



Newton legislators score win for environmental health

Concerned about rising rates of asthma, infertility, childhood cancer, and learning disabilities? Newton's Legislators are. Together, Representatives Balser, Khan, Koutoujian, and Senator Creem voted "yes" to override Governor Romney's veto of funding for TURI, the Toxics Use Reduction Institute at Lowell. TURI researches the use of chemicals with known health risks and seeks safer alternatives.

Under our laws chemicals are innocent until proven guilty. More than 80,000 synthetic chemicals have been produced since World War II, but few have been well researched. Businesses have little motivation to prove their products are toxic. Government sponsored programs like TURI are necessary to do the research and, thereby, reduce the harm caused by toxins in our environment.

Our state elected officials voted ... funding for TURI, Toxics Use Reduction Institute at Lo-well. TURI researches the use of chemicals with known health risks and seeks safer alternatives.

One of the top ten toxic chemicals that TURI is working to replace with a safer alternative is formaldehyde, which has been linked to both cancer and reproductive problems. This embalming liquid is a common source of indoor air pollution. It keeps more than frogs in jars looking fresh—it is used to make wrinkle-resistant clothing and draperies, and it is also used in glues and in some paints (as a preservative). Formaldehyde is also used in prefabricated wood products that we have all around us—flooring, tables, cabinets, and chairs. These products release fumes into the air in quantities we can't smell but can detect in blood samples.

We know the problems—rising rates of asthma, infertility, childhood cancer, and learning disabilities. We know one of the causes—toxins in our environment. What we don't know is the solution. That is why we need TURI. And we have it, thanks to our legislators, Representatives Ruth Balser, Kay Khan, Peter Koutoujian, and Senator Cynthia Creem.

For more information on TURI and other legislation on safer alternatives to toxic chemicals contact the Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow at www.healthytomorrow.org. or 617-338-8131.

by Lucia Dolan

Media report: volunteers needed

The Environmental Show on NewTV will begin its second year in September with a Green Decade production on the reliance on spraying to maintain Rights of Way. The monthly Environmental Show is produced in alternate months by the Green Decade and the Newton Conservators. There are many opportunities to view it, NewTV having scheduled eight different weekly times of broadcast, for four or five weeks. The current schedule is as follows:

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.

Newton's public access is NewTV Blue channel, number 10 on Comcast and 15 on RCN. The Green Decade is looking for individuals interested in getting involved with our cable TV efforts. On an on-going basis, NewTV offers courses in all phases of production and editing. An orientation session is offered the first Monday of every month. With a minimum time investment of a three-evening training program, a person can begin to perform certain studio tasks. So consider joining the team—it's fun and it's useful! Looking ahead to the future—to assure the continuity of our program, the Green Decade will need to have a knowledgeable person ready and willing to take over operations when the current producer retires in 2007.



Bev Droz next to the tulip tree (too tall to fit in photo) presented to her by the Green Decade Coalition/Newton board in appreciation of her five years as President. She is stepping down to take on a major new job at Newton City Hall.

Join the funding hunt

The Sustainable Newton Committee, which coordinates City environmental activities and advises the Mayor on sustainable issues such as energy, water, solid waste, and pesticides, is looking for sources of funding. If you want to join the hunt and help apply for grants, please contact Carolyn Sarno at csarno@ci.newton.ma.us.

GDC wants YOU!

The more we do, the more it seems there is to do here at Green Decade. That's where you come in. Board members and committee chairs have listed the following opportunities for volunteers:

Newsletter: if you would like write articles, please contact Ira Krepchin at irapk@alum.mit.edu.

TAB: Articles, art work, cartoons, and pictures are needed for the Environment page that appears regularly in the Newton TAB. Contact Lois Levin for writing guidelines at lois_levin@hms.harvard.edu.

Fundraising: If you would like to participate in planning fund-raising activities, contact Dan Ruben at dan_ruben@usa.net.

GreenCAP: Volunteers are needed to staff the Green Decade info table at the farmers market; and we're also looking for a co-chair for GreenCAP. Contact Maeve Ward at maevew@comcast.net.

Membership: Volunteers are needed to keep track of who signs up at the library and to help with follow-up calls or mailings. Help is also needed for the forthcoming membership mailing at the end of the year. Contact Rohna Shoul rohna@aol.com.

Energy Committee: Volunteers are needed for assisting in outreach to public schools. Contact Ana Zarina Asuaje Solon at anazarina@earthlink.net.

Thank you to our summer volunteers for video conversions

Green Decade's Committee on Alternatives to Pesticides (GreenCAP) has produced two award-winning videos in recent years. To get wider exposure for these important productions, Rachael Lax and David Weiner, our summer college volunteers from Wesleyan University are putting the GreenCAP "Newton Goes Green" videos onto DVD's for distribution. Thank you to Rachael and David!

Computer wanted

Green Decade needs a computer in good shape for it's volunteers to use in the Green Decade office. A donation of a used but reasonably new computer (a MacIntosh, year 2002 or newer) is preferred. If you can help us with this, please call Margaret Ford at 617 964-0606.



Tuesday Farmers Market Green Decade table volunteers, L-R: Karen Albert, Rohna Shoul, Maeve Ward and Lois Levin.

! We need you at the farmer's market:

One hour to help staff the Green Decade information table at the Farmers' Market, Tuesdays & Fridays through September. **Help us tell people about Green Decade's work!** Hours are from 1:30-6:30. We would like a presence there all that time but failing that even a total time of three hours or so is good public relations. We ask people to work for an hour, unless they want to do more. Please contact **Maeve Ward:** 617 527-5331 or maevew@comcast.net

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.

Thanks ! and . . next deadline

For the next newsletter, please send submissions or requests by e-mail to Ira Krepchin, irapk@alum.mit.edu Friday, September 16, 2005.

Thanks for making this newsletter possible to Managing Editor Ira Krepchin, Co-editors Peter Smith/ Louise Bruyn, and those who wrote articles. Many thanks to our Newsletter Collator Chairs Marcia Cooper and Frank Propp, and their team for the last issue: Arlene & Dean Bades, Jacqui Gross, Sarah Barnett, Marcia Cooper, Edie Propp.

Summer solstice ribbon cutting

On the evening of June 21st, the energy committee of the Green Decade celebrated the summer solstice with a long-awaited ribbon cutting event for the PV panels installed at the Newton Community Service Centers (NCSC). More than 35 people attended, including the mayor, NCSC Executive Director Tony Bibbo, Mass Energy Consumers Alliance Executive Director, Larry Chretien, and GDC/N's Vice-President, Dan Ruben. The celebration concluded with a delicious cake feast, baked by the Whole Foods Market head chef in Newtonville, and donated to GDC/N.

The 2kW PV installation at the NCSC, installed in October of 2003, was a community-wide effort that the energy committee named the "Solar Shares Project". Together with NCSC, the energy committee raised over \$20,000 to pay for the installation and to start a maintenance fund for to cover the expected 20 year life of the project. There were over 140 donors to the installation, including: The Village Bank, the Charles River Neighborhood Foundation, Whole Foods Market, Susanna Porte and Illana D'Ancona. A plaque honoring these donors will be affixed to the building in early fall.

Dozens of volunteers helped with various aspects of the project, including fundraising, interacting with NCSC, coordination with the City's Sunergy committee (now called Renewable Resources committee), development and installation of an educational kiosk. As a side-benefit of these efforts, GDC/N has an ongoing relationship with NCSC, helping on Newton Serves Day, and with energy audits for the new building projects they are working on. NCSC also continues to serve as the starting spot for the energy committee's annual solar homes tour (see calendar for this year's tour, Oct. 1).

The energy committee, now chaired by Eric Olson, continues to build on the success of this installation, and plans to promote clean energy throughout Newton. If you haven't seen the installation yet, please come by NCSC at 492 Waltham St., take a look at the education kiosk in the front of the building, and walk around to see the 2kW installation in the back. Let's make more! *by Katherine Gekas*



Solar homes tour

On October 1 from 10 to 2, the Green Decade Energy Committee holds its 5th annual guided tour of solar/high efficiency Newton homes. See four homes plus at least two larger buildings, and hear homeowners explain how to tap solar energy to make electricity or warm a home or hot water. Sign up and form carpools at 9:30am at the Newton Community Services Center, 492 Waltham St, W. Newton. Proceeds benefit the Green Decade. For details see www.greendecade.org. *by Eric Olson*



Chair of the Green Decade Coalition/Newton Energy Committee, Katherine Gekas (r) watches while Newton Community Services Center (NCSC) Executive Director, Tony Bibbo, prepares to cut the cake at the June 21 ceremony for the installation of new solar panels installed on the side of the building.



June 21 Solar Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at the Newton Community Services Center (NCSC). Green Decade Vice President Dan Ruben looks on as Mayor David Cohen cuts the ribbon on one of the solar panels (held by board member Amelia Ravin), that have been installed on the side of the building.

GDC seeks new president

The Green Decade Coalition is searching for a new president. The ideal candidate will have the following qualifications:

- knowledge of environmental issues,
- the ability to advocate for those issues and represent GDC at public meetings and in interactions with officials and representatives of business and the community;
- the ability to lead a motivated, passionate board of directors and inspire more than 300 members to action.

Plan on spending five to ten hours per week on GDC tasks.

If you are interested, or know someone who is please call 617-965-1995 or email to info@greendecade.org.

Thanks for donations go to:

Kyoto Project Benefactor: Anonymous
Donor: Phyllis & Robert Yawitt (new member)

CALENDAR

Tues thru end of Sept 1:30-6pm	Green Decade table @ Farmers' Market contact Maeve Ward : 617 527-5331 e-mail: maevew@comcast.net, see box this issue
Fridays 10-2pm	Also Farmers' market in Nonantum on California St American Legion Pkg. Lot
Sept 17-18 Fri,Sat	AltWheels Conf , latest sustainable transp Lars Anderson Pk,Brkline, Altwheels.com
Sept 27-30 Tues-Fri	18th Annual E Source Forum , St. Julien Hotel, Boulder, CO, www.esourceforum.platts.com
Oct 1 Sat 9:30-2pm	"Solar Homes Tour," For info call: 617 965-1995 or see www.greendecade.org. and Article this issue.

Send environmental events to *Green News* email to Ira Krepchin by Friday, Sept 16, 2005 irapk@alum.mit.edu. We will list as space permits.

Green cities at AltWheels Conf

Lars Anderson Park, Brookline will host a festival which includes a workshop on "Sustainable Cities, Future urban spaces designed for people," **Sunday, Sept. 18 at 1:15pm.**

New website helps residents reduce, reuse, recycle

The City of Newton has recently launched the website www.wastenotnewton.com. This site is intended reduce waste by helping folks in Newton reuse items they don't need by giving, selling or trading them to others.

To help jumpstart the site:

1. Visit <http://www.wastenotnewton.com>.
2. Post a listing for something you no longer want. Bonus points if you give it away free. Do it today, if you can. (Don't worry, you can always include the picture later.)
3. If you don't have something to give away or sell, then become a member.
4. Tell others who you think will be interested.
5. Look at the listings on the site...maybe you'll find something you need. *by Courtney Forrester [Note: Courtney is Solid Waste Manager, Newton Department of Public Works]*

"...a basic meal--some meat, grain, fruits, and vegetables--using imported ingredients can easily generate four times the greenhouse gas emissions as the same meal with ingredients from local sources."

London based NGO Safe Alliance. *Worldwatch magazine*, Mar/Apr 05, "The Irony of Climate," by Brian Halweil



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

Exploring Newton's solid waste future

The City of Newton is nominating members to the Solid Waste Commission to help chart the course for the City's solid waste policies and actions. The current 20-yr \$120 million contract is expiring in January 2008 and the charge of the Commission will be to develop Newton's alternatives to managing solid waste in the future. Volunteers with expertise in the areas of finance, law, or solid waste are invited to submit resumes for consideration for appointment by the Mayor.

This is a significant opportunity to participate in shaping the future of one of Newton's largest public works contracts with impact on virtually every citizen in Newton. These positions are unpaid. If you're interested and have expertise in any of these areas, please send a resume to Angela Clark at Dept of Public Works, 1000 Commonwealth Ave, Newton, 02459 or aclark@newtonma.gov by September 23, 2005.

2004-2005 Board of Directors

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

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

Advisory Board

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

green decade 
COALITION/NEWTON
P.O. Box 590242 -
Newton, MA 02459

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

address service requested

Red Dot =
Complimentary Copy
Please consider subscribing
TODAY!