



Environmental action at Temple Emanuel

Saturday morning, May 17, Green Decade's Louise Bruyn spoke to the congregants of Temple Emanuel in Newton Centre as part of our first Environment Shabbat, our Environment Group's effort to raise awareness of the necessity of greening the temple. We were thrilled with the impact of Louise's remarks.

The Environment Group at Temple Emanuel formed about two years ago out of a social-justice organizing initiative prompted by GBIO, the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization. We started with two members, now eight are in our group, and since Louise's talk, more have asked to join.

The primary effort of our group has been on recycling inside and outside the temple. Within the temple, we have placed recycle bins in every room for paper, commingled materials and trash—all clearly labeled. To insure their use we met with all groups in the temple about the importance of recycling and how to do it. At our urging, the temple recently purchased a new custodial cart designed to handle different waste streams. We will be working with the custodial staff on using this new cart and continuing reminder meetings with all temple groups.

Recycling activities outside the temple include becoming part of the City of Newton's pilot project to pick up recyclable paper at area nonprofits weekly and to change the city's contract with its waste vendor to that effect. Our group introduced a new recycling company, Save That Stuff, www.savethatstuff.org, to the temple for commingled pickup, which they do on a monthly basis. Our group continues to work with the city on expanding recycle pickup to all area non-profits. This plus our outreach work with nonprofits are yielding hopeful results.

Our group is trying to move the temple away from using plastic to renewable, recyclable and/or biodegradable products. So far we have only moved from plastic cups to paper, and we have persuaded the morning prayer group to switch from plastic to metal cutlery at their daily breakfasts. We are also advocating for the use of nontoxic products, and the temple has just purchased nontoxic cleaning products. We would like to see nontoxic lawn products in use as well. Also on our agenda is sending the temple bulletin out via e-mail rather than using paper. That has not yet come to be.

We have also asked that part of the religious school curriculum have an environmental bent—the study of Jewish texts that promote environmental stewardship. We are beginning to work with our Bar and Bat Mitzvah stu-

dents on green "mitzvah" projects, social-action projects the students are required to do during the year before their ceremony. And we hope to educate and encourage temple families to host green events—bar and bat mitzvahs, weddings and others. We offered the temple's first sort-of-green event after the May 17 Shabbat service at which Louise spoke. We called it a "green-as-we-can" Kiddush (little meal), providing sustainably grown/low spray kosher wine, free-trade organic coffee and tea, and organic milk—with recycle bins prominently in place.

Separate from the work of our group, the temple has embarked on energy-, cost- and resource-saving projects. In 2006, the temple installed a new HVAC control system that senses outdoor temperature to help enable more efficient operation. Recently the temple replaced 90-watt spot lamps and ballasts with more efficient 75-watt lamps and new ballasts—same light, less energy. The temple is also in the process of replacing old hot-water tanks with individual hot-water units for each kitchen and bathroom. And the comptroller has purchased seven refurbished office stations for the main office.

We have a way to go in the greening of Temple Emanuel, and the going is slow, but we're committed to the journey. We are extremely grateful to Green Decade for your example and your resources. At one of our first group meetings, Eric Olson gave a most informative, accessible talk about the energy crisis, and he has been a willing friend to us ever since. And again, thank you, Louise, for your very persuasive wake-up call. People were listening.

by Sarah Lamstein

Kyoto Project update

If you're interested in having a blower-door and infrared camera test done to test how well your home is insulated and sealed, the Green Decade's Kyoto Project still has a few spots open in the fall, and more openings for the winter. Contact Michele Davis at reuserecycle.rcn.com if you have any questions.

And if you've already participated in the program, we greatly appreciate your participation and would like to complete the analysis of the houses we have visited. We recently sent out an e-mail asking for utility bills or permission to access utility bills directly. Please respond to that e-mail or contact Michele Davis directly at the e-mail address above.

by Michele Davis

Mayor Cohen presents awards to energy art & essay winners

Mayor David Cohen presented awards to winners of the Green Decade Coalition's Second Annual Newton Essay and Art Contest for Energy Conservation on April 30 at the War Memorial Auditorium at City Hall. The contest sponsors, NSTAR and the Newton Schools Foundation, generously donated prize money totaling \$1500 for the essay contest; art contest prize funds were donated by a private group of businesses. Prizes were presented by Green Decade president Ana Zarina Asuaje Solon and Energy Committee Chair Eric Olson.

The Mayor also gave award certificates to four teachers with the largest groups of entrants: Dirk Detlefsen (Countryside Elementary School), Marianne Marks (Oak Hill Middle School), Rhonda Rendulich (Burr Elementary School) and Stacy Pyron of the New Art Center.

300 people attended the award ceremony, including the winners, their families, contest sponsors and judges. More than 150 students entered the contests this year.

Newton's energy consumption continues to climb in spite of increased awareness of the harm caused by global warming. City government made great strides reducing energy consumption and is well on the way to reaching its goal of 20% reduction. Newton citizens must follow suit.

The Green Decade's goal is that this annual essay and art contest will inspire Newton residents of all ages to conserve more resources, especially those that cannot be easily replenished. Essay Contest judges were Martha Cleveland, Jenny Craddock, Ann Dannenberg, Ira Krepchin, Lois Levin, Mary McCarthy, Helen Rittenberg and David Tannozzini. Art Contest judges were Arlene Bandes, Marcia Cooper, Michele Davis, Beverly Droz, Carolyn Knight and Wendy Lewis. This year's contest coordinators were Amanda Frank for Art and Oleg Kordunskiy for Essay.

Visit www.greendecade.org to download the winning essays, see photos of winners and artwork, and for more information on the contest.



Congratulations to K-2 Art Winners!



Sarah Dahl - 1st Place Essay, Elementary School



Happy High School Winners!

2008 Energy contest winners - Art contest awards Elementary Schools (K-2)

1st Prize	Noah Whiting, Mason Rice
2nd Prize	Will Riley, Cabot
3rd Prize	Caroline Saksena, Countryside
Honorable Mentions	Max Schaefer, Burr Micah Long, Peirce Lily Durbin, Bowen Hannah Kiritsy, Bowen

Elementary School (3-5)

1st Prize	Grace Ledgard, Burr
2nd Prize	Matia Whiting, Mason Rice
3rd Prize	Rachel Tils, Peirce
Honorable Mentions	Sarah Dembling, Countryside Anna Nesgos, Burr Ann Shattuc, Underwood Sarah Dahl, Countryside

Middle School

1st Prize	Vivian Liu, Oak Hill
2nd Prize	Elena Byun, Oak Hill
3rd Prize	Melissa Sullivan, Corwin-Russell School at Broccoli Hall Marina Miller, F. A. Day Sima Kasraie, Oak Hill Kelly Lo, Oak Hill Chloe Fulara, Oak Hill
Honorable Mentions	

High School

1st Prize	Angelina Zhou, N.North
2nd Prize	Phoebe Nesgos, N. North
3rd Prize	Elizabeth Ruby, N. North
Honorable Mentions	James Perkins N. North Jordan Schnee, N. South Elizabeth Shrier, N. North Daniel Sulkin, N. South

2008 Energy contest winners -Essay contest awards Elementary Schools (K-2)

1st Prize	Amrita Shankar, Franklin
2nd Prize	Caroline Saksena, Countryside
3rd Prize	Angela DeNucci & Noelle Quinn, Williams
3rd Prize	Sophia Wilcox-Warren, Cabot

Elementary School (3-5)

1st Prize	Sarah Dahl, Countryside
2nd Prize	Charles Goodfriend, Countryside
3rd Prize	Eliza Beth, Countryside
Honorable Mentions	Dianne Lee, Ward Julia Mount, Countryside Sam Fidler, Countryside Jacob Silverman, Angier

Middle School

1st Prize	Jasper Barbash-Taylor, Oak Hill
2nd Prize	Josh Nislick, Oak Hill
3rd Prize	Leah Abercrombie, Oak Hill
Honorable Mentions	Ravi Panse, Oak Hill Josh Sapers, Oak Hill Karina Alfisher, Oak Hill Benjamin Kim, Oak Hill

High School (Tie)

1st Prize	Carolyn Ranti, N.North Daniel Sulkin, N. South
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Special recognition awards

Shohini Kundu, Amherst Regional Middle School
Andrew Schneider, Oak Hill
Alexandra Palmer, The Winsor School

Energy art contest winners



Thanks for donations go to:

BENEFACTOR: Anonymous (Kyoto Project staff sponsor), Laura Katleman-Prue & Keith Prue

DONORS: Pauline Healey, Patti Powers, Temple Emanuel

FRIENDS: Lucia Dolan, Kalpana Guttman, Philip Herr, Rachel White.

BUSINESS PATRON: NSTAR (Donation for Student Energy Essay & Art Contest Prizes), Newton Schools Foundation (Donation for contest prizes).

BUSINESS FRIEND: Anonymous (Essay, Art Contest prizes), Trilennium Services Inc. (Contest prizes), William M. Pollack/Private Placements (Contest Prizes), Newton Lower Falls Improvement Association, Newtonville Camera.

BIKE NEWTON DONATIONS: Anonymous, Village Bank (Kenneth Brennan), Doug Dickson, Hammond Residential.

Watch the Environment Show on NewTV

Nearing completion of its fourth year on Newton public access television, the Environment Show is a joint effort of the Green Decade and the Newton Conservators. This monthly half-hour show is produced alternatively by each organization and is aired:

Mondays: 3:00 p.m.

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

Wednesdays: 11:30 a.m.

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

Saturdays: 10:00 a.m.

Our shows, all but the current one, are accessible on our web site (greendecade.org).

Another Green Decade production is its Environmental Speakers Series, taped on site at the Newton Free Library. This is a 90-minute segment. Its broadcast time is on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. Newton's public access television is the NewTV Blue channel, number 10 on Comcast, 15 on RCN, and 34 on Verizon.

If you want to join the Green Decade production team contact Françoise LaMonica at MediaNewTV@greendecade.org

by Françoise LaMonica

New organic gardening and landscape committee

Summer is here and the Green Decade welcomes organic gardeners & landscapers, experienced or novice, to join this new group. Demand for the Soil Testing brochure and Organic Lawn & Landscape Services flyer increases each year, especially at the Farmers' Market.

Many GDC members and friends have asked for and offered information on healthy ways to create and maintain gardens, lawns and landscapes. This new group will expand the resources currently offered by the GreenCAP Committee, but will operate as a separate committee.

The new committee's purpose is to provide additional information on best plants, practices, products and services for organic, pesticide-free land/garden care, along with educational, hands-on programs during the year. These will include workshops on composting or other organic practices, and an Organic Garden Tour of Newton gardens, similar to the Energy Committee's Annual Solar Homes Tour of 4-5 homes each fall.

For more information or to join the Organic Gardening & Landscape Committee, please contact committee co-chairs Sunwoo Kahng at 617-332-1882 or bobergkahng@msn.com or Karen Albert at karenalbert@rcn.com or 617-965-6738.

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CALENDAR

- July/Aug (Tue)** **Farmers' Market**, Green Decade resource tent - volunteers needed all ages, you don't have to be an expert. Cold Springs Park, Beacon St. Also on Fridays at Post 440, California St., Nonantum. Contact Margaret, margford@yahoo.com or 617 964-0606.
- July/Aug (Fri)** 1:30-6pm
- July 7 (Mon)** 7-9pm **"Planning a healthy tomorrow"** talk by Elizabeth Saunders, GreenCAP meeting at NewTV, Easy Street, just off Needham St. by National Lumber. See art'l this issue p.3
- Sept 14 (Sun)** 1:30-5pm **Newton organic garden & Landscape tour** Limited to 25 people, call 617 965-1995. See article this issue.

Send environmental events to GREEN NEWS. email to Ira Krepchin by Friday, July. 18, 2008 irapk@alum.mit.edu. We will list as space permits.

Connecting children + nature

Richard Louv, author of *"Last Child in the Woods: Saving our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder"* gave the keynote speech at "Connecting Children and Nature," a conference sponsored by the Mass Audubon Society. The following is an excerpt from a review of that conference. To view the complete report, go to www.massaudubon.org/news/index.php?id=920&type=news.

Richard Louv, began by saying, "I'm used to depressing people. And we have a cultural addiction to despair." But then he challenged us to "Tell the good news" He said that for mental, physical, and spiritual health we need nature; survival, even sustainability isn't enough.

We are conditioned to fear for our lives once we go out the front door. Yes, he said, dangers do lurk in the natural world. He reminded us of the adages that we learned as children: "Leaves of three - let them be," or "Stay on trails." And the media doesn't help by over-the-top reporting about crimes against children that occur outside our homes and the subsequent trials that happen.

But locking our kids up inside in order to keep them safe, he warned, is causing more harm than good. He recommended plopping down with your kid into fresh-fallen snow to create snow angels; it helps reduce stress. Nature therapy affects creativity, and for kids, helps cognitive development and perhaps even Attention Deficit Disorder.

He stated that talking up new careers that will open up to combat climate change will thwart teenagers' despair about the survival of the Earth. To combat global climate change we'll have to change everything, economically, socially, politically, etc.—and the change has already started. Louv warned in conclusion: "What's at stake is nothing less than the survival of our communities, our states, and our nation."

Let's take up this challenge and go for it!
by L. Maeve Ward, Chair, GreenCAP and the Faith and the Environment Committee, Parish of St. Paul, Newton and Laura Patey, Coordinator of Disability Services, Lesley University

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COALITION/NEWTON

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"It is a curious situation that the sea, from which life first arose should now be threatened by the activities of one form of that life. But the sea, though changed in a sinister way, will continue to exist; the threat is rather to life itself."

– Rachel Carson, (1907-1964) *The Sea Around Us*, 1951

Your choice: e-mail or print

Close to sixty Green Decade members have chosen to save paper and postage by receiving the Green News on line, instead of by snail mail. An additional advantage is that you get to see the pictures in vibrant Technicolor and you can send it on to your friends with a click of your mouse! Please let us know at contact@greendecade.org if you would like to have your name added to the Green News email list, and be sure to include your name and e-mail, along with Green News Online in the subject line.

by Marcia Cooper



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

Planning a healthy tomorrow

Elizabeth Saunders from the Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow (AHT) coalition will speak at the July 7 GreenCAP meeting. The AHT is a coalition of citizens, scientists, health professionals, workers, and educators seeking ways to take preventive action to reduce toxic hazards. Green Decade is a coalition member.

AHT's goal is to correct fundamental flaws in government policies that allow harm to health and environment. AHT helps create and promote legislation in Massachusetts, such as the Safer Alternatives to Toxic Chemicals Bill (S-2481) and last year's successful mercury-reduction legislation. Elizabeth will discuss current toxic-reduction initiatives that AHT is promoting and the Safer Alternatives bill.

GreenCAP's meeting is open to anyone interested in learning more about toxic use reduction in Massachusetts, AHT, or GreenCAP. The meeting takes place on Monday, July 7 from 7 to 9 pm in the NewTV Conference Room. NewTV is on Easy Street, just off Needham Street by National Lumber. For more information on AHT go to www.healthytomorrow.org. For more information about the meeting please call Lucia 617-332-1893 or e-mail greenCAP@greendecade.org

The AHT's Plan for a Healthy Tomorrow includes the following provisions: **1. Protection of health must be the first priority of government agencies:** The government should be pro-active to prevent harm before it occurs. **2. We must act on early warnings:** The government has a duty to act to prevent harm when there is credible evidence that harm is occurring or is likely to occur—even when the exact nature and magnitude of the harm is not proven. **3. We must choose and create the safest alternatives:** Government decision-making processes must evaluate a full range of alternatives and must require the safest feasible alternative. Government should support innovation and promote technologies, materials and solutions that create a healthier environment. We must protect and involve affected workers and communities during the transition to the safest alternatives. **4. We must not assume safety:** Manufacturers have a responsibility to show that they are using the safest alternative to meet a specific need. The potential for harm should be thoroughly studied before a new chemical or technology is used, rather than assuming it is harmless until proven otherwise. Research on the impacts of chemicals and technologies should be conducted or verified by independent third parties. **5. We must base decisions on science & democracy:** Government decisions should be based on independent scientific information and meaningful citizen participation. Government must place a higher priority on protecting health and the environment than on the economic interests of a particular industry. The decision process should represent public values, protect the rights of potential victims, and be insulated from interference by narrow special interests.

by Lucia Dolan

Balloons have a big environmental impact

Balloons used as children's entertainment and for advertising purposes seem pretty innocuous until you realize that they are made of petroleum and precious helium (yes, helium is precious: the supply is limited). Also balloons disintegrate leaving behind small, bright-colored pieces that attract birds, which can choke on them. Mylar balloons flatten but may attract and injure sea turtles. There are alternatives; vendors used to advertise their wares with pennants and banners (think of medieval fairs—have you visited King Arthur's Faire?). Can you think of other alternatives?

by Maeve Ward

Successful Green Decade/ Chamber Environmental Expo

June third was a beautiful sunny day to attend environmental workshops and visit displays at the Newton Marriott Hotel. The Green Decade Coalition/ Newton partnered with the Newton Needham Chamber of Commerce in a special event that day called "Environmental Business Solutions." The nine workshops and 70 exhibits were free. At noon there was a capacity crowd at the luncheon with speakers and environmental awards to businesses. Gary Hirshberg, CE-Yo of Stonyfield Farm yogurt was the keynote speaker. As a bonus, at the end of the lunch attendees got a copy of his brand new book, *Stirring It Up, How to Make Money and Save the World*.

Gary graciously stayed at the Stonyfield Farm exhibit booth after the lunch chatting with his fans and signing copies of his book. Ann Berwick, Undersecretary of Energy gave an overview of state energy programs and tax incentives. The goal of this all day and evening event was to give attendees access to a variety of environmentally sustainable innovations that also save money. Examples of workshops highlighting sustainable practices while improving the bottom line included: NStar's energy saving business lighting audit and subsidy program; "smart paper" programs that save money and recycle; smart transportation solutions; water recharge and conservation innovations and green building materials and designs.

by Peter Smith



Gary Hirshberg, CE-Yo of Stonyfield Farm Yogurt was keynote speaker to the capacity crowd at the luncheon



Susan Korn and Marcia Cooper staffed the Green Decade booth

Keeping Rachel Carson's legacy alive in 2008

Last year, in honor of the 100th anniversary of Rachel Carson's birthday, May 27, 2007, communities, schools and organizations all over the world held commemorative events and created expanded web sites dedicated to promoting Carson's legacy and her most controversial book, *Silent Spring*, which was a call to action for ecological awareness and responsibility. This year, movies, web sites and other resources will help keep her legacy in the public mind.

Silent Spring is as relevant today as when it was published in 1962. Carson exposed the extensive harm caused by the reckless use of modern chemicals and eloquently explained the intimate connection between our health and the quality of our environment. To a public dazzled by chemical industry marketing and government complicity, *Silent Spring* detailed the assault on the essential elements that sustain life: clean air, clean water, and safe food. Chapter 14, "One in Four," explains the link between the environment and cancer.

Although Carson died of cancer on April 14, 1964, less than two years after the publication of *Silent Spring*, she still inspires citizens and policy makers to make sustainability and public health a priority, especially to reduce pollution (such as pesticides) that contribute to asthma, cancer, and other environmentally related illnesses.

Speaking at a 1962 graduation ceremony Carson said, "Your generation must come to terms with the environment. Your generation must face realities instead of taking refuge in ignorance and evasion of truth. Yours is a grave and a sobering responsibility, but it is also a shining opportunity. You go out into a world where mankind is challenged, as it has never been challenged before, to prove its maturity and its mastery—not of nature, but of itself. Therein lies our

hope and our destiny. In today already walks tomorrow." (Scripps College Commencement, 6/12/62)

Films, Links, Lesson Plans

This year the play *A Sense of Wonder*, based on Carson's life and her writings by acclaimed actress Kaiulani Lee, has been filmed! The film's website includes information and a trailer of the film. <http://www.asenseofwonderfilm.com>

Bill Moyers Journal (9/21/07) featured the life and legacy of Rachel Carson and the start of the modern environmental movement. The show includes an interview with Kaiulani Lee and excerpts from the play *A Sense of Wonder*. Go online to Watch the Video: <http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/09212007/watch.html> and read the Transcript: <http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/09212007/transcript1.html>. Teachers can find Lesson Plans: <http://www.pbs.org/moyers/journal/educators/rachelcarson.html> (activities for science, English, and civics classrooms, grades 6-12).

Find Rachel Carson 2008 events and Legacy Resources at the Rachel Carson Homestead web site at <http://www.rachelcarsonhomestead.org>. Find links to more videos, web sites and resources about Rachel Carson online at the Rachel Carson Institute <http://www.chatham.edu/RCI/rclinks.html>; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at <http://www.fws.gov/rachelcarson/>; the life and legacy of Rachel Carson at <http://www.rachelcarson.org> and What Would Rachel Say? at <http://journal.rcn.net/RachelCarson2007>

by Ellie Goldberg, M.Ed., www.healthy-kids.info

Farmers' Market Green Decade needs volunteers

If you'd like to volunteer, please contact Margaret Ford, at margford@yahoo.com or 617-964-0606.

JOIN THE GREEN DECADE

Enclosed is: New member Renewal

(\$25.00 suggested annual individual donation) (additional donation) TOTAL

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Yes! I am joining/renewing for calendar 2008!

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!

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Annual Green Decade environmental leadership awards to an organization and an individual

Community Group



Jim & Judy MacDonald, Margaret & David Gullette l-r received Green Decade's Environmental Leadership Award for an organization for their work with Newton's sister city in Nicaragua.

Newton/San Juan del Sur Sister City organization received the Green Decade Coalition/Newton 2008 Community Organization Environmental Leadership Award at a ceremony June 9 at the New Art Center during our 2008 annual meeting.

Since 1988 the sister city group has helped solve environmental and health problems in San Juan del Sur, Nicaragua, using technology appropriate to their area. They helped build, with local citizens, a system using energy from Solar Panels to pump water from a deep well and purify it with ozone. They introduced EcoStoves for cleaner air; Composting Toilets for safer waste disposal; and BioSand Filters to purify water. They have built or renovated seventeen school houses, constructed model homes for teachers, rebuilt playgrounds, sponsored teacher workshops, and shipped school and medical supplies, books, clothing, shoes and toys to the community. They are still devising new ways to help.

With their skill, commitment and spirit, they have inspired hundreds of Newton citizens, Newton North and Newton South high school students, churches and academics to work together with the citizens of San Juan del Sur to make that part of the world a better, healthier place. They have been a shining example of what is possible.

Thanks ! and . . . next deadline

For the next newsletter, please send submissions or requests by e-mail to Ira Krepchin, irapk@alum.mit.edu, by Friday, July 18, 2008.

Thanks for making this newsletter possible to Managing Editor Ira Krepchin, Coeditors Peter Smith and 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: Jacqui Gross, Ruth Harris, Francine Vidockler, Lisa Wilson and to the student volunteers who put labels on the Green News: Grant Berman, Nate Berman, Rowan Daves, Tim Newton, Ethan Rucinski, and Alex Shames.

Individual



Dirk Detlefsen (left) with some of his students received Green Decade's Environmental Leadership Award for an individual for his teaching about the environment

Dirk Detlefsen, fifth grade teacher at Countryside School, received Green Decade's Environmental Leadership Award for an individual. Through sharing his experience growing up seeing the shortening of winter, he empowered his students with an eagerness to learn about the environment and specifically about global warming. He showed the film *An Inconvenient Truth* during the curriculum unit on weather and climate.

For two years his students have submitted the largest number of essays and artwork for the Newton Student Energy Conservation Contest with excellent results. His students and their parents are his ardent supporters. A parent said: "It is not surprising that he has supported this environmental project, which reflects a caring for our whole world. It fits with who he is—a person of strong ethics, values, responsibility and love."

A student said: "He introduced the idea of the contest and made it seem like an awesome thing to be doing. He tells us how important it is to support the environment. He was really great and helpful about the project. When we have questions, we can always ask him. He always told us what a good job we were doing. Mr. D is a really great guy who finds ways to make whatever he teaches fun and interesting. He always cracks jokes during his lessons so we're never bored. He has regular discussions with us, talking to us as if we're on the same level with him." These comments show that he is an outstanding teacher.

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.

Annual environmental leadership awards to a business



John Hall, President of Chapman Construction, accepted Green Decade's Business Environmental Leadership Award from Peter Smith

Chapman Construction/Design received the Green Decade Coalition /Newton 2008 Business Environmental Leadership Award for the renovation of their Newton offices and the rest of their green policies.

They are renovating their own offices to be Platinum LEED certified. This involves replacing most fixtures, equipment and appliances with energy efficient alternatives. They are also adding a 47 Kilowatt solar panel array to their building to control energy costs.

Their offices are being refurbished with recyclable carpet tiles, linoleum flooring, bamboo and cork flooring and low VOC paint finishes. Another hallmark of what makes Chapman unique is their willingness to share with others what they have learned and done. Their office is a living laboratory of how you can transform your space to a more environmentally friendly and sustainable workplace.

They have instilled an enthusiasm for the "green" movement into their entire company by offering incentives to employees who purchase fuel-efficient vehicles. Finally, they have invested in their employees through on-going education in green building strategies and sponsoring them in earning LEED accreditation.

NRDC and Tufts release Cost of Climate Change study.

A report, *The Cost of Climate Change*, PDF, 42 pp released on Thursday by researchers at Tufts University, commissioned by the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), presents two ways of estimating the costs of inaction on climate change, both leading to staggering bottom lines.

A comprehensive estimate, based on state-of-the-art computer modeling, finds that doing nothing on global warming will cost the United States economy more than

3.6 percent of GDP—or \$3.8 trillion annually (in today's dollars)—by 2100.

On the other hand, a detailed, bottom-up analysis finds that just four categories of global warming impacts—hurricane damage, real-estate losses, increased energy costs and water costs—will add up to a price tag of 1.8 percent of U.S. GDP, or almost \$1.9 trillion annually (in today's dollars) by 2100.

"The longer we wait, the more painful and expensive the consequences will be. This report's findings are undeniable—we must act now," said Dan Lashof, director of NRDC's Climate Center. "The Climate Security Act currently in the U.S. Senate is our best opportunity to set a concrete limit on global warming pollution and provide an accompanying market that rewards companies for making real reductions.

"In the future, global warming will cause drastic changes to the planet's climate, with average temperature increases of 13 degrees Fahrenheit in most of the United States and 18 degrees Fahrenheit in Alaska over the next 100 years."

[Editors Note: Not all environmentalists would agree that the Climate Security Act is our best opportunity to fight global warming. Friends of the Earth argues, "Legislation to cap global warming pollution may soon come to the Senate floor. While it's good that the Senate wants to address this growing problem, the Lieberman-Warner bill [the Climate Security Act] is not the answer. It would enrich polluters while failing to do what scientists say is necessary to avoid global warming catastrophe. The bill must be dramatically improved or replaced. Friends of the Earth opposes passage of the bill in its current form." The Climate Crisis Coalition agrees with Friends of the Earth.]

Source: Climate Crisis Coalition Newsfeed

Newton organic garden & landscape tour

Sunday, September 14, 2008 1-5 pm

Sponsored by the Green Decade Coalition/Newton
\$20 per person, \$15 for Green Decade members

Join us for an afternoon guided tour of 4-5 homes with organic gardens featuring flowers, vegetables and even an organically maintained lawn or two! Each site will highlight a specific aspect of organic gardening, such as composting, watering techniques or plant selection. Learn more about organic gardening and tips for making your garden (or lawn) grow, with alternatives to invasive species and without chemical pesticides! The tour is limited to 25 people; we will meet at City Hall at 1:30 pm and car-pool to the gardens.

For advance ticket purchase, more information & "sneak peeks" of the gardens: call 617-965-1995 or go to: www.greendecade.org/organicgardentour