box page 1 - FREE
- Mar 19 (Thurs)** 4-5pm **"Magic Recycled Box Workshop"** Newton Free Library - Parents & kids 5 & up. See article this issue - FREE
- Mar 20 (Fri)** Deadline **'Newton student energy conservation essay/art contests entries**
- Mar 20 (Fri)** 3:30pm **"Spring in Your Backyard"** Age 5 & up Newton Cultural Center, See article p. 4
- Mar 20 (Fri)** 10am-2pm **"Bike Tune-up for Kids"** Newton City Hall-War Memorial, free. See article p. 4
- Mar 26 (Thur)** all day **"Entrepreneurial Energy Expo (E3)"** Babson College's fourth annual event To register: www.babsonenergy.com
- Mar 29 (Sun)** 1:30pm **"Low Carbon Eco-TEAM"** Grace Church Call 617 969-1881, free. See article p. 3
- Apr 25 (Sat)** 10am-noon **"Green Business Workshop"** Chapman Construction, 84 Winchester Street, call 617 965-1995 to sign up. See article p. 3
- Apr 26 (Sun)** **'NewtonSERVES Day of Community Service**, City Hall sign up at 8:30am **"Low Carbon Eco-TEAMS"** Call 617 969-1881, free. See article p. 3
- Event @10am and 1:30pm
- Apr 27 (Mon)** 7pm **"Organic Gardening Panel"** Environmental Speakers Series, Newton Free Library. See box page 1 - FREE
- Apr 29 (Wed)** 7pm **Newton student energy conservation essay/art contests Awards Ceremony**
- May 17 (Sun)** 12:30pm **"Bike Newton"** rally and demonstration Newton City Hall War Memorial, FREE
- Aug 21/22 (Fri-Sat)** **"GreenFEST" Boston City Hall Plaza** Exhibits, music, performers, food, education. Call 617 233-6071 for info.

Send environmental events to *GREEN NEWS*. email to Ira Krepchin by Friday, Mar. 23, 2009 irapk@alum.mit.edu. We will list as space permits.

"In 1991 the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) released a national wind resource inventory, noting that three wind-rich states—North Dakota, Kansas, and Texas—had enough harnessable wind energy to satisfy national electricity needs." —Lester Brown, *Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization*, p.239, *Earth Policy Institute*



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New rules to bring a healthier Charles River

The Charles River Watershed has recently received special attention from the federal EPA, resulting in new rules that over time should bring the quality of the river flowing past Newton up to a whole new quality level. The EPA, with help from the Charles River Watershed Association, determined that storm-water runoff from large parking lots and buildings in the Watershed contribute 23% of the phosphorus pollution flowing into the River.

Too much phosphorus in a river results in excessive algal growth --- it's a slippery slope to slime! The new rules apply only to Milford, Franklin, and Bellingham, but are likely to extend to the entire watershed eventually. Any business or institution with over 2 acres of impervious surface must prepare a storm-water management plan, aimed at increasing the amount of rainwater and snow melt that percolates into the ground on or near site instead of flowing into storm drains heading to the Charles. Congratulations to the CRWA for helping make this happen. There is more information about the new rules at the CRWA website, and a handsome watershed map with photos showing just how close to its source the Charles becomes excessively choked with weeds can be downloaded at http://epa.gov/ne/charles/pdfs/charles_FBM.pdf.

by Eric Olson

Green building workshop for Newton/Needham businesses

Did you know that you can actually save money by implementing sustainable practices? On Saturday, April 25, you can learn how. Green Decade and the Newton Needham Chamber of Commerce are co-sponsoring a Green Building Workshop at the headquarters of Chapman Construction and Design at 84 Winchester St., Newton, from 10 am to noon.

The goal of the workshop is to educate local business owners on ways to reduce energy costs, improve indoor air quality, support renewable energy including solar and wind power, and generally "go green" with proven technologies and practices. The workshop will focus on the interests and questions of local business owners who have been considering cost-effective ways to make their operations greener.

Highlights will include a tour of Chapman's award-winning renovation of their headquarters, which includes a 47 kW photovoltaic system on the building's roof. Other highlights of the renovation include efficient plumbing fixtures; Solatube skylights and other ways to reduce lighting costs by 50%; salvaging and re-using materials wherever possible; and using sustainable products such as certified lumber, bamboo, and cork. Chapman and Green Decade will offer guidance in calculating costs and return on investment. A commercial-grade solar array calculator prepared by the Green Decade will be handed out on CD to all participants.

We thank Chapman Construction and Design for hosting this special event! If you are interested in reducing your business's energy consumption, you won't want to miss it.

Workshop/Tour Cost: \$25/per business, which may be applied to Green Decade/Newton Business Membership. The tour and workshop is free for Business Members of the Green Decade/Newton.

Light refreshments will be served. To reserve a space, please call: 617 965-1995 or email: info@greendecade.org

"One thing is certain, the Green Wave is rolling and smart companies have found ways to combine doing the right thing and at the same time generating black ink on their balance sheets." Tom O'Rourke, *InBusiness*, April 2008

Expanding the bottle bill

Governor Patrick has proposed updating the Bottle Bill by adding 5-cent deposits to bottled water, sports drinks, and similar drinks, according to SCAN, the newsletter of the Massachusetts Sierra Club. Potential benefits include higher recycling rates, less litter, fewer materials going to landfills, and energy savings. Forfeited deposits could provide up to \$20 million for recycling programs and water/sewer. Green Decade thanks our State Senator Cynthia Creem for co-sponsoring the bill. *by Dan Ruben*

Join Low Carbon EcoTeams on March 29 or April 26

Inspired by the President Obama's message of service to community, hundreds of volunteers will work together during 2009 on a community-wide service project to reduce household energy usage and place our city at the forefront of a green century. Green Decade has successfully implemented over 40 teams of Newton residents within the past few years. Now we are partnering with other groups in an ambitious effort, called the Cool Mass Campaign, to expand the program with a goal to include 25% of the households in Newton over the next three years. Some may say the plan is too ambitious. However, we all know what President Obama would say to that way of thinking.

Green Decade will provide guidance to anyone who is interested in meeting with friends, neighbors, members of a religious community and business colleagues in groups known as EcoTeams. Typically, these teams of 5-8 people, meet for about 2 hours a total of 4 times within one month. A step-by-step workbook, called the "Low Carbon Diet", is provided by Green Decade at a discounted price. This workbook is an excellent resource offering practical solutions to help evaluate home energy usage and implement strategies to become more energy efficient and save money. For example, information is provided from how to efficiently wash dishes and clothes and how to reduce energy consumption by sealing air leaks. Members in each team inspire each other to come up with new strategies and follow through on their individual goals.

In an effort to spread the word about the EcoTeam Project and work toward the goal of getting hundreds of participants, Green Decade representatives will be available to speak to community groups to explain how it works. On **March 29th, a community wide meeting/workshop will be held at the Grace Church, 76 Eldredge St. in Newton Corner at 1:30 p.m.** to provide information about how easy it is to become a team leader. The Project will also be featured at other upcoming community events, including NewtonServes on **April 26th at City Hall War Memorial Auditorium.**

According to the Low Carbon Diet workbook, the primary cause of global warming is carbon dioxide emitted into the atmosphere through the burning of fossil fuels—gasoline, coal, oil and natural gas—which we use to power cars and homes and to produce goods we consume. The typical American household generates 55,000 pounds of carbon dioxide annually. Every household in Newton that participates on this EcoTeam Project will be doing its part to significantly reduce our community's carbon footprint and save money in the process.

Please visit [www.GreenDecade.org](http://www.greendecade.org) <<http://www.greendecade.org/>> and click on Upcoming Events to find out about upcoming programs. And if you are interested in leading or joining an EcoTeam, please **contact: Bonnie Glickman at 617-969-1881 or bglickman@mindspring.com**

Solar dreams and realities in Albemarle

A week before Christmas, David Wiborg, a young Cambridge architect living now in the home where he was raised on Fessenden St in Newtonville, graciously took me on a tour of what he, his wife Amy and his parents have done to transform a modest home into a larger, more sustainable, intergenerational living space.

In 1979 David's parents, Richard and Margaret Wiborg, had bought a center entrance colonial on Fessenden St, built in 1942 on the grounds of what had once been the Albemarle Golf Club. By 2000 the elder Wiborgs had already taken the first steps toward increased energy efficiency and sustainability by adding insulated glass sliders to an existing screened porch on the house's south side. The family was surprised at the dramatic passive solar gain this achieved. It not only made the porch useable year round, it also contributed a significant amount of heat to the rest of the house.

By 2003 David was raising a young family in Framingham and working in Cambridge, and the Wiborgs collectively decided to convert the homestead into a multi-generational home by building a large addition. David had recently seen several interesting uses of active and passive solar on the Green Decade's Fall, 2002 Solar Homes Tour. These together inspired David to use his architectural skills to maximize the home's solar efficiency.

The result is an addition that extends the house substantially into the back yard but is barely noticeable from the street and does not alter the appearance of the traditional New England Colonial. What it does do is to add several new, large, bright and airy rooms cleverly integrated into the older space of the home.

Energy wise, the addition is heavily insulated, features a large southern exposure with plenty of windows for solar gain during the heating season, and has a south-facing shed roof angled specifically to accommodate and orient a 2.4KW solar photovoltaic array to generate electricity. During the summer, a combination of insulated window shades, good ventilation and clever awnings invented by David keep the addition cool without air conditioning.

The awnings are louvered and made of light materials, unobtrusive, and easily attached or removed -- from inside the house -- one window at a time. So far David has made and tested a few, applied for a patent, and begun work on weight reduction and other improvements. For more information, check out details at www.soesoegreen.com.

Additional energy savings are provided by solar tubes—basically round skylights that feed sunlight into reflective cylinders that bring sunlight into the interior of the house. The light goes through a diffuser that makes it look like a standard electric fixture. One tube brings light from the roof to the first floor kitchen. A second solar tube illuminates the new first floor bathroom. Two more solar tubes are used elsewhere in the house, and they include integrated compact fluorescent lamps so they can function as normal lights during nighttime hours.

The attic was heavily insulated (to R-38, to use the lingo). Operable skylights add natural light and good ventilation in the attic and in the addition.

Siding uses sustainable fiber-cement composite cladding -- less expensive than cedar, fire- and insect-resistant, insulating and very long-lived. Its longevity means less waste and landfill will be generated over its lifetime. And the downspouts fill rain-barrels that end up watering the lawn and garden.

The heating system features an upgraded gas furnace and has been partitioned into three zones to improve comfort and efficiency. A new utility panel features a compact "inverter" which converts solar-generated DC to AC, links the solar system to the grid, and provides statistics on solar output. Since Dec 2003, the rooftop system has generated 14,615 KWH -- about 40% of the family's total electricity.
by Steve Barry

“Unplugged & Connected” Month Green Decade helped:

Four Fun Events for Kids & Parents

Green Decade has been invited to help coordinate activities for Newton's 5th Annual “Unplugged and Connected” month-long celebration of personal interaction for families, friends and neighbors—away from the computer, TV and telephone! Below are activities we helped organize!

1. “Going Green” Storytime Thurs, Mar 19, 3:30 pm

Newton Free Library, Children's Room. Come listen to fun stories about caring for our planet, as part of the 2009 Newton Unplugged celebration! Ages 4-5.

Co-sponsored by the Green Decade/Newton and the Newton Free Library.

2. Magic Recycled Box Workshop Thurs, Mar 19, 4 pm

Newton Free Library, Druker Auditorium
What can you make from a box? A fort, a train, a robot? Bring your imagination and your friends and see what you can create from recycled materials. Ages 4 and up.

Co-sponsored by Green Decade & Newton Free Library.

Helpers: Green Decade's “Students for a Greener World”

3. Spring in Your Backyard Fri, Mar 20, 3:30 pm

Newton Cultural Center, 225 Nevada Street, Newtonville
Celebrate Spring with us in the Art Room by planting seedlings, making a bird feeder from pinecones and a birdhouse from recycled wood!. Ages 5 and up.

Co-sponsored by the Green Decade, Newton

Community Farm and the Newton Pride Committee.

4. Bike Tune-up for Kids Sat, Mar 21, 10am - 2pm

War Memorial Triangle, Newton City Hall
Bike Newton will provide free bike tune-ups to kids, while teaching them how to do their own tune-ups.

Co-sponsored by Bike Newton and the Green Decade.

March 26 - Babson College's Entrepreneurial Energy Expo

Babson College's fourth annual Entrepreneurial Energy Expo (E3) will take place on Thursday, March 26th, at the F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business. With a new economic climate and a new administration, the energy landscape has changed dramatically in just the last year. As such, the Entrepreneurial Energy Expo will be a forum for discussion on how innovation will drive a new era of energy, economics and politics. Drawing on the success of E3 2008, which attracted over 400 attendees and 40 professional exhibitors, E3 2009 has been expanded to provide a full day of discussion panels, speakers and networking opportunities to regional players in the energy industry.

SPEAKERS:

E3 2009 boasts a distinguished lineup of speakers and panelists including **Nicholas Parker**, Chairman of the Cleantech Group, **Nick d'Arbeloff**, Executive Director, New England Clean Energy Council and **Phil Giudice**, Commissioner for the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Solutions.

SIX PANELS:

These industry heavyweights will bring their expertise to panels such as Environmental Policy and Green Entrepreneurship, and igniting meaningful dialogues around the current and future states of the environmental and energy industry. Other panel topics include Cleantech Venture Capital, Marketing and Selling in the Energy Industry, Natural Resources Management, Energy Efficiency Solutions and Green IT.

This day-long event will feature 6 panel sessions, morning and afternoon keynote addresses, a networking industry expo and lunch included. For more information and to register as an attendee or exhibitor for this not-to-be-missed event, please visit www.babsonenergy.com. If you have any questions about sponsorship opportunities or how to demonstrate your product at the event, please contact the event's director, Brian Lapsertis, at E3@babson.edu or (617) 997-7736.

Entrepreneurial Energy Expo will be a forum for discussion on how innovation will drive a new era of energy, economics and politics.

The Babson Energy and Environmental Club is a student led organization at the F.W. Olin Graduate School of Business. The BEEC's mission is to foster innovation in the areas of curriculum integration, career development and campus greening by hosting educational events, connecting alumni to its members, and helping students gain new employment opportunities within the energy industry. For information, visit www.babsonenergy.com.

NewtonSERVES April 26, '09: Business Recycling Project Proposed by Students for a Greener World



The Green Decade/Newton's Students for a Greener World (SGW) recycled paper and cardboard in 2008 with businesses in Newton Centre and had fun.

The Green Decade/Newton's Students for a Greener World (SGW) invites businesses in the villages of Newtonville and Newton Highlands to participate in a one-day pick-up of recyclable paper and cardboard. The Newton-Needham Chamber of Commerce also encourages members in these areas to join in this activity, as participating businesses or as volunteers. This is the second year for this event, which began in Newton Centre last year and has now expanded the scope to two villages.

SGW student volunteers – middle and high school students -- will visit the businesses in both villages with information packets about the project the week before NewtonSERVES and will sign them up for the Sunday, April 26 pick-up.

On April 26, volunteers (adults and students age 11 and up) will go to participating businesses to pick up the recyclables and carry them to the collection site. The City of Newton will provide specially designated dumpsters in each village, then transport it to the Rumford Avenue Recycling Depot. SGW project coordinators Trevor Romich and Carolyn Ranti, seniors at Newton North High School, are managing this event with the hope that the City's new recycling contract will include businesses, non-profits, religious organizations and others. For more information or to participate in this year's Business Recycling Project, visit www.greendecade.org or contact Margaret Ford, Green Decade Program Coordinator at contact@greendecade.org or 617-964-0606.

by Margaret Ford

New name... same Green Decade

Green Decade's Board of Directors recently voted to phase out the word "Coalition" from our name. As we prepare to update our literature and design new Green Decade banners to be used at Farmer's Market and future programs and events, it was decided to shorten our organization's name to read Green Decade/Newton. Our commitment to work in partnership with other local organizations on behalf of the environment will remain the same.

by Marcia Cooper

Home energy audit: immediate gratification

Looking for ways to cut your energy use? Whatever your personal level of expertise, it's always useful to bring in outside experts with a well-developed approach. That's what Green Decade's Dan Ruben did for his home. No slouch in the energy field himself, Dan made use of the services of Next Step Living (NSL), which conducts both a home energy audit and some energy efficiency improvements at the same visit.

The result—a plan that could help Dan pare his overall personal energy use by at least 5 to 10 percent. Among the recommendations are air sealing, improved insulation, and a more efficient boiler. These measures will help Dan along towards his ultimate multi-year goal of reducing his energy use by 80 percent (more on his efforts in the next issue of Green News). NSL begins its service by sending a two-person Energy Service team, consisting of an Energy Service Representative and a qualified home service aid, to a home for a 3-hour visit. The Energy Service Representative conducts an energy audit of the home to identify visible and invisible areas of energy loss while the home service aid implements immediate upgrades on the spot that can shave 5-15% off the home owner's monthly energy bill. After the audit, the Energy Service Representative walks the owners through all the data regarding NSL's services as well as other potential energy saving options so that they can decide what's best. Then, they send a report that details the measures implemented at the visit and the opportunities for future steps.

At Dan's home, during the initial visit, the NSL rep cleaned the refrigerator coils, sealed the stove and dryer exhausts, filled insulation gaps, and installed a sweep and weather stripping to reduce air leakage. They would have installed some CFLs as well, but Dan had beaten them to it! For more info, visit NSL's web site, <http://nextsteplivinginc.com/>.

by Ira Krepchin

Student Art & Essay Contest entries due March 20

The Annual Student Energy Conservation Art & Essay Contest is back for 2009, officially announced at the Mayor David Cohen's press conference on February 2. All Newton students in grades 3-12, living or attending school in Newton, are eligible to enter either or both contests. Last year over 150 Newton students participated in the contest. Key dates:



* **March 20: All art & essay entries due**

* **April 29: Awards Ceremony at War Memorial Auditorium, City Hall**

Prizes will be awarded for first, second and third place winners in the essay and art contests. First place winners' essays and art will be published in Newton magazine, and all art contest art entries will be displayed at Newton City Hall in the rotunda from May 1-15. All students entering this year's contest will receive a certificate of participation and are invited to the awards on April 29 with friends and family.

This year's contest coordinators are Angelina Zhou (Newton North 2009) for the Art Contest, Jason Kuo (Newton South 2009) for the Essay Contest and Amanda Frank Webber, Fundraising. Thanks also go to the Schools Outreach Committee, the Newton Schools and the Newton PTO Council for helping coordinate the 2009 contest.

Students must register on-line to participate in this year's contest. Details of the 3rd Annual Energy Conservation Art and Essay Contest are available on the Green Decade Newton website, along with the Contest Registration Form. The contest is co-sponsored by the Green Decade Newton, Green Energy Newton, NSTAR, Chapman Construction/ Design, SUEZ Energy Resources, Boston Green Building, Swartz Tru-Valu Hardware and other organizations. Questions or information: 617-965-1995 or energycontest@greendecade.org.

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by Marcia Cooper