

green news

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEN DECADE / NEWTON



VOL.19 - NO.3

SEPT/OCT 2009

Light rail: a stimulating idea for Newton, Needham

The best option for "Smart Growth" in Newton and Needham, and a possible project for federal stimulus funds, may lie in the unused rail bed that runs parallel to Needham Street and Highland Avenue. Restoration of light-rail service between Newton Highlands and Needham Heights would create significant opportunities for further modest-scale growth in the corridor. The new light-rail extension would also reduce energy consumption and traffic pollutants in this otherwise congested part of our community.

The light-rail proposal calls for a dual-track, electrified light-rail line, similar to the existing Green Line, that would use modern, quiet, environmentally sensitive light-rail vehicles. Passengers could board the line at four stations: Needham Center, Needham Heights, Needham Street and Newton Upper Falls. They could then take the line to stops on the existing Green Line, into the Longwood medical area and downtown Boston.

The benefits of light rail include new and expanded

business opportunities, increased employment, a stronger local tax base, higher real estate values, greater perceived safety, decreased air pollution and heightened tourist revenues. A new Green Line spur in Newton could reduce annual energy consumption by about 50,000 million BTUs, or more than 400,000 gallons of gasoline.

Newton's recently approved Comprehensive Plan projects that new development may increase the commercial and residential density of the Needham Street corridor. Recently the Northland Corporation indicated that a large mixed-use project may be developed on the 21-acre Marshall's Plaza site in Newton. However important this new growth may be to the economic health of the city, many believe that the corridor simply cannot handle this additional traffic, and fierce opposition to development may result. Rehabilitating the rail line would offer a way to offset traffic increases from desired new growth while allowing economically sustainable projects to be approved. And a new Needham Street can take shape, one that respects the "complete streets" concept that calls for streets to be equally accessible to pedestrians, bicyclists and cars (see www.completestreets.org).

Federal stimulus funding is intended to support projects that expand public transit and increase economic activity. However, Newton and Needham will not receive any of that funding unless our communities and our public officials advocate for projects that are eligible. The Newton-Needham rail extension represents a significant opportunity to reduce the environmental impacts of growth and traffic. The rail proposal would be a great economic stimulus package for our two municipalities, and one that is energy conscious and environmentally sensitive. *by Lois A. Levin, Chair, Transportation Committee, Green Decade; President, Bike Newton and Srdjan Nedeljkovic, Policy Advisor, Bike Newton*

Sunday, Sept. 13 - 6-9pm:

"Transforming our built environment, restoring healthy communities: an ecologist's plan"

**Patrick Lucey
at Andover-Newton Theological
School, Newton Centre**

Join Clean Water Action for an inspiring presentation by Patrick Lucey on his work to transform barren, nonfunctioning landscapes into lush, lucrative enterprises. Lucey, an aquatic biologist from British Columbia, has been an international leader in advancing new approaches to integrated water and energy management. The evening will include dessert, a celebration of victories and a forecast of what is ahead.

This is the 15th Annual Benefit for Clean Water Action which works to elect proenvironment candidates to office and lobby on behalf of policies to curb global warming and protect our water, air and communities from toxic hazards. Individual tickets are \$30 each. Information: bostoncwa@cleanwater.org or 617-338-8131

Thursday, Sept. 24 - 7pm:

**Paul Eldrenkamp
at Newton Free Library**

At this event participants will learn how to calculate a useful energy "score" for their homes for comparison with their neighbors and what those scores will need to be for us to be able to reach the greenhouse gas emissions goal. **See article on page 2 of this issue: "Deep Energy Retrofits for the Real World."**

EcoTeams: a multiplier effect

If at least 100 Green Decade members agree to form and lead Eco-Teams with five to eight participants per team, then more than 600 households will be working together to reduce our community's carbon footprint! And if 200 members signed on, we would take credit for recruiting approximately 1,200 households for the project. Eco-Teams provide an easy and fun way to learn how to reduce your household energy usage and save money on your energy bills. Each team meets only four times within a short period of time. The Low Carbon Diet guidebook serves as a resource to learn strategies to improve energy efficiency. So please add your name to Green Decade's Eco-Team list!

The ultimate goal is for 25% of Newton's households to join a team within the next few years, and we are enlisting the support of a wide array of community organizations to make that happen. We are reaching out to all of Newton's leaders from city government to the religious community to help recruit their members. The mayor, aldermen, the League of Women Voters, Rotary Club, Newton/Needham Chamber of Commerce and a number of church and temple organizations are just some of those that have recently come on board. Newton's community leaders have pledged to encourage their constituents and membership to join a team. Imagine if all of Newton's approximately 50 religious congregations established just five teams each with an average of five to eight members per team. If that happens, there would be participation by more than 30 households per congregation with a total of more than 1,600 households working together to reduce Newton's carbon footprint. With your help we will succeed!

If you want to lead/join a team or come to the kick off Sept 16, contact Jay Walter 617-527-8383, entasis@rcn.com or Bonnie Glickman 617-969-1881, bglickman@mindspring.

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Deep Energy Retrofits for the Real World

Starting with our homes, we can all help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% (from 1990 levels) by 2050. To learn more, come to the Newton Library Thursday, September 24 at 7 p.m. to hear Paul Eldrenkamp describe "Deep Energy Retrofits for the Real World."

At this event participants will learn how to calculate a useful energy "score" for their homes for comparison with their neighbors and what those scores will need to be for us to be able to reach the greenhouse gas emissions goal. Attendees wishing to calculate their energy rating scores at the event (5 minutes) should bring one year's worth of energy bills (gas, electricity and heating oil), the square footage data of their home and a hand-held calculator. Paul is founder and president of Byggmeister, Inc., a 26-year-old Newton-based remodeling company.

He recently served as Chair of the residential working group of Governor Patrick's Zero Net Energy Buildings Task Force, is a certified Passive House Consultant, and a member of the NEEP (Northeast Energy Partnerships) Building Energy Rating/Time of Sale Research Project. He has held board positions with the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association, Green Decade/Newton, and the Newton Historical Society. He is a frequent presenter at such conferences as Affordable Comfort, Building Energy, and Build Boston,

by Margaret Ford

Volunteer Opportunity for Students and Adults

High school students in search of the perfect after school community service or adults looking for a fun way to volunteer are invited to join Green Decade at the Farmers Markets on Tuesdays and Fridays through October. We have openings for volunteers for an hour or two, especially in the 3-6 pm time frame, but from 1:30-3 pm too. You can help share our environmental information and resources, meet new friends and old, and let people know about our upcoming activities! Contact Margaret Ford, Outreach Coordinator, at mford@greendecade.org or 617-964-0606.

Thanks ! and . . next deadline

For the next newsletter, please send submissions or requests by e-mail to Ira Krepchin, irapk@alum.mit.edu, by Monday, September 14.

Thanks for making this newsletter possible to Managing Editor Ira Krepchin, Editor Peter Smith, Copy Editor Susan Tornheim and those who wrote articles. Many thanks to our Newsletter Collator Chairs Marcia Cooper and Frank Propp, with their team for the last issue: mailing volunteers Frank and Edie Propp, Sarah Barnett, Arlene Bandes, Hope Dauwalter, Shirlee Isenberg, Naomi Osher and Sarah Sanchez.

Organic lawn care: for the cheap and lazy

If it's September, it's time to look at your lawn and prepare it for the fall growing season and for winter. Do you treat your lawn organically? If not, please consider doing so. Why? Too many good reasons to discuss here, but please go to <http://www.richsoil.com/lawn-care.jsp>, where you will find an informative (and entertaining!) piece by Paul Wheaton that tells you everything you need to know. To get you started, here are some organic lawn foods available locally: Ringer Lawn Restore (I have used it for years; Wheaton recommends); North Country Organics (several varieties); Pro-Start; Organica Lawn Booster; Cock-A-Doodle-Do; Scott's Organic Choice Lawn Food (yes, from the granddaddy of chemical fertilizers!).

by Don Ward, Organic Garden and Landscape Committee

Don't spray 'em, outsmart 'em!

If you're not convinced that there are effective alternatives to pesticides, check out this comparison between the old way of pest control and the new.

Pest control the old way:

1. Relies on poisons (insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides).
2. Ignores the source of pest problems. (Allows conditions to get worse.)
3. Kills off beneficial plants and insects.
4. Pollutes water, soil, food and air and contaminates buildings and landscapes.
5. Harms people, pets and wildlife.

Pest control by IPM (intelligence prevention and management)

1. Relies on a plan. (Don't spray 'em, outsmart 'em!)
2. Prevents and corrects the source of pest problems. (Improves conditions.)
3. Protects soil fertility and biodiversity.
4. Protects the quality of water, soil, food and air. (Enhances the quality of buildings and landscapes.)
5. Protects the health and the safety of our families and community.

by Ellie Goldberg

Our Mission

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

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

Our programs are designed to build awareness, provide opportunities for public dialogue, and educate and empower citizens to take personal and civic action.

Your choice: e-mail or print

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 e-mail list, and be sure to your name and e-mail address, along with "Green news Online in the subject line.

Congratulations to our paper-savers! We have now received more than 200 online subscribers to the Green News! Thank you!

by Marcia Cooper

Green Decade yard sale

Are you ready for this? The Yard Sale of the Decade! Sat., Oct. 3 + Sun Oct. 4, 9 am – 4 pm, rain or shine!! This will be a whole-street extravaganza, with children's activities. You can reduce (waste), recycle (by donating items), and reuse (for very little money). And that money will benefit the Green Decade's many environmental projects. Where will it be? At 16 Linder Terrace, Newton Corner. Follow the map and the signs, to be provided later. More info? Want to donate items? Want to help? Call Barbara Herson 617-964-7463 or Louise Bruyn 617-332-1764. Or Green Decade office at office phone # 617-965-1995 and contact@greendecade.org

Thanks for your help !

Also, many thanks to our summer interns, Sarah Sanchez (Northeastern University) and Nina Slote (Bates College), for their assistance at the Farmers Market and in setting up and organizing the Green Decade's new office at the Newton Cultural Center. Thanks also to Trevor Romich, for his help at both markets again this year, before setting off for Cornell University this fall.

by Margaret Ford

Sunday Sept. 13 - Organic Garden Tour, sign up now

Join us for an afternoon guided tour, rain or shine of four organic gardens featuring flowers, vegetables and even an organically maintained lawn! 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 without chemical pesticides and with alternatives to invasive species! The tour goals are to showcase flower and vegetable gardens, rain- and drought-tolerant gardens and lawns, as well as sustainable gardening techniques such as intensive planting.

The tour is limited to 25 people so sign up early. We will meet at City Hall at 12:30 pm and car-pool to the gardens.

The tour is a bargain at \$20 per person, or join the Green Decade and save \$5. \$15 for Green Decade members. Sign up at www.greendecade.org

by Margaret Ford

“To waste, to destroy our natural resources and to exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed.”

Theodore Roosevelt, seventh annual message to Congress, December 3, 1907.



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CALENDAR

Sept 13 (Sun) 6-9pm	“Transforming our built environment” Patrick Lucey @ Andover-Newton - \$30 Info-bostoncwa@cleanwater.org or 617-338-8131. See article page 1 this issue.
Sept 13 (Sun) 1-5 pm Registration 12:30 pm	“Organic Garden Tour” of four gardens . Meet at Newton City Hall to register. Tickets-\$20; \$15 for GD/N members www.greendecade.org/events.html#organicgarden (call to see if there are still openings). 617 965-1995
Sept 24 (Thurs) 7pm	“Paul Eldrenkamp - Save energy”FREE See article page 2. Newton Free Library.
Oct 3/4 (Sat/Sun) 9am-4pm	“Green Decade Yard Sale” 16 Linder Ter. Newton Corner, call Barbara @ 617 964-7463 or Louise @ 617 332-1764 to donate items or help. rain or shine, come find that treasure you have always wanted ! See article page 3 this issue.
Oct 4 (Sun) 10-2pm Registration 9:30 am	“Solar/Green Homes Tour” Newton Community Services Center, 492 Waltham Street, West Newton. Tickets-\$15 in advance. http://www.greendecade.org/events.html#solarhomes (call to see if there are still openings, this fills quickly). 617 965-1995
Oct 5 (Mon) 7pm	Mayoral Candidates Environment Forum Newton Free Library. See www.greendecade.org for info.
Oct 24 (Sat) all day	International Day of Climate Action ! Inspired by Bill McKibben’s 350.org,

Send environmental events to *GREEN NEWS*. email to Ira Krepchin by Friday, Sept. 25 , 2009 irapk@alum.mit.edu. We will list as space permits.

Here is the green homes tour

Green Decade’s 9th annual Solar / Green Homes Tour is Sunday, October 4, 10am to 2pm (9:30am registration). The event is a chance to see four special homes and a Newton community solar energy project. Highlights will include:

- a very energy efficient “building envelope” design;
- a furnace that provides both heat and electricity;
- solar-energy systems that generate hot water, heat and electricity.

Take the tour to learn how to take your home to a new level of energy efficiency; how to assess it’s potential to host a solar panels; get informa-tion about costs, financing, installers, and rebates; and learn how you can take actions to support renewable power.

Tickets for the tour are \$15 in advance, \$18 at the door. Space is limited so reserve early. The tour will start at the Newton Community Service Center, 492 Waltham Street, West Newton. For more information about the tour or to buy tickets online visit Solar / Green Homes Tour at <http://www.greendecade.org/events.html#solarhomes>. Tickets may be purchased online until midnight Saturday, Oct. 3.

Energy audit calculations

Calling all Kyoto participants!!!! We have finished doing audits on Newton homes and now need the follow-up energy data so we can measure your energy savings. Please contact Michele Davis at reuserecycle@rcn.com or 617-834-2698. Thanks for doing the energy audit!



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GREEN DECADE/NEWTON

WHERE THE MAYORAL CANDIDATES STAND ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

Green Decade/Newton has worked for the last 19 years to educate and empower citizens to improve the environment. We distributed a questionnaire to each of the mayoral candidates who has qualified for the Preliminary Election on September 15, asking them to review positions endorsed by our organization. Indicated below are the candidates' responses to our positions.

A candidate's support for the GD/N position = "S", a candidate disagrees with the GD/N position = "O" or was unsure = "?".

Candidates were offered an option to comment on the issues. Items on which candidates commented are marked with an asterisk and shaded. ["*"]. Their comments appear below. Please consider this information in making your choice for Mayor.

The two candidates who remain after the September 15 Preliminary Election will be interviewed, in person, at 7 p.m. on October 5, at the Main Library's Druker Auditorium in an event sponsored by Green Decade/Newton, the Newton Free Library, and NewTV. For more information on the Green Decade/Newton positions, please visit our website, www.greendecade.org.

Issue	Balsar Ruth	Coletti Paul	Heck Bill	Parker Ken	Warren Setti
A. Install solar photovoltaic panels on every public building with appropriate solar exposure and orientation.	S	S	S	S	S
B. Establish "betterment" process for energy efficiency and solar installations on private structures, which will enable the cost of these improvements to be added to the building's property tax bill.	S	O*	S*	?	S
C. Institute and publicize steeper block rates for water/sewer to encourage conservation.	S	?*	?*	S	?*
D. Utilize the most advanced pollution controls on City-owned and City-contracted diesel construction equipment and vehicles.	S	S	S	S	S
E. Ban gasoline-powered leaf blowers from use within the City.	?*	O	O	O*	?*
F. Plant all municipal properties and require all new municipal and private developments to install low-water plantings and/or use native species.	S*	S	S*	S	S
G. Replace gas street lamps with the highest efficiency streetlights available.	S	S	S*	S*	S
H. Require a HERS (Home Energy Rating System) or other appropriate rating at the time of sale of any residence.	S	?	S	S*	?*
I. Ban sale or serving of bottled water in City buildings and at City facilities.	?*	O*	O*	S	S
J. Require implementation of business, multifamily, institution, and school recycling of paper, cardboard, plastic, and glass and recycling at all parks and public spaces.	S	?	S	S	S
K. Require recycling of all paper, cardboard, plastic, and glass used in City facilities.	S	S	S	S	S
L. Institute Pay-As-You-Throw trash collection, with the first 35 gallons free.	?*	O*	?*	O*	?*
M. Establish separate municipal collection and composting of organic waste.	S	S	S	S	?*
N. Require building contractors to recycle all recyclable construction and demolition waste prior to obtaining an occupancy permit.	S	?	S	S	S
O. Require stores to charge a small fee for all paper and plastic shopping bags.	O*	S	O	?*	S
P. Mandate residential snow shoveling to promote pedestrian safety.	?*	?*	?*	?*	S
Q. Establish marked bicycle lanes on all main streets, with no requests for State waivers.	?*	S	O	O*	S
R. Create secure and accessible bicycle parking at village centers, T stops, including commuter rail, at Crystal Lake, Gath Pool, and municipal buildings.	S	S	S	S	S
S. Establish preferred parking for low-emission vehicles and ride-sharing vehicles in all municipal lots and at all new private developments.	O*	S	O	S	S
T. Establish free parking at meters for low-emission vehicles.	O*	O	O	S	S
U. Commit to City purchase of only low-emission vehicles whenever available for application.	S	S	S	S*	S
V. Support and advocate for proposed walking/bicycle path from Riverside to Wellesley.	S	O*	?	S*	?*
W. Modify zoning ordinance to encourage transit-oriented development with greater residential density, dwellings above retail space, and reduced parking requirements near public transportation hubs.	S	S	S*	S	S
X. Adopt Town of Wellesley by-law limiting by-right residential renovation/replacement to 10 per cent increase over existing square footage.	O*	O*	?	O	?*
Y. Take all steps necessary to qualify as a "Green Community" under the State's Green Communities Act, including adoption of the "stretch code."	S*	S	?	S*	S

We offered each candidate a maximum of 600 words in which to comment on the subjects addressed in our questions. Their comments appear below, following the relevant question letter.

Ruth Balser

- E. Before endorsing this policy, I need more information about cost, performance, and potential burden on homeowners.
- F. There are additional opportunities for Newton to improve water and wastewater management. For example, expanding the residential rain barrel program to promote conservation; retrofitting public areas over time to maximize use of permeable surfaces and to minimize run-off, and performing regular leak detection of the City's piping infrastructure are a few of the practices I will pursue as Mayor.
- I. As a State Representative, I support the updated bottle bill to divert more containers from landfill sites or incinerators. Although I would prefer that the schools not sell bottled drinking water, immediately banning its sale could lead to students replacing water with sodas and other high-sugar, unhealthy beverages
- L. I believe that Newton residents need time to become used to the new single-stream-recycling and automated-trash program that the city is implementing before we make further changes to our system of trash collection.
- O. I agree with the philosophy of discouraging use of paper and plastic shopping bags, but it is my preference to provide an incentive to shoppers by giving them a discount for supplying their own reusable bags.
- P. Before I can support this plan, I will have to make sure there is an adequate plan to assist those who by virtue of age, disability, or income are unable to comply with it.
- Q. I am a strong supporter of bicycle lanes and do not intend to seek waivers from the state, but there may be an unusual case in which one is warranted.
- S. I support the growing use of low-emission vehicles; however, people who cannot afford to buy the new green vehicles should not be penalized by higher fees. I believe our focus should be to support legislation that will lead to a shift in policy that will regulate the automobile industry.
- T. As a public policy matter, we need to legislate change in the auto industry instead of penalizing individuals who cannot afford to buy a new car. The change has to happen at a macro level.
- X. I prefer not to require individuals to make their living arrangements a political matter with the Board of Aldermen. I prefer to address this issue with a building code that requires efficiency.
- Y. As a legislator, I supported the Green Communities Act, and I have made the reduction of GHG emissions and the promotion of environmental sustainability a top priority for my campaign and, eventually, for the Balser administration. I recently released a 5-point plan to green Newton that advocates declaring the city a Green Zone so that we can attract state green communities dollars as well as federal stimulus funds. (Please read the report in its entirety at www.ruthformayor.com.)

Paul Coletti

- B. I would support a state or federal grant or low interest loan fund program similar to MWRA cleaning and re-lining grant or inflow and infiltration program to connect sump pumps to the storm drain to assist homeowners who install solar and high efficiency improvements
- C. I would first adjust the quantity limits for commercial and institutional and apartment users to reflect as we did with condominium units a reasonable minimum charge and usage amount before steeper block rates kick in.
- I. Until we have newly installed filtered water coolers, and lead free pipes in all municipal buildings and schools we must make alternatives to drinking unsafe water available.
- L. I supported and worked to pass the new trash collection program, and I supported the new recycling program, but I would wait to see the savings generated by removal of waste from the trash stream and cost avoidance before using trash as a revenue generator.
- P. I would implement a city-wide sidewalk plowing program before mandating residential shoveling due to the city's inability to enforce such an ordinance.
- V. I would support such a path without spending funds to repair the section from Concord Street to the Wellesley line including the dangerous bridge.
- X. I do not believe that 10% allows a homeowner the ability to maximize the return the investment required to undertake such renovation and modernization efforts. I also believe such a policy would discriminate against owners who originally underdeveloped their properties and now need the extra square footage allowed under current zoning.

Bill Heck

- B. This is a bit of a double whammy in the short run, but it raises the value of the property in the long run.
- C. Steeper block rates mean different thing to different people. I need more information.

- F. The word all is too limiting in all cases. There are many wonderful plants and trees from this region and elsewhere that create beauty and ought to be available for consideration. Beauty, especially natural beauty, has a price.
- G. Some energy efficient lights produce very unattractive light. Beauty has the right to exist too.
- I. People purchase water for many reasons, including later consumption elsewhere. Why limit the selection to soft drinks?
- L. Trash output is not the same for everyone. A residence with six people will likely generate more trash than a residence with two people. One 35 gallon container is the one-size that doesn't fit all; it is merely one size.
- P. The need to remove snow on sidewalks varies, and so should the requirement. This is a good local issue for Ward Aldermen to address.
- W. Great question! All of the village centers are locked into a period of the past, and I would look forward to opening the door to actively discussing redevelopment in the village centers.

Ken Parker

- B. I support tax credits for businesses and residents installing solar panels, passive heating and cooling systems, and other energy-efficiency improvements. I have not seen the "betterment" proposal, however.
- E. Gas-powered leaf blowers generate air and noise pollution, and many Newton residents would like to see them banned. However, it is not appropriate to single out this technology while other devices, like gas-powered lawn mowers, are permitted. Instead, I support updating the City's noise ordinance and establishing a uniform standard for air pollutants to improve the quality of life and environment equally for all.
- G. I support the gradual replacement of our few remaining gas streetlights with energy-efficient alternatives, but these lights are mostly in historic districts, so conversion needs to be consistent with their historic character. Besides energy efficiency, we should also consider public safety (adequate lighting) and the toxicity of waste products in the bulbs.
- H. HERS ratings should be required, but this needs to be accomplished via the state building code (currently included in Appendix 12.AA), not as a local ordinance. I think we can pilot this with a voluntary program on a local level.
- L. I do not support PAYT trash collection because the resulting fees are regressive: People with lower incomes would pay a higher percentage of their incomes for trash collection. Trash collection should continue to be funded through property taxes and the City should seek to reduce its waste stream by increased recycling and source reduction. I have proposed a goal of 75% recycling by 2011 and explain how this would be accomplished at <http://www.parker2009.org/improve-recycling>
- O. I prefer the "bring your own bag" discount model used by stores like Whole Foods. A great deal can be accomplished here through public education and cooperative discussion with store owners.
- P. Snowy sidewalks are a serious issue for Newton pedestrians, but I am not convinced such a law will actually solve the problem. For instance, City snow plows sometimes erase the hard shoveling work of conscientious residents by throwing snow back onto the sidewalk, and they create large walls of snow on street corners. While residents must do their part to keep sidewalks clean, I support working with the Department of Public Works to improve its snow-clearing process.
- Q. I strongly support implementing a comprehensive, three-tiered bicycle route system in Newton to accommodate scenic, recreational, and commuter biking. However, not all streets are equal, and a blanket policy may decrease safety by implementing lanes in inappropriate locations that create a false sense of security for cyclists. I support strong, comprehensive bicycle accommodation. Streets should be examined on a case-by-case basis for suitability for bike lanes, share-the-street designation, or other accommodation strategies. My detailed plan is at <http://www.parker2009.org/pedestrian-access>
- U. I support fleet-management strategies to reduce energy consumption by city vehicles, including replacing older diesel vehicles with cleaner new vehicles, taking advantage of the Federal "Clean Diesel" program, purchasing low-emission vehicles, and limiting use of city vehicles to necessary municipal purposes. We should factor financial and environmental costs into all of our vehicle-purchasing decisions.
- V. I strongly support having a bicycle and pedestrian path between Newton and Wellesley. I hope that a scenic route along the Charles River and the Leo J. Martin golf course can be worked out.
- Y. I strongly support the objectives of the Green Communities Act and will work aggressively to achieve Green Community designation for Newton. The "stretch code" has just been adopted by the state, and I would like to consult with the Planning, Law, and Inspectional Services Departments and the Board of Aldermen, before adopting it in its current form.

Setti Warren

- C. I strongly favor this concept in principle but would need to see the specific cost increase recommendation before implementing it. In addition, as with many of the issues raised here, I would want to make sure the impact on Newton's most vulnerable citizens – particularly those on fixed income – was not cost prohibitive.

- E.** I strongly favor the concept but would want to understand the cost to the small businesses that are the primary users of this equipment. We might want to consider implementing this change over time so that businesses (and residents) would be able to absorb the cost of acquiring new equipment. If the cost of operating the equipment was not less than the cost of operating gasoline-powered blowers, I might want to consider some tax incentive to help defray the cost of acquiring the new equipment.
- H.** I certainly would encourage people to use the HERS system but would want to understand the cost of the assessment and the availability of certified experts. In the current housing market I think we should be cautious about implementing a requirement that deters home sales/
- L.** I am on record supporting Pay As You Throw provided our most vulnerable citizens are not financially impacted. The over 35 gallons provision advocated by Green Decade may well safeguard these families but I would want to see hard data before supported this specific proposal.
- M.** I find this an extremely intriguing idea – win-win for both business and the environment. However, since the concept is new to me, I would like to see specific proposals from potential haulers before implementing. I am very anxious to reduce Newton’s carbon footprint and contribute what we can to the environment but want to do so in a cost effective and budget neutral way where we can.
- V.** As an avid biker (and now canvasser), I would certainly like to see more bike/walk paths. However, the property involved in the Wellesley-Newton project is currently owned by the State and their plans for that property are being disputed in the courts. We will have to wait for judicial resolution before taking action. In addition, any plans for the use of this property for biking would have to take the needs of the abutters into account. I believe we can work through a solution, which will please both bikers and residents, possibly involving other routes that include a path that runs by the river.
- X.** An Aldermanic taskforce is currently reviewing this concept and I would like to see the results of their study before coming to a conclusion.

Green Decade/Newton, founded in 1990, has grown to a current membership of over 500. Please join us in our mission to create an environment in better balance with the natural world by making significant measurable improvements in the way we use resources.