

green news

NEWSLETTER OF THE GREEN DECADE COALITION / NEWTON



VOL.19 - NO. 1

JAN/FEB 2009

Environmental
Speaker Series

Cosponsored with the Newton Free
Library at the library

FREE

Monday, Jan. 12 - 7pm:

"Charles River Watershed: How Newton can help"



Bob Zimmerman, Executive Director CRWA

New storm-water rules introduced by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environmental Protection will govern how cities and towns affect the Charles River. **Robert L. Zimmerman, Jr.**, executive director of the **Charles River Watershed Association**, will open the 2009 Environmental Speaker

Series with a presentation about how our City has to change to work with these new regulations.

Monday, Feb. 23 - 7pm:

"Clean technology for a healthy economy"



Amy Perlmutter, Manager, UMass Lowell
Clean Tech Initiative

Massachusetts has world leadership potential in a number of clean technologies, including materials reuse and recycling, safer alternatives to toxic chemicals, green building, clean energy, and advanced bio- and nano-materials. What makes us potential leaders in these particular technologies? How can the state capitalize on its expertise in research, innovation, and manufacturing to reorient its economy around the

development and adoption of these and other clean technologies? What can we all do to help?

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 email list, and be sure to include your name and e-mail, along with Green News Online in the subject line. Congratulations to our paper-savers! We have now received more than 100 online subscribers to the Green News! Thank you!

by Marcia Cooper

Mayoral elections: help make the environment an issue

No sooner have we wrapped up the 2008 elections than it is time to prepare for 2009. Next year Newton will elect a new mayor for the first time in 12 years. The field of candidates is growing weekly, and there may be half a dozen or more before the preliminary election next September.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the Green Decade Coalition to move our issues to a prominent spot on the city's agenda. To that end, President Marcia Cooper has asked former Board of Aldermen President and GDC Board member Brooke Lipsitt to chair the Ad Hoc Committee on the Mayoral Election.

This committee will plan an agenda for the campaign year with the intention of getting all mayoral candidates to commit to GDC's goals. The committee, in consultation with the Board of GDC, will determine a list of specific issues or positions we hope to see embraced by all candidates. To present our positions and obtain candidates' commitment to our goals, we might use questionnaires, forums, or interviews. The committee will publicize the positions of the candidates so that voters can make educated, "green" decisions when they vote for the next mayor.

All members of the committee will commit to not being involved in any mayoral campaign during this effort in order to maintain the appearance, as well as the reality, of neutrality.

If you would like more information on the Ad Hoc Committee on the Mayoral Election or if you are interested in helping with the work, please contact Brooke Lipsitt at 617-965-0107 or plipsitt@bu.edu.

by Brooke Lipsitt

Generate electricity while heating your home

This year's Solar Homes Tour included something new: The Goldsmith family of Waverley Avenue graciously invited Newton residents to tour their newly installed "combined heat and power," or CHP system. The Goldsmiths, owners of a large Victorian, were heating with oil but were stunned by price increases and concerned with the inefficiency and advancing age of their old boiler.

So last year they decided to install a new heating system. While investigating what kind of system might most efficiently service his large home, Max Goldsmith attended a Green Decade workshop entitled "Insulate Your Older Home" and discovered that it is now feasible to install a system that generates both electricity and heat that can be used for space heating and hot water.

CHP has been used in commercial and industrial applications for decades, but only recently has its "Micro CHP" version—pioneered in Europe and Japan—become available for individual residences in this country. Micro CHP systems burn natural gas to power an electric generator.

Generating local electricity this way saves 60 percent of the fuel power plants burn to do the same thing—partly because no electricity is lost in transmission lines, and partly because the "waste heat" that power plants generally blow off is instead used in your home to provide heat and hot water. Your home becomes much more efficient, cheaper to run, and your carbon footprint is substantially reduced.

The Goldsmiths' System

Max Goldsmith led us into his basement and pointed out large areas of space recovered when he removed an old oil-fired boiler and two storage tanks. In its place were new, compact, high-efficiency hot-water boilers to heat the family residence and a first-floor rental unit. And in front of these was a small unit that contained the "Climate Energy Freewatt Generator" CHP system made by Honda.

Whenever heat or hot water is needed, the CHP unit starts up, burning gas to generate electricity, with the accompanying heat used to heat water that flows to the space-heating boilers and to the house's hot-water tank. The CHP generator fully heats the home's hot-water supply, and it provides enough space heat for much of the year. In quite cold weather the gas boiler provides additional heat. All the while, the system also generates electricity.

If the Goldsmiths need the generated electricity at that moment, it's immediately consumed. Any unneeded electricity is fed back into the electric utility grid—thus lowering the Goldsmiths' electric bill (the meter actually spins backwards; a practice called "net metering") and also increasing the grid's overall electricity supply.

As befits cutting-edge technology, the CHP system

includes an internet connection and its own personalized Web site. Max can not only monitor, graph and keep records on the electricity he's generating, he can also remotely monitor and reset his home thermostat. Imagine the possibilities for managing your home's energy consumption the next time you go on vacation. In the meantime, the system is monitoring itself and reporting any faults or problems to the company that installed and services it; should any problems arise, they get nearly immediate notification, and the homeowner gets a rapid response.

The Goldsmiths' new system was installed this summer, so as this article is written, Max has a limited amount of data so far. During the warm months the new system was only called upon when the Goldsmiths or their tenants needed hot water.

Nonetheless, the CHP system generated 488 kWh of electricity in the first two months and reduced fuel consumption for hot water by almost 9 million BTUs compared to the average BTUs consumed by the old oil-fired system in comparable months in 2005 to 2007. Max estimates his savings for these two months combined at \$350.69. During the heating season he expects monthly savings to rise considerably.

October's electric bill from NSTAR [for mid-September to mid-October usage] showed that usage went from 1150 kWh in October 2007 to 518 kWh in 2008. Most of the savings, 449 kWh, came from the use of the CHP system, with about 200 kWh saved from the use of compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). At full capacity, the 1.2 kWh Freewatt unit will generate about 800 kWh per month of electricity.

Max's October gas bill also showed savings—the new system generating electricity as well as heat and hot water used 41 percent less fossil fuel than did the old oil-fired boiler that generated only heat and hot water. Though these data remain quite preliminary, they are encouraging.

The CHP system adds about \$6,000 to \$7,000 to the cost of a new heating system. Based on what he has read about other people's experiences with CHP, Max expects his fuel savings and reduced purchases of electricity from the grid to pay back the cost of CHP in seven to eight years. If fuel costs continue to rise as they have in recent years, the payback period could be shorter.

Various incentives and rebates are also available to help with the additional cost. NSTAR covered \$1,000 of the CHP cost and \$1600 for each high-efficiency boiler. Federal tax deductions will help further. And a program run by Mass Save [http://www.masssave.com/about/heat_loan.php] provides no-interest loans of up to \$10,000 for installing qualified energy-efficient systems.

Stay tuned for future reports on the longer-term experiences of the Goldsmiths and others with micro CHP systems.

by Stephen T. Barry

Summer environmental science program for teens

Every July, students in grades 7 through 10 gather in Newton for the Newton Environmental Science Program, a monthlong outdoor program of hiking, biking and, of course, environmental science. The program offers fun outdoor adventures combined with an opportunity to learn about the environment. It began as a Ford Foundation project in 1967 headed by Dick Staley, a Newton science teacher. Since then, "Envi Sci" has grown into an exciting alternative to traditional summer camps.

The Envi Sci program employs the "peer education" principle: Student leaders design, develop, and deliver the materials that the students use. Leaders educate the students each day as they hike or bike to many diverse sites in Newton and surrounding areas. Students return and become leaders in subsequent years, continuing the thread

Newton may be one of ten "Cool Communities"

Homeowners can go on a "carbon diet" in a fight against global warming. Friends and neighbors can cut home energy costs, build community, help slow climate change

The Low Carbon Diet Program is a friendly way to reduce the cost of home energy and the impacts of global warming. With this program, beginning in the Spring, groups of five to eight households in Newton would use teamwork and behavior change to "lose 5,000 pounds of carbon in 30 days." Members of a team with eight households could lose at least 40,000 pounds of carbon in a month and slash each home's energy bills, while developing stronger community bonds. The program is modeled on the successful Low Carbon Diet (LCD), which was developed and tested by the nationally known Empowerment Institute.

Using a clear workbook, households will measure their carbon footprints before they begin the program, and will continue monitoring as they reduce carbon emissions. Participants will improve their energy efficiency and "lose" pounds of carbon dioxide by making their own choices from a suggested list of 22 items, including areas such as solid waste disposal, use of hot water, home heating and cooling, and personal vehicles. Teams will make changes to their household systems and their lifestyles to reduce carbon emissions, and will take other actions to become carbon neutral.

Each team would meet 3-4 times to compare progress and support each other, while getting to know each other better and developing ties in their community. Massachusetts Climate Action Network (MCAN) will monitor the teams' progress, and will present awards for the "biggest losers." MCAN will run a series of events to support the program, as well as providing information, resources, and other types of support to neighborhoods that join the program. Call me at 617 233-6071 to join. *by Peter Smith*

of responsibility for caring and teaching about the environment. Leaders start preparing for the summer program in January. Meeting at the Student Director's house every weekend, they teach each other about different Envi Sci topics and how to pass this information on most effectively to the students.

One returning student describes the environmental science program as "the best part of my year!" Envi-Sci-ers know that science isn't limited to school textbooks and exams. During Envi Sci they enjoy hands-on education: learning about estuarine ecosystems by rowing to Merchant's Island, touring and talking with their leaders about the salt marsh, and then jumping right in to experience it firsthand.

Envi Sci students learn about the environment here in Newton and in surrounding towns by hiking and biking to different sites each day. The Webster Conservation Area, chock-full of glacial striations and erratics, is a great place to learn about glacial movement. Hammond Pond, Bullough's Pond and Newton Cemetery pools offer wonderful examples of pond succession.

In addition to the three or four trips to choose from each day, Envi Sci includes seven all-program trips: to Merchant's Island; a 12-mile canoe trip down the Charles River (testing pH levels all the way); Clean-Up Day; Invasive Species Removal Day; climbing the Blue Hills and Mt. Monadnock; and the highly anticipated three-day backpacking trip up Mt. Washington.

Tuition is \$995, with some financial aid available. This may be a little-known summer program, but students and parents swear it's the best.

For more information, check www.newtonenvisci.org or contact David Backer, Executive Director, at 617-969-0288. The Newton Environmental Science Program works in partnership with The Newton Conservators.

by Geneva Boyer

Green Decade's 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 to educate and empower citizens to take personal and civic action.

TVs: How to save energy, reduce solid waste

The time is drawing near to the February 17, 2009, deadline when television stations will stop broadcasting on analog airwaves and begin broadcasting only in digital. However, rest assured, it will not be necessary to get rid of your existing analog TV at that time. A digital-to-analog converter box hooked to an analog TV is all that is required.

Congress created the TV Converter Box Coupon Program for households wanting to keep using their analog TV sets after February 17, 2009. The program allows U.S. households to obtain up to two coupons, each worth \$40, that can be applied toward the cost of eligible converter boxes.

If you want to apply for a \$40 coupon you can call the Coupon Program toll-free 24-hour automated system 1-888-388-2009 or apply online at www.dtv.2009.gov/.

If you choose to purchase a new TV, you will want to know how the three most common television screen technologies compare in energy efficiency. According to the Sierra Club, for a given screen size, LCDs use the least energy of the three leading screen types, followed by plasma screens. Old-fashioned CRT televisions use the most power. However, for these TV types, the larger the screen, the more energy it uses, so a large LCD TV may consume more energy than your existing CRT. It is also important to bear in mind that big-screen TVs are also often used with other energy-consuming equipment such as speaker systems, DVD/DVR machines, cable/HD set tops, and game consoles. Remember also that TVs and other electronic devices use energy when they are idling in standby mode. To save energy, consider plugging all your electronics into timer-equipped power strips to turn them off completely, at least overnight.

When looking for new TVs, look for the Energy Star label. As of November 2008, the Energy Star label is a true indicator of TV energy consumption. Earlier Energy Star ratings were based solely on energy use in standby mode. The new ratings take into account the energy used when the TV is on as well. The Energy Star program also maintains a list of the estimated annual energy use of rated TVs. Usage is calculated based on a typical usage pattern, similar to the way a standard driving cycle is used to rate the miles per gallon of a car. For a list of Energy Star TVs, go to the Energy Star web site (www.energystar.gov), click on Home Electronics, then click on Televisions, and finally click on the Product List on the right side of the page.

If you're sticking with your old TV, there are several ways to cut its energy use:

1. Unplug the TV when it is not in use. TVs that have a standby mode continue to draw power even when turned "off."
2. Turn off the "quick start" option (if applicable). Just by waiting a few more seconds for the TV to warm up, you

can significantly reduce standby power consumption.

3. Turn down the brightness settings. Many LCD TVs also have a backlight setting that is often set in stores to be brighter than necessary for most home environments.

4. Buy an Energy Star-rated digital-to-analog (DTA) converter box if you own an analog TV and do not plan to upgrade to digital by February 2009. According to the EPA, if all analog TV owners used Energy Star converter boxes, global warming pollution would be lowered by an amount equivalent to taking a million cars off the road.

If you are trying to decide what to do with a TV that you'd like to get rid of, you may be able to find a new home for your old TV at www.WasteNotNewton.com, a web site to donate, swap or sell surplus items. However, if you want to dispose of a TV, know that CRT devices such as TVs and computer monitors are banned from disposal at landfills and incinerators in Massachusetts. Residents of Newton may bring TVs and computer monitors to the city's Resource Recovery Center (Recycling Depot) on Rumford Avenue for proper recycling and disposal. The Depot is open Mondays through Fridays, 7:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. and Saturdays, 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. These items will not be picked up at curbside.

by Marcia Cooper

Thanks for donations go to:

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League of Women Voters of Medfield

FRIENDS: Arlene Aguirre, William Brandel, Lee Breckenridge, Deborah Breen, Susan Brown, Jen Kaplan, Lindsey Neagle, Anne Pearson, Nathan Phillips, Virginia & Bill Robinson, Mindy Sieber, Jennifer Stone.

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Goin' down to New Orleans, to do environmental work

Note: Former board member Amelia Ravin sends these greetings:

Dear Green Decade Members:

It's only been 18 months since I moved down to New Orleans, but it already feels like it's been my home forever! While I do miss the fall colors and the "cool" summer, I've fallen in love completely with this city—with everything from the rich cuisine to the unbelievable live music to the spirit of community here.

Despite what you might have gathered from the national media, New Orleans IS coming back, and its coming back stronger and greener! And I've had the wonderful opportunity to become involved with an organization of the same mission and spirit as the Green Decade, here in New Orleans, called the Alliance for Affordable Energy (www.all4energy.org).

The Alliance is a nonprofit public-interest membership organization dedicated to creating fair, affordable, environmentally responsible, community-based energy policies for Louisiana and the nation. Some of our most recent successes include helping to get a solar tax credit passed for Louisiana and developing an energy efficiency program for New Orleans redevelopment.

The Alliance also recently opened the New Orleans BuildSmart Learning Center, a community resource on green building techniques specific to New Orleans, which is open to the public. It will be a "community classroom" for hands-on learning about solar, energy efficiency, water efficiency and green building materials. This is a very exciting step for our community, where thousands of homes are being remodeled and reconstructed.

In fact, there is so much happening on the sustainability front in New Orleans it's hard to capture in words—all the more reason to come down for a visit! I'd like to extend an open invitation for a group of Green Decade volunteers to visit with me and the Alliance, a "sister" organization, and give back some of your time and knowledge to our community. So please, contact me if you are interested, and I'd be more than happy to help organize a work trip (with lots of fun mixed in) for the Green Decade!

Best regards, Amelia Ravin, former Green Decade Board Member -Alliance for Affordable Energy, Board of Directors



Katherine Gekas shows the model house with green features to an attendee at the Newton Rotary Expo.

Solid Waste Forum/ Cash in the trash

The Solid Waste Forum, organized by the League of Women Voters and cosponsored by the Green Decade Coalition and several other organizations, was a well-attended event. The topics for the evening were the city's trial program of automated trash collection, single-stream recycling and Pay-As-You-Throw (PAYT). It featured Public Works Commissioner Tom Daley and Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection solid waste expert Brooke Nash. GDC Board Member and former Board of Aldermen President Brooke Lipsitt moderated the event.

Commissioner Daley explained the new automated waste hauling trial being held throughout the city using 64-gallon containers. Each resident gets one of these containers for trash and may use old containers for recycling. They also can get a free "Recycling" label for one of their own barrels. This trial will determine the feasibility of an automated system on Newton's busy streets and whether or not it will work when there's snow on the ground. In conjunction with automation, the city is switching to a single-stream recycling program, where all recyclables can be put into one container.

Commissioner Daley explained that single-stream recycling and the new collection system for the trial does not have a PAYT component. However, he does expect the new process to lead to incremental increases in recycling and reductions in trash generation. The City will be using the data gathered from this trial to determine the best system for the city.

Brooke Nash provided a compelling argument for using a PAYT system, where residents pay for either all the trash that they throw away or for excess trash over a preset limit. The MA DEP data shows dramatic increases in recycling rates while trash generation plummets wherever PAYT programs have been implemented. More than 120 cities and towns have successfully implemented PAYT systems across the Commonwealth. These programs have been environmentally and economically beneficial to cities and towns.

Newton is no longer one of the top recycling communities in the Commonwealth. It has reached a plateau and even declined some in the past five years. While there may be some incremental benefit to single-stream recycling, the real environmental impact is likely come from a PAYT system. We encourage our members to contact your aldermen and the mayor if you support a PAYT program and believe it will have a positive impact on the environment while addressing the economic crisis that the city faces in this difficult time.

For more information on PAYT and to learn what the GDC is doing, feel free to contact reducewasteinnewton@gmail.com

by Kevin Dutt

Paper bags not needed to recycle paper in Newton

If you are troubled by using paper bags to recycle paper, you can now recycle all your paper and cardboard directly in a separate green bin with no bags. If you need an extra recycling bin, they are available (free of charge) at the Rumford Avenue Resource Recovery Center, which is open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. Get an extra for your neighbors and save them the gas.

We encourage you to use reusable permanent bags for your grocery (and all other) shopping. In fact if you renew your Green Decade membership early, we will give you a signing bonus of two lightweight, but strong reusable bags.

Just think ! If all Newton residents stopped using paper bags to recycle every week, we can save many trees worth of paper, as well as the energy it takes to manufacture and ship them.

You can also use your own container for paper clearly marked with a "recycling" label. These labels are available (free of charge) at City Hall Customer Service, Room 105 (up to three labels per person). For more info call: 617-796-1000.

Other helpful tips: Put out your trash three feet away from recycling to make a clear distinction for the drivers. Flatten cardboard and tie in bundles no higher than one foot. Cardboard should be cut or folded to be no larger than 30 inches square. If you make it small enough you can put it in the green bin.

by Peter Smith

Two new "magic energy bikes" for Green Decade



Here is one of the new Green Decade Magic Energy Bikes with Mr. Aaron Harris (on the bike) and most of the Harris Cyclery staff, and "magic bike babes" President Marcia Cooper and Coordinator Margaret Ford !

As many of us know, Eric Olson has been generously loaning his mountain bike and bike electricity generator to the Green Decade for our educational displays at schools, farmers' markets and other expos. The bike is used to show how much more energy is required to light up an old-fashioned incandescent light bulb than it takes to light up a compact fluorescent bulb.

Well, Eric needs his bike now for his normal transportation. So the Green Decade has recently acquired two bikes with the help of two generous donations. Mr. Aaron Harris from Harris Cyclery sold us a 24" Raleigh 2008 Mountain Scout, suitable for both kids and adults at cost (a considerable discount). This new bike has already been to the Farmers' Market, the Newton Home & Garden Show, EnviroJAM at Newton North and the Green Fair and Trade Show at Temple Beth Avodah.

We have presented Mr Harris et al with a Green Decade thank-you card including photos of our "green friends" enjoying the bike at the events mentioned above.

A second mini-energy bike was donated by the Maltz family, a 20" child's bike, which the little ones will find easier to ride in the pursuit of energy efficiency! We also thank them for their generosity. *by Margaret Ford/Peter Smith*



At the Newton Rotary Expo, Tom Boyd, Green Decade's Webmaster, shows Pat Palmer from the Newton YMCA how to use one of the new Green Decade Magic Energy Bikes to test how much easier it is to light up a compact fluorescent bulb than an incandescent bulb. President Marcia Cooper talks with a visitor.

Thanks ! and . . . next deadline

For the next newsletter, please send submissions or requests by e-mail to Ira Krepchin, irapk@alum.mit.edu, by Tuesday, January 20, 2009.

Thanks for making this newsletter possible to Managing Editor Ira Krepchin, Coeditors Peter Smith and Louise Bruyn, 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: Frank and Edie Propp who prepared the entire issue for mailing !

Temple Beth Avodah Green Fair & Trade Show

On November 23rd, Green Decade Coalition joined over 20 other green companies and organizations at Temple Beth Avodah's first Green Fair & Trade Show. Temple Beth Avodah, a Reform congregation on the south side of Newton, sponsored the Fair in order to educate its membership about how to go green at home and to support the local green economy. The Fair was organized by the Temple's Green Committee whose mission is to create a Temple community that is committed to environmental stewardship and to living more sustainably and respectfully within our natural environment.



Karen Albert & Amanda Frank Webber greeted Green Fair-goers at GDC's table with Eco-Baskets, perfect for holiday giving! Notice the Carbon Diet Workbook!

By all measures, the Fair was a huge success. The crowd was large—somewhere between 250-300 people attended—and the enthusiasm was high. The Temple was able to attract high-quality vendors of a wide range of green goods and services including lighting, landscaping, insulation, cleaning and personal care products, home goods, and much, much more. Feedback from both attendees and vendors was extremely positive, with many expressing a hope that Temple Beth Avodah will make this an annual event.

While there were many highlights of the day, Green Decade's two booths certainly stood out. One booth, which was in the kids' section of the fair, was visited by all of the children (K-5) in Temple Beth Avodah's Religious School. The kids loved decorating caterpillars for the "caterpillar club." They also were able to ride the magic energy bike, which really brought home to them the impact of switching to CFLs. Many expressed amazement at how much less time it took to power the CFLs than incandescents.

Traffic at Green Decade's other booth was also brisk. The model green house was extremely popular as were the eco-baskets, which several people bought as holiday gifts for family and friends. All in all it was an extremely successful day!

*by Rachel White - Co-Chair,
Temple Beth Avodah Green Committee*



Marcia Cooper, Green Decade President with Michele Davis and Peter Smith at the Massachusetts State House at the end of a GreenPeace rally to send our messages of hope to the United Nations Environment summit in Poznan, Poland. Marcia gave an impassioned speech to the hundreds assembled to join a carbon diet team and reduce their carbon footprint.

EnviroJAM a spirited, eco-friendly evening

For the second year in a row, Newton North High School students and some faculty advisors organized an EnviroJAM musical fundraiser, with all proceeds dedicated to the New England Wind Fund. The event was held at North on November 22nd and again raised over \$1000 in support of wind power development in the region.

The donation will go to Mass Energy Consumers Alliance, the non-profit organization that oversees the New England Wind Fund. Donations to the Fund are matched twice over by the state, so in fact this was a \$3000 contribution to renewable energy development. For details about donating to the Wind Fund please visit the New England Wind website, <http://www.newenglandwind.org/wind/home.php>.

There were over ten student bands and one faculty band. The two students who ran it this year are the same as last year (now they're seniors): Rachel Gore and Annabel Raby. Between musical sets Annabel and Rachel delivered environmental tips, focussing on the global advantages of wind, solar, hydrogen, water and geothermal energy.

Outside the little theatre where the event was held, students sold T-shirts, baked goods, tote bags, and carbon offsets. At one booth, the Green Decade set up a bicycle that audience members could ride to power a fluorescent light bulb.

The faculty advisor for the event was Zach Snow, a former Green Decade Environmental Leadership Award winner. The group who ran it this year is hoping to do it again next year (with new student leaders). *by Peter Smith*

Not sure when you expire?

Not sure when your subscription expires? Just look at the mailing label of your Green News if you receive the printed version -- the expiration date is in the top right corner!

"... harnessing one fifth of the earth's available wind energy would provide seven times as much electricity as the world currently uses."

—Lester Brown, *Plan B 3.0, Mobilizing to Save Civilization*, p239.

Get involved!

Have time for occasional volunteering?

If you would like to support Green Decade's environmental role in the community on an occasional basis (even for just a couple of hours), please add your name to a list of GDC volunteers to be contacted for special community fairs and other events.

Go to our web site www.greendecade.org/volunteer.html and click on the committee with which you would like to work or send an email to volunteer@greendecade.org attn: Margaret to add your name to our list of people who want to help where-ever there is a need.

Staff green table at events

Help us staff a Green Decade booth to provide members of our community with printed versions of important environmental information, such as energy saving tips for home owners as well as rides on the magic energy bike.

Coach an Eco-Team

Have you participated in an Eco-team or Low Carbon Diet seminar and enjoyed the experience? Would you like to help others learn about ways to lessen their environmental footprint? We are recruiting new coaches to help coach our eco-teams starting in 2009.

It requires only 3 meetings (a training meeting to be a coach and then 2 face-to-face meetings with your group). Please email Eco-team Coordinator Jen Kaplan at jen@spencerfilms.com or call 617-795-2822 with any questions and to indicate your interest.

We need you: be Green Decade's office data manager

Douglas Leith, our data manager since 2000, would like to retire from this volunteer position in 2009. The job of maintaining our membership data base averages around four hours per week. We are seeking someone interested in a long term commitment to the GDC. Training will be provided. Contact Marcia Cooper (marciac@aol.com) for general information or Douglas Leith (jdleith@comcast.net) for more details.

by Marcia Cooper



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|---|--|
| Jan 12 (Mon) | "Charles River Watershed: How Newton can help" Robert Zimmerman, Executive Director, Charles River Watershed Association, Environmental Speaker Series, Newton Free Library. See box on page one. Free |
| Feb 7 (Sat)
1-4pm | Insulating Your Older Home workshop
Newton History Museum at Jackson Homestead. \$30/person (\$15/Green Decade & Newton Hist. Society members. Register @ www.greendecade.org . |
| Feb 14 (Sat)
10am-noon
Feb 15(Sun) | 'Urban Ark' Seminar & Tour , \$20; \$15 for GreenDecade members, students, seniors. Register at 617 969-5927. More information at www.greendecade.org |
| Feb 23 (Mon)
7pm | "Clean technology for a healthy economy" Amy Perlmutter, Manager UMass Lowell's Clean Tech Initiative, Environmental Speaker Series, Newton Free Library. See box on page one. Free |
| Mar 16 (Mon)
Apr 27 (Mon)
May 25 (Mon)
June 22 (Mon) | Environmental Speaker Series , Newton Free Library. Always Mondays at 7pm
Always Free. See the next issue of Green News for topics and speakers. |

Send environmental events to *GREEN NEWS*. email to Ira Krepchin by Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2009 irapk@alum.mit.edu. We will list as space permits.