



Ross Gelbspan presents climate crisis solution strategies

Newton will again have the honor of hosting Ross Gelbspan, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, this time through Newton Community Education. He will speak on Monday, September 11 – 7-8:30 PM - Newton North High School - \$5 (students free) – X1562 Seating is Limited, Advance Registration Suggested.

Many heard him several years ago at the Green Decade's Environmental Speaker Series, co-sponsored by the Newton Free Library. His rapid-fire talk on global warming was

stunning. This presentation promises to provide more up-to-date data and potential solutions. The NCE catalogue states:

“Ross Gelbspan will present a journalist's overview of the climate crisis. The talk will provide a brief treatment of the science and a look at some of the recent impacts of our increasingly unstable climate. It will also highlight the political, economic and equity dimensions of the climate issue, including its implications for security in a post 9/11 world. It will detail as well a long and effective campaign of resistance by the fossil fuel lobby—and some recent sea changes in the corporate and political arenas.

“The talk will also outline a set of solution strategies which are designed to reduce global emissions by the 70 percent required to allow the climate to re-stabilize—as well as create large numbers of jobs, particularly in developing countries. That solution also contains the seeds for some of the most threatening non-climate problems facing us today: diplomatic dysfunction, anti-US terrorism and economic stagnation. A truly appropriate response to this challenge could substantially increase the wealth, equity and stability in the global economy, even as it generates a much greater appreciation of the need for sustainability in all aspects of our lives. Finally, a proper response to the climate threat could also provide a pilot model to begin to put democratically-determined boundaries around the operations of multi-national corporations: in short, to begin to democratize the global economy.”

Green Decade urges all to register and attend!

President's letter

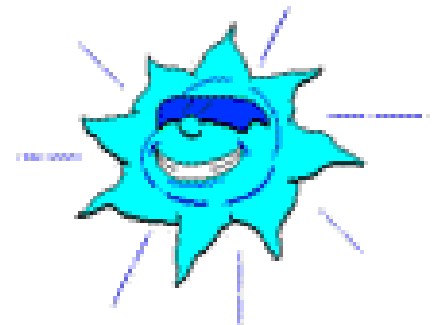
I am honored to have become the president of this organization. I feel lucky to work with so many dedicated and effective volunteers who make a difference in our society. It has been an exciting Summer for the GDC so far.

We are being bold and demonstrating that we need to change the way we produce energy and treat the planet. On August 8th we were the recipients of 5% of the sales during Whole Foods 5% Day. With this donation, we will purchase five thousand dollars of renewable energy certificates that will offset CO2s. In turn, Mass Technology Collaborative will match these funds twice. One will complete the money needed for solar panels that will be placed on the Oak Hill Middle School in Newton. The other will be put into a fund for energy efficiency projects in low income housing in the state.

We also continue to inform and educate through articles in the TAB's environmental page under the direction of Lois Levin and NewtonTV programs produced by Francoise LaMonica. GreenCAP, under the leadership of Karen Albert, Lucia Dolan, and Maeve Ward, has spear-headed an effective door-knob hanger campaign that recommends alternatives to pesticides. This campaign was featured in an article in the *Boston Globe West*.

Newton Community Education - Newton Public School's adult education program - asked us to put together environmentally related workshops. We answered enthusiastically with five courses! They will be offered in the Fall by Eric Olson and Amelia Ravin; David and Elva Del Porto; Ericka Keller and Leise Jones; and Paul Eldrenkamp. I am confident that we will continue to make a difference in our community and the world. Let's hope we are past this summer's dangerous hot days, and as fall approaches, let's use energy wisely.

Ana Zarina Asuaje Solon



Environmental fair: it's easy being green

Environmentalists of all ages were out in force on Wednesday, July 19th to see how the City of Newton makes it easier for residents to be green. The Environmental Fair was set up by the City of Newton Environmental Affairs Department and spearheaded by Ben Provan. Newton residents came to the event, hosted at

GreenCAP: A Call to Action

Concerned about the amount of pesticides and other toxins in our environment? Consider joining Green Decade Coalition's Alternatives to Pesticides Committee (GreenCAP).

One of GreenCAP's current efforts involves Safer Lawn Door Hangers. These flyers, which fit over a door handle, serve as a friendly reminder, for neighbors and friends who use lawn chemicals, of the dangers involved and of the safer alternatives available. *Boston Globe West*, July 13 carried a lead page story on GreenCAP's work on the Safe Lawn Door-Hanger campaign.

According to the National Coalition for Pesticide Free Lawns "The key to a healthy weed-resistant lawn is a diversity of beneficial organisms in the soil. It is this 'living soil' that will allow your lawn to absorb water and nutrients while resisting insects, diseases and weed invasion."

Fall is not a typical time for people to think about lawn care, but it is the most important. With a few easy steps (like over seeding, raking, proper watering, and fertilizing with organic matter) people can create healthy soil to support a thick, green, weed-resistant lawn in the spring. Herbicides and other pesticides are not even necessary to have a healthy green lawn. Lawn chemicals are more dangerous than people think - they are linked to cancer, respiratory disease and other long and short-term illnesses.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) reports that common herbicides applied to urban and suburban lawns are the most frequent contaminants in our streams, lakes and drinking water. Let the tragedy in New Orleans be a lesson to us all to reduce the toxic load we put into our community and our environment. Good tips on natural lawn care can be found at www.greendecade.org and www.pesticidefreelawns.org.

GreenCAP's mission is to protect our health and our environment by promoting toxic use reduction through public education and community action. We have a variety of educational and community outreach activities and projects including: staffing the Farmer's Markets, working on the annual March Pesticides Awareness Month and coordinating with state and national toxic use reduction campaigns. To learn more about GreenCAP log onto www.greendecade.org or call 617-965-1995 to speak to one of our Co-chairs, Lucia Dolan, Maeve Ward or Karen Albert.

by Karen Albert

Auburndale cove, in a variety of environmentally friendly ways—by bike, on foot, and by kayak. Groups attending the event included the Green Decade Coalition/Newton, Mass Energy, Angino Farm, and the Envi-Sci Program wilderness camp, among many others.

Newton North's Environmental Club showed its support by having several members attend the event to help plan an ambitious year of activities. Overall the event succeeded in showing how small changes in our daily activities can make a big difference for the environment. A key element was the hands-on nature of the event—attendees were able to participate in a range of activities from riding a bike to demonstrate the greater efficiency of compact fluorescent light bulbs, to playing with worms to see how effective composting household garbage can be. Children of all ages were making pinwheels to show Newton's support for wind power.

Newton's Solid Waste Manager Courtney Forrester and Barbara Herson, Recycling Coordinator, agreed that this first-time event was a huge success and organizers hope for even larger turnouts in the future for similar events.

by Nick Kelley (2006 GDC summer intern)

GDC Works with the ELM

The name of our organization includes the word coalition—and not everyone knows that one of the organizations that we work with is the Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM). ELM includes many environmental groups and addresses a broad spectrum of issues focusing on protecting the air, water, and land for the people of the Commonwealth. ELM is the GDC's voice at the State House, expressing citizens' concerns, educating the public, advocating for strong environmental laws, and helping to see that our environmental laws are implemented and enforced. ELM is currently working on the mercury reduction bill and the 2007 Green Budget. Other key issues that ELM addresses include: the environmental budget of the state of Massachusetts; environmental enforcement; smart growth and land use planning; Massachusetts parks; toxics; energy; and others. For more information, visit the league website at www.environmentalleague.org.

by Margaret Ford

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 email to Ira Krepchin, irapk@alum.mit.edu by Friday, September 15, 2006.

Thanks for making this newsletter possible to Managing Editor Ira Krepchin, Co-editors Peter Smith/ Louise Bruyn, and those who wrote articles. Many thanks to our Newsletter Collator Chairs Marcia Cooper and Frank Propp, and their team for the last issue: Louise Bruyn, Marcia Cooper, Cris Kjelson, Ellie Nickerson, Joe Nyambold, and Edie & Frank Propp.

Friends and Allies: Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow

While Green Decade's work is based in Newton, we know that environmental issues do not stop at our city line. We join with larger environmental coalitions, like the Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow (AHT), to work on statewide and national issues. More than 148 organizations are part of AHT, including the Massachusetts Nurses Association, Clean Water Action, IUE-CWA Local 20, and the Green Decade Coalition. AHT's mission is to correct flaws in government policies that allow harm to our health and environment. Most recently Green Decade members have worked with AHT in support of the Mercury Reduction Bill (House Bill 5112) and an Act to Reducing Asthma by Using Safer Alternatives to Cleaning Products (House Bill 5018) here in Massachusetts.

AHT is also part of the national Campaign for Safe Cosmetics. Few people realize that the US Food and Drug Administration does not review or approve most of the ingredients in cosmetics. The Campaign for Safe Cosmetics is calling on all cosmetics and personal care companies to protect our health by phasing out the use of chemicals linked to cancer, birth defects, and other health concerns. To learn more about the ingredients in cosmetics and safer alternatives available come to the Healthy Cosmetics Spa, September 21st, co-sponsored by AHT, Green Decade, and Bethel Botanicals. Look for our course listing in the Newton Community Education's Fall Catalog. To learn more about the Alliance for a Healthy Tomorrow visit www.healthytomorrow.org or call Lucia Dolan 617 332-1893, Green Decade's AHT liaison.

by Lucia Dolan



New GDC e-mail service

To all current Green Decade Coalition/Newton E-bulletin Subscribers:

We will be moving the Green Decade website and e-mail/e-bulletin to a new source before Labor Day. You will receive a notice from the Green Decade requesting that you confirm your e-mail address before you are automatically subscribed to the new mailing list. All you will need to do is click on a link in the body of the message to re-confirm your address and it will give you instructions from there. This process will enable the Green Decade to maintain a list of current, accurate e-mail addresses which will only include subscribers who want to receive our E-bulletins.

We hope that you will continue to subscribe to the Green Decade's Monthly E-Bulletin, and you will see some changes in the appearance of the September 2006 E-bulletin. Our website will also include a few new features, including the opportunity to sign up on-line for the Monthly E-Bulletin, along with GDC membership, registration for GDC events, contributions to GDC or our committees, and purchase of "Newton Goes Green" videos and DVD's currently available.

Thank you for your continued support of the Green Decade Coalition/Newton.

JOIN THE GREEN DECADE

Enclosed is: New member Renewal

(\$20.00 suggested annual individual donation) (additional donation) **TOTAL**

NAME: _____ (For address labels)

ADDRESS: _____

ZIP _____ PHONE: _____

E-MAIL _____ (Please print clearly !)

Yes! I am joining/renewing for calendar 2006!

Most of our budget comes from memberships. Membership and contributor lists are not given out. You get the bi-monthly GREEN NEWS, discounts at selected local businesses, and more!

Amount	Person/Family	Business	Please circle your category
\$ 20	Basic	<input type="checkbox"/> n/a	
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Thank you! Please send your tax deductible check payable to: GDC/N, P.O. Box 590242, Newton, MA 02459 Sept/Oct 2006

Come to the Green Decade + MCAN booth at AltWheels festival (Saturday, Sept. 23 — free kid's activities)

This year AltWheels Energy Freedom Festival is coming to Boston City Hall Plaza! We will be there to share our message of sustainability with our model house. We need volunteers on Friday and Saturday! Call 617 233-6071 to sign up. See the latest in sustainable transportation technology and bring the kids – jugglers, face-painting – all free!

- **Children's Museum** - The Children's Museum will bring their interactive children's colorful and fun exhibit that will engage children of all ages in the creative quest for successful solutions through games and activities.
- **Museum of Science Energy Rocket** - visitors to our area will learn about the benefits, challenges, and tradeoffs of various technologies. We'll lead visitors in engineering design challenges in which they'll attempt to generate sufficient energy using various alternative sources (examples include solar and even "kid power") to power a hydrogen-fueled rocket, or make biodiesel fuel from

"Future generations, if there is a livable world for them, will look back at the epochal transition we are making to a life sustaining society. And they will call this the time of the Great Turning."

— Joanna Macy (Quoted in *YES! a journal of positive futures*, Summer 2006.)

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- **New England Aquarium Van** - The Animal Ambassador Program is part of the Aquarium's mission to "present, promote and protect the world of water." This informal science program features a live African penguin and presents a lively conservation education program. Using live animals, exhibits and creative drama, we bring a slice of the New England Aquarium to kids!
- **Solar Car Race Competition** - Students will race their solar cars on a track at the festival. Each student will have a chance to design their own vehicle and try it out on the race course.
- **Entertainment** - Come and see jugglers, clowns, magicians, stilt walkers and unicyclists! There will be musicians playing drums, jazz and rock & roll. We expect to have Asian dragon dancers, balloon artists, mimes, and face painters as well as chances for kids to do their own art and other activities for children all day. Come make your own flag! There will be prizes, old fashion cars, and all kinds of food and drinks for sale. Come meet celebrities and get them to give you their signatures.

CALENDAR

Sept 11 (Mon) 7-8:30pm	Ross Gelbspan climate crisis solution strategies , Newton Community Education at https://newtoncommunityed.org . See article p. 1 - \$5 (students free) N North
Sept 22-24 Fri - Sun all day	AltWheels Energy Freedom Festival on Boston City Hall Plaza (Fri-Sat) and Larz Anderson Park (Sun) Green Decade table needs volunteers. call: 617 965-1995.

Sept 21 (Thur)	Healthy Cosmetics Spa
Oct 7 (Sat)	Newton Solar Homes Tour
Oct 12 (Thur)	How to Save the Earth
Nov 4 (Sat)	Insulating Older Homes

Nov 4,5(Sat,Sun) **'Urban Ark' Tour: a green living model**

Send environmental events to *GREEN NEWS*. email to Ira Krepchin by Friday, Sept. 15, 2006 irapk@alum.mit.edu. We will list as space permits.

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COALITION/NEWTON

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Green Decade Coalition summer 2006 interns help the organization in many ways

Nick Kelley

I am an Environmental Science major at Colorado College, graduating in December 2006. I first heard of the Green Decade when a family friend told me of the amazing work the organization was doing. Once I met some of the staff and volunteers, I knew that Green Decade was a grass roots environmental group that I wanted to assist in helping Newton and the rest of the world with vital environmental issues.

Most small environmental groups are extremely disorganized and seem to just merely preach to the converted. Green Decade, on the other hand, is extremely effective, providing educational opportunities to Newton residents by providing handouts and even organizing several continuing education classes.

I have been volunteering for the Green Decade at farmers markets, promoting the organization as well as providing general education. I have also been writing for the Newton Tab on environmental issues. In addition to my Green Decade work, I have been working for the Massachusetts Water Resource Authority (MWRA) taking water samples and processing them for E coli bacteria. I am also an avid mountain biker, and sailor.

Ariella Cohen

I am entering into the class of 2010 at Connecticut College this year and am interested in studying environmental science, nutrition and photography. I first became interested in helping the environment after seeing the movie "Erin Brockovich." Therefore, as part of my Bat- Mitzvah project I researched alternatives to pesti-



Ariella Cohen and Nick Kelley, the Green Decade Coalition/Newton's summer interns this year, stand with the Green Decade Coalition's master coordinator Margaret Ford in the Green Decade Coalition's information tent at the farmer's market in Cold Spring Park.

cides for lawns, which I found through the Green Decade.

This summer I wanted to feel like I accomplished something for the greater good, not just myself, so I signed up to volunteer with the Green Decade. As a volunteer, I have helped run the information stands at the Tuesday and Friday farmers markets. There I not only learned more about the Coalition, but heard inspiring stories about individuals in the Green Decade and associated with it, like Ellie Goldberg, who have made a difference in the community. This summer I have also volunteered with the Asthma and Allergy Foundation.

City of Newton poised to partner on energy efficiency

In an ideal world, perhaps, towns would recognize that greenhouse gases must be curtailed NOW, and would have teams of engineers waiting and ready to act. That means, teams of people ready to plunge full time into energy audits of City schools and other buildings, and to master the art of running the very latest energy management software. In reality no town has such human resources sitting idle.

For example, Newton has exactly one energy engineer, David Tannozzini. David is eager to sharply reduce the energy consumption and cost of running every City building, but this process would go much more quickly if he had access to funds and multiple experts. Fortunately there are firms called Energy Services Companies (ESCOs) that are eager to partner with Newton. The ESCOs profit by sharing in the savings on energy bills, so they have a

great incentive to maximize those savings. David's role would remain a demanding one, as he made sure the sharp reductions in energy consumption and in pollution that the ESCO promised were being achieved.

One ESCO recently predicted the entire City could be audited and retrofitted in just two years, a fast pace by any standard. Then the ESCO works over the years to train City staff and trouble shoot the systems. Eventually the contract ends and the City is left with a highly efficient and updated set of buildings. Mayor Cohen and other city leaders are showing great interest in adopting an ESCO as a partner, and Green Decade is eager to encourage them to keep climbing the learning curve. The Green News intends to provide its readers with regular updates as the City considers this exciting option.

by Eric Olson

Whole Foods 5% Day: Aug. 8

Once again, Whole Foods Market has shared the wealth with the Green Decade and the community, with the August 8th Community 5% Day supporting the Green Decade. On designated days throughout the year a total of 5% of the day's net sales are donated to local non-profit organizations.

This year's contribution was \$7,735, according to Pirjo Silen, Marketing and Community Affairs Team Leader, who coordinated the event with Lynay Smith at the Four Corner store and with Ana Zarina Asuaje Solon, Dan Ruben and Margaret Ford of the Green Decade.

\$5,000 of the donation will go to the final payment on solar panels for Oak Hill Middle School, which will be installed around the beginning of the year. But this support to Oak Hill will happen with a twist – the money will first go to buy renewable energy credits (REC's) from the Mass Technology Collaborative, which oversees the state-mandated Renewable Energy Trust Fund, financed by a small surcharge on all electric bills. When the Green Decade or any other Newton-based organization or household buys renewable energy credits, the MTC takes an equal amount out of the Renewable Energy Trust Fund and sends it to Newton's City Hall, earmarked for projects like Oak Hill's solar panels. Most of the money for the Oak Hill Middle School project has already been raised, and the contribution made possible by the Whole Foods donation to Green Decade is the final installment needed to make the solar project happen.

There's a second nifty benefit to this rather round-about way to spend this donation: purchases of renewable energy credits are matched again by MTC, and this match goes to

Coalition teaches green

In a cooperative effort with Newton Community Education, Green Decade Coalition has organized five environmental courses for this fall. Four are one-day events, and one is a 3-session course. Here's a brief look at what's in store:

- On Thursday, September 21, 7:30pm, Erika Keller Rogoff and Leise Jones will teach a class called **Healthy Cosmetics Spa**. Students will learn how to select (and create) cosmetics that are safe for the user and for the environment; and how to use a web-based tool that helps consumers make conscientious decisions.
- The **Newton Solar Homes Tour**, Saturday, October 7, 10am - 2pm is the subject of a course taught by GDC's Eric Olson. Students will visit four homes that are tapping the sun's energy instead of relying on harmful (and disappearing) fossil fuels, and tour the Fessenden School, which heats some of its buildings with geothermal energy.
- Eric Olson will also team with Amelia Ravin to teach **How to Save the Earth**. This ambitious class will begin by taking a close look at the kinds of energy we use and



Green Decade table volunteers give out information on Whole Foods 5% Day.

support energy efficiency projects in low-income housing, wherever in the state the need is greatest.

Our thanks again to the Whole Foods Market, winner of the Green Decade 2005 Business Environmental Leadership Award, the Newtonville and Four Corners store employees and to our Green Decade volunteers and members for a successful event!

by Margaret Ford

We encourage you to participate to help finance renewable energy development by purchasing RECs and earn matching funds for Newton. Call the Mass Energy Consumers Alliance at 617 524-3950. Ask about the new "New England Wind Fund."

identifying opportunities for "greener" choices. The class meets for three Thursdays at 6:30pm beginning October 12.

- Paul Eldrenkamp, who leads GDC's Kyoto Project, will teach a class on **Insulating Older Homes**. Participants in the Saturday, Nov. 4, 1-4pm event will take part in hands-on demonstrations of various energy-saving tools, such as blower doors and infrared cameras; and take an objective look at different products and techniques available for increasing energy efficiency. The workshop will be held at The Jackson Homestead (527 Washington St., Newton).
- In the class '**Urban Ark' Tour: A Model of Green Living**, David and Elva Del Porto will give a guided tour of the home that they have spent 25 years transforming into a model of sustainable living. The tours will be offered twice: Saturday, Nov. 4, 10-noon and Sunday, Nov 5, 1-3pm.

To sign up for a class or to get more details on time, place and fees, see the Newton Community Education catalog; call 617 559-6999 or visit their website at <https://newtoncommunityed.org>. Information is also available on the Green Decade website, www.greendecade.org, under "Upcoming Events".

by Margaret Ford