



What should we do with all our trash?

The contract for solid waste collection in the City of Newton is expiring in 2008 and the recycling contract is expiring in 2010. Various City and citizen groups are in the process of reviewing options for how we could improve our collection service with the new contracts.

Many communities in Massachusetts and across the country have adopted a "unit-based pricing program" which makes trash collection similar to other utilities like electricity and water: you pay according to how much you use/produce. This program, also known as "variable rate pricing" or "pay-as-you-throw (PAYT)", can be implemented in a variety of ways:

- 1. Weight-based system.** Containers would be issued to all residents that could be automatically emptied into a garbage truck. An embedded computer chip would record the weight of the refuse and the customer information.
- 2. Bag system.** Customers would purchase "official" city trash bags, typically ranging from 10 to 30 gallons in capacity, and could only dispose of trash in the distinctly marked bags (i.e. "City of Newton Refuse Bag").
- 3. Sticker system.** Households purchase "official" stickers to place on specific size containers. Only containers with the stickers are collected.

Officials have found that when residents pay directly for the amount of waste they create, they have a financial incentive to reduce their waste through recycling, composting and source reduction (specifically choosing products with less packaging; buying in bulk...). Typically cities offer free recycling with unit-based pricing systems, and in some cases free, curbside food-waste composting. A study by the Reason Foundation found that variable-rate programs decrease residential disposal by about 17 percent in weight with 8-11% being diverted directly to recycling and yard programs, and another 6% decreased by source reduction efforts. Here are some examples of existing programs:

- 1. Seattle, WA:** Residents choose the size container they wish to use, which range from 12, 20, 32, 64, 96 gallons, and each size has a different price and weight limit. Recycling, yard and food waste composting is offered for free.
- 2. San Jose, CA:** The same size containers are offered to San Jose residents except they do not offer the 12 gallon container. For occasional use, San Jose offers an "extra garbage sticker" which can be purchased for \$4.90 and placed on a 32 gallon trash bag. Recycling and yard trimmings are picked up for free and the website offers guidance on backyard food waste composting but no curbside service.



- 3. Brockton, MA:** Residents pay a flat annual fee of \$280 for a 32 gallon barrel with a maximum weight limit of 50 pounds. Additional bags can be purchased for \$1 per 32 gallon bag.
- 4. Natick, MA:** The City picks up rubbish in bags with a 25 pound weight limit at a fee of \$1.75 for 30 gallons and \$1 for 15 gallons. A private contractor picks up the recycling.
- 5. Worcester, MA:** The City offers bags at 50¢ for 15 gallons and \$1.00 for 30 gallons with a 30 pound weight limit.

Unit-based pricing for garbage collection offers Newton residents an opportunity to modernize our system, with an emphasis on equity. It is time to consider new methods of collection, with the upcoming expiration of our trash and recycling contracts.

As stated on our Recycle More Paper brochure, it costs \$131 per ton to dispose of trash and we can earn \$45 a ton from the sale of recycled paper. Communities that have adopted pay-as-you-throw programs consistently see a large increase in their recycling rates because the recycling is still picked up for free. If we increase our recycling rate from 40 to 60%, we would "earn" \$550,000 a year because we would no longer have to pay \$131 a ton for the 4,200 tons of paper that increased recycling percentage represents.

by Michele Davis

Performance contracting is coming to Newton

The City of Newton has released a "Request for Qualifications" (RFQ) asking for an energy service company (ESCO) to establish a "performance contracting" relationship with the city. A performance contract is an agreement with a private ESCO to manage a group of efficiency projects from beginning to end. The savings that the projects generate are used to cover the entire cost of the projects, and any surplus savings are allocated between the contracting organization and the ESCO as stipulated in the contract.

Objectives for the program are "to upgrade facilities and optimize utility and operating budgets through comprehensive infrastructure renewal and to ensure continued peak efficiency for the contract term through proactive maintenance and service programs to be customized for Newton facilities." In other words, big savings on energy costs. The schedule calls for submissions by the end of June with evaluation, ranking, and negotiations to take place in July and August.

by Ira Krepchin



Lumiere goes green

Lumiere, a restaurant in West Newton, recently became a Certified Green Restaurant by the Green Restaurant Association (GRA). To become certified, a restaurant must meet the following criteria:

- Use a comprehensive recycling system for all products that are accepted by local recycling companies.
- Be free of polystyrene foam ("Styrofoam") products.
- Commit to completing four Environmental Steps per year of membership.
- Complete at least one Environmental Step after joining the GRA.

The Environmental Steps cover a number of areas including: energy and water efficiency and conservation, sustainable food, recycling and composting, and the use of non-toxic products.

The GRA, is a national non-profit environmental organization founded in 1990. The GRA helps restaurants and their customers become more environmentally sustainable in ways that are convenient and cost-effective. For more information, visit www.dinegreen.com.

Our Mission

by Ira Krepchin

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.



2006-2007 Board of Directors

Karen Albert, *Green CAP*
Ann Berwick, *at large*
Marcia Cooper, *Membership*
Ed Cunningham, *IPM Liaison*
Lucia Dolan, *Clerk, Green CAP*
Kevin Dutt, *HiPerformc Bldgs*
Paul Eldrenkamp, *Kyoto Proj.*
Ira Krepchin, *Newsletter*
Treff LaFleche, *at large*
Francoise LaMonica, *PR-NewTV*
Lois Levin, *PR-Coord. TAB*
Brooke Lipsitt, *HiPerformc Bldgs*
Jean MacRae, *Treasurer*
Eric Olson, *Energy*
Amelia Ravin, *Corporate Relations*
Dan Ruben, *V. Pres.*
Rohna Shoul, *at large*
Peter Smith, *Newsletter*
Ana Zarina Asuaje Solon, *Pres.*

Heather Tausig, *at large*
Maeve Ward, *Green CAP*

Advisory Board

Louise Bruyn, *Founder*
Diana Cartier
Sheila Clawson
David & Elva Del Porto
Dianne Dumanoski
Barney Freiberg-Dale
Katherine Gekas, *Energy*
Ellie Goldberg
Fred Gordon
Barbara Herson, *Past Pres.*
Elizabeth (Betsy) Leavitt
Nancy Lopin
Saraswathy Nochur
Fran Seasholes
Annabelle Ship
Bob Zeeb

Middle schools to go solar

Newton's four middle schools, Day, Bigelow, Oak Hill, and Brown should each be the proud hosts of 2 kilowatt solar photovoltaic systems by the end of the year. Photovoltaic systems convert sunlight into electricity. Funding for the systems comes from the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative and the matching grants from the New England Wind Fund. For every 150 households that subscribe to \$5/month of renewable energy credits (RECs) through the New England Wind Fund the City of Newton will receive a grant for a "solar on Newton schools" installation.

The Green Decade Coalition has also received a grant from SUEZ Energy Resources to promote solar energy at the schools. One of the goals of this campaign will be to get more people to sign up for the New England Wind Fund. That effort will enable the purchase of more solar photovoltaic systems and increase the size of the systems at the four middle schools.

by Ira Krepchin

Newton Organic Gardening Group seeks volunteers

The Newton Organic Gardening Group, led by Paul Shoemaker, is looking for volunteers to help revitalize and maintain a demonstration organic garden at the Newton Community Services Center (NCSC). The NCSC garden plot has been used in the past as a classroom for children and seniors. The Newton Organic Gardening Group's goal is to demonstrate how it is possible to create and maintain a beautiful garden accessible to all without dangerous insecticides, weed killers, chemical fertilizers and damaging landscaping techniques. Green Decade's Committee for Alternatives to Pesticides (GreenCAP) encourages GDC members and friends to join and support the Newton Organic Gardening Group.

For more information, contact Paul Shoemaker at gardening.meetup.com/130. Additional information on organic gardening and lawn care: GreenCAP Resources page on the GDC website. *by Ellie Goldberg & Andrew Martin*

Thanks ! and . . . next deadline

For the next newsletter, please send submissions or requests by email to Ira Krepchin, irapk@alum.mit.edu by Friday, July 20, 2007.

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: Arlene Bendes, Nancy Lester, Naomi Osher, Edie Propp and Francine Vidockler.

In Memorium: Anne Caputi

We were sorry to hear of the passing late last year of longtime Green Decade member Anne Caputi. A long-term survivor of breast cancer and professional health consultant, Anne was also a talented writer. We are reprinting, below, an article that she wrote several years ago for the TAB, that is just as timely today.

Killing Me Softly with his lawn

Ah, the rituals of Spring! The birds are returning, the flowers are up, storm windows up, screens down. We remember we have neighbors as everyone reinhabits their yards and takes to the street or a sunny spot for a spring break and the first rays of warmth. Surely our ancestors for many generations before us have reveled in the same sensual pleasures which follow the Vernal Equinox. Ever so recently in human history however, new harbingers of spring have appeared in many regions.

For years now, Spring, my favorite season, has become a fearful and life-threatening time for me. For now, along with those yellow daffodils I've watched for every April since I was a child, I wait for the sight of another patch of yellow sprouting atop a green stem. This modern day sighting is a warning though, a warning of the presence of dangerous chemicals. And like it's forebears, the daffodil and the tulip, it is accompanied by a scent which foretells its presence, even when the sign has been removed or is occluded from view. WARNING, WARNING! my senses signal. Cross the street. Seek cover. Get upwind, NOW!

You may think this sounds somewhat extreme or hysterical. Forgive me. You see, four years ago, at the age of thirty nine I was diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer. I had lived the profile of low risk for breast cancer. However, I had grown up on Long Island during the late fifties, sixties and seventies. Surrounded by farms in my earliest years, and then surrounded by suburban subdivision after subdivision, I lived in a sea of farm and lawn chemicals. My uncle had a large fruit orchard which was sprayed regularly. We picked the fruit off the trees and ate it unwashed. I played tennis every day all summer on grass tennis courts surrounded by an 18 hole golf course. I believe my system has been all too familiar with these chemicals for most of my life.

By the time I was in my mid-teens I began to experience serious issues with fatigue. I was the star athlete who could barely make it up and down the basketball court. After graduating from college in 1979, I moved to the Boston area. Looking for a job, I could barely walk the streets because the pollution rendered me weak and exhausted. I developed a career which enabled me to work at home, set my own hours, and manage my health challenges.

In 1985 I moved to Newton, seeking suburban refuge, a little distance from the pollution I'd been overwhelmed by closer in to the city. It was here that I first encountered the Chem Lawn phenomenon, and the little yellow warning signs.

One morning, while doing my yoga, a truck pulled up outside my house. The driver/sprayer came to my door. "Whoever owns that car has to move it so I can spray." I asked him why the car had to be removed. "Because the spray can damage the finish on car paint." I found this ironic that he had the obligation to warn us to move our cars, (liability) but saw no danger to me or to himself due to exposure to the toxic chemicals he was about to unleash on my street. I asked him whether he saw the irony in his company's concern for the liability risk if responsible for damaging the finish on someone's car, but not warning him or me about the personal danger to our health imposed by the spraying. Oh no, he said, it's very dilute, I'm not worried about it at all.

I am your neighbor, a fellow citizen of Newton. Some of you may know me, many of you do not. I am not the only neighbor in Newton who has cancer. Most of us know that Newton has been cited for having an exceptionally high level of breast cancer within its borders. I would like you to know how I feel when I walk the streets of our beautiful city and see a yellow sign on your lawn. I feel assaulted. I feel unwelcome. I feel angered and threatened, less important than a green, picture perfect lawn. I want to run for cover. I cross the street. I find it hard to smile if you are in your yard. I say nothing, but want to say: "I am the face of breast cancer. I am your neighbor. Your use of lawn chemicals threatens my existence and profoundly changes my ability to walk safely and freely in my neighborhood." I want to say, "There are many of us, already diagnosed, and many more at risk, adults and children alike." No one is immune to the effects of these dangerous and ubiquitous poisons. If something can kill a small bug, imagine what it can do to that many cells in the body of a child, or a dog, or to you.

We are so blessed to live in a community which values environmental issues and is a trend setter in our state and region. Eleven years ago, a small group of concerned citizens started the Green Decade Coalition. One of its goals was to impact the city's use of toxic chemicals, in our schools, and on our public lawns and parks.

In 1999, the city managed all of its lawns without the use of any toxic chemicals. This means that I could sit on the grass at a park and not fear for the risk I was taking.

Green Decade Coalition and other organizations hold annual events to educate people about viable and effective alternatives to chemical pesticides and fertilizers. I implore you to seek out and use the information and resources available to Newton residents.

Do it for your neighbor. Do it for your children. Do it for yourself. Someone you love has cancer. Many more will in your lifetime. This is not a distant threat. It's right in your own back yard.

by Anne Caputi

**1st
Prize:**



2007 Raleigh Cruise Control Bicycle

You saw it in the *Boston Globe Magazine* 4/8/07
"A three speed bike that changes gears for you? Revolutionary!"

green decade
COALITION/NEWTON



Raffle!

2nd

Prize: \$300 Whole Foods Gift Certificate

Other Prizes Include:

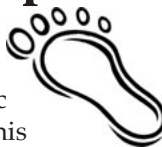
- 1 month of mowing from Clean Air Lawn Care
- \$110 Direct Tire Services Gift Certificate
- \$50 Skipjack's Restaurant Gift Certificate

Tickets only \$10 — 3 for \$20 Buy on-line at www.greendecade.org or at any GDC event or info booth

Net proceeds for general operating expenses of Green Decade, 501c(3) environmental non-profit. Drawing planned Sept, 2007. Winners listed on GDC website. We reserve the right to add additional prizes and extend the date of the drawing. For more info: 617-965-1995 or info@greendecade.org

Incredible shrinking footprint

The Craddocks got a pleasant surprise this May. In 2003, Ed Craddock installed 21 solar panels on their roof. They had seen a dramatic reduction in their electric bill in the past, but this was the first time they received an electric bill showing they had created more electricity than they used. Their bill was \$5.43 (an adjusted minimum we all have to pay). Their CO2 footprint has really shrunk! *by Louise Bruyn*



What is important?

"Cost of 7.9 liters of oxygen: \$29.

Value of a 50-year-old red cedar's oxygen output per year: \$3 million.

Value of a 50-year-old red cedar for timber: \$2,700" *The page that counts (YES! a journal of positive futures, p. 11 Summer 2002.)*

CALENDAR

July 24
start date

Green Decade Table @ Farmers' Market
volunteers needed, call for more information, 617 965-1995.

Sept 28-29
Fri - Sat

AltWheels Energy Freedom Festival on
Boston City Hall Plaza, all day, lots of
kids activities —Green Decade table needs
volunteers. call: 617 965-1995.

Send environmental events to GREEN NEWS. email to Ira Krepchin by Friday, July 20, 2007 irapk@alum.mit.edu. We will list as space permits.

green decade
COALITION/NEWTON

P.O. Box 590242 -
Newton, MA 02459



Non-profit
Organization
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Newton, MA
Permit No 58678

return service requested

If this is a
Complimentary Copy,
please consider subscribing
TODAY!



Printed with soy-based ink on 100% post-consumer waste unbleached recycled paper that is made without a chemical separation process.

Mason Rice visits energy plant in Kendall Sq.

This year the Mason-Rice 5th grade Graduating Committee decided to carry an environmental theme for the graduating class. We wanted to educate the children about environmental issues and create actions that would benefit the school and reduce our carbon emissions.

The first part of the vision was to bring an approved Creative Arts and Sciences program called "Conservation and Energy Efficiency" taught by two Green Decade board members: Heather Tausig and Eric Olson. In this program, they first present a video entitled "In Hot Water" produced by the New England Aquarium. The film highlights the impact of climate change on the oceans, the animals, and human communities that depend on them. Then using a bicycle powered generator, students learn that compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) require a lot less pedaling than the regular incandescent bulbs.

This is followed by a discussion about energy use and what things the students can do to reduce their carbon footprint. Right after the presentation the committee launched a school wide CFL campaign (the bulbs were donated by NSTAR) to encourage use of efficient bulbs in the community. The committee raised \$2,395 and more importantly, the community saved 880,000 lbs of CO2 emissions over the life of the bulbs.

The second part of the vision was to bring the children on a tour of an electric power plant. Thanks to Shawn Konary (Green Decade Energy Committee member), they visited the 256 megawatt Mirant plant in Cambridge. The students were able to follow the entire process all the way to where the wires deliver the electricity to the grid. This not only complemented 5th grade curriculum, but also gave the students the experience of seeing one way to produce energy, the resources that it takes, and maybe even sparking their imagination about finding new and more sustainable ways to produce energy.

I feel that these kinds of educational programs will raise awareness and promote change for it is my hope that they will be the generation that will become the stewards of the planet.

by Ana Zarina Asuaje Solon

Thanks for donations go to:

DONORS:

Sandra & David Baird,
Thomas S. Downey, The Women of St. Mary's

FRIENDS:

Nancy Criscitiello, Deb Crossley, Newell Flather, Kathy Pillsbury



Newton celebrates Rachel Carson Day

Once in a generation or so, a person who is so dedicated and resolute in their beliefs makes a difference that resonates long after his or her death. Rachel Carson was one such person, and Newton Mayor David Cohen designated May 27, 2007, which would have been her 100th birthday, as a day in her honor.

In a press release, the mayor noted that "Her remarkable journey from her upbringing on a small farm outside of Pittsburgh to becoming the founder of the modern environmentalist movement is legendary. Her 1962 landmark book, *Silent Spring*, thrust the dangers of pesticide use on to the world stage. Despite having too few years on Earth, with her death of breast cancer coming when she was just 56 years old, Rachel Carson's life work continues to impact the Earth today.

"At a time when chemicals were being introduced into the environment with little knowledge of their long term effects, Rachel Carson spoke out so eloquently and intelligently that the world took notice. Her efforts would eventually lead to the banning of DDT, and *Silent Spring* is remembered as the founding text for the green movement. In 1980, Rachel Carson was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom – the highest civilian recognition in America."

Joining the Mayor in announcing the honor were Kathleen Attfield, staff scientist from the Silent Spring Institute, a nonprofit organization based in Newton that is dedicated to uncovering and altering the links between the environment and women's health issues; and Green Decade's Ellie Goldberg. Ellie emphasized that "Rachel Carson taught me the most important lesson of my life -- that our health is intimately connected and dependent on the quality of the environment."

by Ellie Goldberg

The Environmental Show

The July Environmental show is produced by the Green Decade. Titled "Local Food and Farm Policies," the show will feature Professor Molly Anderson, a long-time educator in the School of Nutrition Science & Policy at Tufts, and Jeff Cole, Executive Director of the Federation of Mass. Farmers Markets (FMFM). First airing will take place on Saturday, June 30 and will continue throughout the month of July until Thursday, July 26 according to the following schedule:

Mondays: 3:00 p.m.

Tuesdays: 1:30 a.m. and 11:30 p.m.

Wednesdays: 11:30 a.m.

Thursdays: 12:00, 4:00, and 7:30 p.m.

Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.

The Newton's public access channel is NewTV Blue, number 10 on Comcast and 15 on RCN.

by Francoise Lamonica

Winners announced in global warming essay contest

Mayor David Cohen presented awards to nineteen winners of the Green Decade Coalition's First Annual Newton Essay Contest for Energy Conservation. The contest sponsors, NSTAR and the Newton Schools Foundation, generously donated prize money totaling \$1500. Frank Gundal, Manager of Products & Services for NSTAR and Robert Bloom, Secretary of the Newton Schools Foundation, presented checks to the winners.

In addition, the Mayor presented an award certificate to Mr. Dirk Detlefsen, of the Countryside Elementary School, for the teacher of the class with the most entrants.

Nearly 100 people attended the award ceremony, including the winners, their families, and the contest sponsors and judges.

The Green Decade's hope is that this first annual essay contest will inspire Newton residents of all ages to conserve more resources, especially those that cannot be easily replenished. The contest was organized by Laura Katleman-Prue; contest judges were Ira Krepchin, Jenny Craddock, Martha Cleveland, Stephen Griffen, and Michael Feldstein.

by Laura Katleman-Prue

List of Winners:

Elementary School

- First Place Emily Chen
- Second Place Jiaming Huang
- Third Place Melanie Erspamer
- Honorable Mention Monica Nair
- Honorable Mention Chris Wu
- Honorable Mention Chenfang Qi
- Honorable Mention Hannah Nahar
- Honorable Mention Andrew Hardigg

Middle School

- First Place Melissa Sullivan
- Second Place Natasza S. Gawlick
- Third Place Victor Moiescu
- Honorable Mention Elizabeth Barnett
- Honorable Mention Danny Pasquale
- Honorable Mention Ariel Kaluzhny
- Honorable Mention Noa Golan

High School

- First Place Harry Kaufer
- Second Place Ada Moiescu
- Third Place Peter Coffin
- Honorable Mention Cameron Tabatabaie



Elementary School Winners



Middle School Winners



High School Winners

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	
50	Friend	<input type="checkbox"/> Basic	
100	Donor	<input type="checkbox"/> Friend	
250	Patron	<input type="checkbox"/> Donor	
500	Benefactor	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	
1000	Really Green	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	

Thank you! Please send your tax deductible check payable to: GDC/N, P.O. Box 590242, Newton, MA 02459 July / Aug 2007