

February 2009 Volume 5

## Community Energy Challenge Monthly Update

Welcome to the *Community Energy Challenge Monthly Update*, a monthly publication by EPA New England promoting energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy.

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Welcome to New Members of the Community Energy Challenge: Halifax and Fall River, MA, South Hero, VT, and Lebanon, Milford, Southington, and Windsor, CT. EPA New England welcomes the communities of Halifax and Fall River, Massachusetts, South Hero, Vermont, and Lebanon, Milford, Southington, and Windsor Connecticut, the newest

members of the Community Energy Challenge! These communities have pledged to form a local energy committee, benchmark their municipal buildings, and reduce their energy use by 10%. These steps will help them to save money and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. Welcome!

## **2) Ten Schools Win the ENERGY STAR Label for Superior Energy Performance**

EPA recognized ten schools in Community Energy Challenge Municipalities in New England that have earned the prestigious ENERGY STAR label for superior energy performance. The ten schools are in the Massachusetts communities of Medfield, Quincy and Woburn, each of which has committed to EPA's Community Energy Challenge. Under EPA's Community Energy Challenge, these communities have pledged to assess energy use, improve energy efficiency, save money and work to expand renewable energy choices. To date, 131 communities representing over 30% of New England's population have signed up for the Challenge. Schools that earn the ENERGY STAR label are the top performers for energy efficiency nationwide. In fact, schools that earn the ENERGY STAR label cost forty cents per square foot less to operate than the average performers. The specific schools receiving this distinction in 2008 include:

**Medfield:** Wheelock School.

**Quincy:** Lincoln Hancock Elementary, Snug Harbor Community School, Sterling Middle School, North Quincy High School and Quincy High School.

**Woburn:** Altavesta Elementary School, Clapp Elementary School, Linscott-Rumford Elementary School and Shamrock Elementary School.

For more information on ENERGY STAR, go to: [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov). To learn more about EPA's Community Energy Challenge, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/energy/energy-challenge.html>.

## **3) Designed to Earn ENERGY STAR**

EPA has expanded its offerings and recognition to include building design. Architecture firms can now display the "Designed to Earn the ENERGY STAR" graphic to distinguish their projects as among the nation's best in energy performance. Design projects that receive a rating of 75 or higher are eligible for Design to Earn ENERGY STAR and projects that achieve 50 percent or better than average building meet Architecture 2030 and American Institute of Architects (AIA) goals. All eligible designs must be at least 95% complete with construction documents.

To listen to a short presentation about the program, go to

[http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/tools\\_resources/new\\_bldg\\_design/presentation08/es\\_challe\\_nge\\_presentation.html](http://www.energystar.gov/ia/business/tools_resources/new_bldg_design/presentation08/es_challe_nge_presentation.html)

Help protect the environment by designing buildings with superior energy efficiency resulting in top energy performance. For additional resources, including the Building Design Guidance and Target Finder, go to [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=new\\_bldg\\_design.new\\_bldg\\_design](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=new_bldg_design.new_bldg_design). Have a project that might qualify? Send completed documents to EPA by March 6, 2009 to be recognized at the 2009 AIA Convention in San Francisco.

To download the application or to find out more about how to earn the graphic and recognition for creating buildings that perform better and help prevent greenhouse gas emissions, go to [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=new\\_bldg\\_design.new\\_bldg\\_design\\_benefits](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=new_bldg_design.new_bldg_design_benefits)

## **4) Now Debate This High School Scholarship Contest**

*Now Debate This*, America's only national online educational debate and \$250,000 high school scholarship contest, announced a new, exciting competition to the 2009 program year to coincide with President-Elect Obama's first 100 days in the White House: The 100-Day Presidential Challenge.

This competition will ask high school students from across America to research their community's biggest energy problems, and develop Energy Solution Proposals they can implement at the local level. The winners will earn a \$5,000 clean technology prize for their school or organization, and an opportunity to share ideas with national experts, such as members of President Obama's Cabinet, Congress, and the energy industry. The contest will begin at 12:00:01 Eastern Standard

Time on January 20, 2009 and close at 12:00:01 Eastern Standard Time, April 30, 2009. For more information go to: <http://www.nowdebatethis.com/>

### **5) Environmental Merit Awards**

For over thirty years, EPA New England has honored those who have made outstanding contributions on behalf of our region's environment. EPA's Environmental Merit Award program has recognized teachers, citizen activists, business leaders, scientists, public officials and others who exemplify true leadership in protecting public health and New England's environment, and provide hope and inspiration for the future. The nomination period for the 2009 Environmental Merit Awards (EMA) opens January 26, 2009 and closes March 6, 2009. For more information, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region1/ra/ema/index.html>

### **ARTICLES**

#### **1) School districts can save 30% on energy costs**

Saving 30% on energy is within the reach of any school district with the will to do so. For more information and useful tools to help your school save energy go to:

<http://members.questline.com/Article.aspx?userID=1273429&articleID=9359&NL=5733>

#### **2) Over 75 tips to reduce energy usage in public buildings.**

From heating to air conditioning to water use, this publication includes over 75 ways to save energy in public buildings. For more information go to:

<http://members.questline.com/Article.aspx?userID=1273429&articleID=1041&NL=5733>

#### **3) New Hampshire town ready for Carbon Challenge**

Members of North Hampton, New Hampshire's Energy Committee, public library and school teaching staff met Thursday, Jan. 8 to discuss initial plans for a town-wide Carbon Challenge event. The Carbon Challenge is a University of New Hampshire initiative committed to helping households reduce their energy consumption. Through simple actions, communities can reduce the risk of climate change, reduce CO2 emissions and lower energy costs. The average challenge taker saves \$850 a year. The group hopes to lead the charge on March 10, voting day, by coordinating the use of school computers to help North Hampton townsfolk sign up after they have cast their ballots. For more information go to: <http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20090113-NEWS-901130314>

### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **1) Funding Available for Alternative Fuels Deployment and Education Projects**

The U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory, on behalf of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, is seeking applications for projects covering a range of commercial technology deployment and educational activities under the Clean Cities Transportation Sector Petroleum Reduction Technologies Program. Applications should address only one of the three areas of interest, which include:

- Refueling Infrastructure for Alternative Fuels.
- Incremental Costs of Dedicated Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs).
- Education and Outreach Workshops for Petroleum Reduction Fuels and Technologies.

Up to \$6 million is expected to be available, with up to 24 awards anticipated. Responses are due February 27, 2009. For more information, contact Janet Laukaitis at:

[Janet.Laukaitis@NETL.DOE.GOV](mailto:Janet.Laukaitis@NETL.DOE.GOV) or go to: <https://e-center.doe.gov/iips/faopor.nsf/3b3cff0a4a1f243485256ec100490e1a/1a2666e72e53ddbe85257527005b80df?OpenDocument>

Refer to Solicitation #DE-PS26-09NT01236-00.

#### **2) Forest Service Funding for Urban Forestry**

The U.S. Forest Service requests proposals for the 2009 Urban and

Community Forestry Challenge Cost Share Grant Program. This program will support the establishment of sustainable urban and community forestry projects that have a national or widespread impact and application. A total of \$1 million in funds is expected to be available, with up to 12 awards anticipated. The funds will be divided into two main categories:

Innovation Grants and Best Practices Grants.

- Innovation Grants will focus on one of the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council's identified priority areas. One or more grants may be awarded from the \$500,000 available in this category.
- Best Practices Grants are smaller grants intended to improve existing or develop new best practices related to urban forestry. A maximum of \$50,000 per application can be awarded from the \$500,000 available in this category.

Responses are due February 17, 2009. For more information, contact Nancy

Stremple at [nstremple@fs.fed.us](mailto:nstremple@fs.fed.us) or go to: <http://www.fs.fed.us/ucf/nucfac>. Refer to Solicitation #USDA-FS-2009.

### **3) EPA announces 2009 Community Access for a Renewed Environment (CARE)**

#### **Cooperative Agreements**

EPA has published the CARE Request for Proposals. EPA plans to award approximately \$3 million in grants; applications are due by March 16, 2009. CARE offers two different types of Cooperative Agreements: Level 1 and Level 2. These can be thought of as grants and, respectively, amount to approximately \$90,000 and \$275,000.

Level 1 Cooperative Agreements help communities:

- Join together to form a broad-based partnership dedicated to reducing toxics in their local environment. Partners may include non-profit groups, community organizations, businesses, schools, and state, Tribal and local government agencies, EPA, and other Federal Agencies.
- Identify problems and solutions. Working together, this stakeholder group assesses toxics problems in their community and considers options for reducing risks. EPA technical assistance is available to support this process.

Level 2 Cooperative Agreements are for communities that already have established broad-based collaborative partnerships and have completed environmental assessments. (The successful completion of a Level 1 Cooperative Agreement is not required.) Level 2 Cooperative Agreements help communities:

- Implement solutions and reduce risks. The partnership identifies the combination of programs that best meet the community's needs. EPA funding helps to implement these projects, and the community begins improving its environment. Throughout the process the partnership continues to reassess risks and their priorities.
- Become self sustaining. The community now develops new ways to attract funding and partners into their broad-based collaborative to build on its success. New problem assessments are completed and new solutions identified. As a result, the partnership becomes self-sustaining, and continues to improve their environment where community members live work and play.

For more information and for technical assistance go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/CARE/agreements.htm>

### **4) Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Energy Audit Program**

The Energy Audit Program (EAP) provides technical assistance to cities, towns, regional school districts and wastewater/water treatment districts to identify capital improvements that help cut energy costs. Eligible buildings include all municipal structures (schools, fire, libraries, etc) in cities, towns and regional school districts as well as wastewater/water treatment plants if they meet the following criteria: 1) the facility must be owned and occupied by a city, town, regional school district, or wastewater/water treatment districts; 2) there must be no plans to close or dispose of

the building within the next ten years. Additionally, some buildings may be deemed ineligible because planned remodeling or renovation projects will impact potential conservation projects. The maximum dollar value for technical assistance for each city or town is \$75,000 and \$50,000 for regional school and waste water districts. There is no limit on the number of buildings for which each applicant may apply. Applicants are encouraged to include all of their facilities within the application. The technical assistance for buildings in excess of the current funding levels will be placed on a waiting list for additional funds. Only one application is needed to apply for the free energy audit and be placed in queue for EAP grants. Applications will be accepted until April 15, 2009. DOER expects to begin providing technical assistance to this next round of applicants in July, 2009. DOER will rank applicants by a first in, first served basis with assistance based on this queue. If applications exceed available funding, DOER may provide audits and energy grant funding in the following fiscal year, subject to available funding, without requiring new applications. For more information or to receive an application contact:

Scott Durkee, Sustainable Development Coordinator

Department of Energy Resources  
100 Cambridge Street, Room 1020

Boston, MA 02202

Phone: 617-626-7356

Fax: 617-727-0030

Email: [scott.durkee@state.ma.us](mailto:scott.durkee@state.ma.us) or go to:

[http://www.mass.gov/Eoeea/docs/doer/pub\\_info/ea-pon-announce-121108.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/Eoeea/docs/doer/pub_info/ea-pon-announce-121108.pdf)

#### **5) Smart Growth Implementation Assistance**

The Development, Community, and Environment Division in EPA's Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation is seeking applications for technical assistance from communities that want to incorporate smart growth in their future development to meet environmental and other community goals. Eligible entities are tribal, local, regional, and state governments, and nonprofit organizations that have a demonstrated partnership with a governmental entity. Applications are due at 5:00 pm EST, April 23, 2009. EPA has identified some key areas in which communities are likely to benefit from technical assistance:

- Climate change (both mitigation of and adaptation to)
- Green job development
- Corridor redevelopment
- Green building development
- Suburban retrofitting
- Disaster resiliency

Proposals are not limited to requests for technical assistance in only these thematic areas; other topics for assistance are welcome and encouraged, provided they demonstrate cutting-edge challenges and the possibility of replicable solutions. EPA is soliciting applications for assistance with either policy analysis or public participatory processes. The type of work may incorporate policy analysis and review, planning and visioning processes, scorecard/ranking criteria development and assessment, and/or other elements pertinent to the role of the applicant. Selected communities or states will receive assistance in the form of a multi-day visit from a team of experts organized by EPA and other national partners to work with local leaders. EPA plans to assist three to five communities over a period of twelve months. The Agency anticipates announcing the selected communities in fall of 2009. For more information and application materials, visit [http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/2009\\_sgia\\_rfa.htm](http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/2009_sgia_rfa.htm)

### **EVENTS**

#### **1) Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnership (NEEP) Summit**

Please join NEEP on May 27-28 at the Empire State Plaza Convention Center, Albany, NY for 2009 Northeast Energy Efficiency Summit as they address how the Northeast is, and can continue to lead the way for a changing energy policy that puts efficiency first. This two-day program includes:

Workforce Development Workshop  
Municipal Leaders for Energy Efficiency Recognition and Reception  
Full day Exhibition of efficiency services and technologies  
Full day Conference featuring policy and application panels  
Business Leaders for Energy Efficiency Luncheon  
Receive early bird rates by registering today!  
For more information, please go to: <http://www.neep.org/conference/2009/index.html>

## **2) Better Buildings by Design 2009**

Better Building by Design will be held on February 11 & 12 at the Sheraton Conference Center, Burlington, VT. This conference is the region's premier design and construction conference, featuring interactive learning about building durability, efficiency, and value for both residential and commercial projects. For more information go to:  
<http://www.encyvermont.com/pages/Business/BuildingEfficiently/BetterBuildingByDesignConferen/>

## **3) Northern New England Facility Masters Conference**

February 25 - 26, 2009, Winnacunnet Cooperative High School – Hampton, NH  
Career development and professional training for school operations professionals in New Hampshire, Maine, and Vermont. Join your peers from across the tri-state area to learn about trends and innovations in educational operations at this leadership event for school support services professionals! This one and one-half day career development conference features a wide variety of targeted classes specifically for school facility and business professionals.  
Learn from education industry experts in informative classes covering:

- Best Practices in Facilities Management
- Energy Management
- Environmental Issues and Risk Management
- Best Practices in Facilities Planning
- Communication and Leadership Fundamentals
- SchoolDude Services and Product Training

For more information and to register go to: [http://www.k12masters.com/main/page\\_home.html](http://www.k12masters.com/main/page_home.html)

## **4) Stay Warm New Hampshire**

On February 14th StayWarmNH's volunteer winterization program will be targeting 3 communities. To participate in improving the energy efficiency and safety of low-income homes, please email or call Project Director Laura Richardson at [laura.richardson@nh.gov](mailto:laura.richardson@nh.gov) or 603-271-6092. StayWarmNH will provide volunteers with preassembled weatherization kits including 30 energy and safety products, training about the program, and information about the sites in Rochester, Tilton, and Allenstown. More information about the program is available at <http://www.StayWarmNH.org>.

## **TIP OF THE MONTH**

### **1) New London NH Energy Committee Sponsors Natural Landscape Demo**

The New London, NH Energy Committee reports that they will sponsor a Natural Landscape demonstration project at the entrance to the Transfer Station. The goals of the project are to save money and reduce atmospheric carbon by minimizing lawn mowing on the area to the left of the entrance to the Station. Natural vegetation will be encouraged and allowed to go to seed. Then the plot will be mowed once in the fall. As the season progresses, the plot will certainly take on a more shaggy appearance than regularly mowed lawns. The hope is that the beauty of native plants and the benefits of reduced mowing will outweigh whatever visual adjustments are needed. For more information go to: [http://www.nhenergy.org/index.php?title=Town\\_of\\_New\\_London](http://www.nhenergy.org/index.php?title=Town_of_New_London)

Send entries for this update and your tips on Energy Efficiency for municipalities or homeowners to: Linda Darveau at [Darveau.Linda@EPA.GOV](mailto:Darveau.Linda@EPA.GOV), or (617) 918-1718

### **TOOLS / TRAINING**

#### **1) EPA's Clean Energy-Environment Municipal Network Webinars**

The Clean Energy-Environment Municipal Network is kicking off its 2009 webcast trainings. One was held on February 5, 2009 on how local governments can use landfill methane to generate energy.

Future webcast topics may include:

- energy efficiency in affordable housing,
- combined heat and power,
- transportation control measures,
- smart growth,
- urban heat islands.

Priority for registration will be given to local and regional government staff and officials. EPA will record and post all webcasts on its Clean Energy website. For additional information, or to view past webcasts, visit:

<http://epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/webcast.html>

#### **2) ENERGY STAR Webinars**

- **Purchasing ENERGY STAR Products**

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

Starting time: 2:00 pm, Eastern Standard Time (GMT -05:00, New York)

Duration: 1 hour

Presenters: Steve Jurovics

Description: Purchasing products with the ENERGY STAR label can substantially reduce your organization's energy use and costs. This training includes information about EPA support to help your organization purchase products with superior energy performance; guidelines that define energy performance for numerous products; sample procurement language for stipulating energy performance attributes to vendors; lists of ENERGY STAR labeled products; and energy savings software that calculates the life cycle costs of ENERGY STAR products and their less efficient counterparts.

- **Portfolio Manager Benchmarking**

Thursday, February 19, 2009

Starting time: 12:00 pm, Eastern Standard Time (GMT -05:00, New York)

Duration: 1 hour 45 minutes

Presenters: Erin Richmond . This hands-on workshop will walk you through the benchmarking process step-by-step, including creating a user account, identifying data requirements, managing and sharing information, and establishing an energy performance rating. This rating serves as a benchmark to compare the energy performance of your facility against similar ones across the nation. At the end of the training you will have an Energy Performance Rating for your facility. Please bring your building data to the training. If you do not have access to facility data, a sample data set will be provided. Who should participate: Property managers, energy managers, engineers, and organizational leaders interested in learning about energy performance benchmarking.

- **PC Power Management**

Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Starting time: 1:30 pm, Eastern Daylight Time (GMT -04:00, New York)

Duration: 1 hour

Presenters: Robert Huang

Description: PC Power Management: This presentation describes an ENERGY STAR offering that is helping organizations realize substantial energy and financial savings available from computer and monitor power management. This training introduces an innovative software tool that enables monitor power management from a central location, as well as educational outreach material. Organizations utilizing this free software (which may be downloaded from the Web) can save \$10 to \$50 per computer. Who should participate: IT staff, energy managers, building managers, and upper management.

For more information on ENERGY STAR webinars and to register go to:

<https://energystar.webex.com/mw03051/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=energystar>

### **3) Master Energy Program**

The Master Energy Program is a 4-session training program that provides interested homeowners and business owners with practical information on how to save money and the environment with energy efficiency, conservation and renewable energy. This program also covers energy use in the community, from collaborative initiatives in green building and business to the latest information on energy legislation, government incentives and policy. Modeled after the URI Master Gardener program and the URI Master Composter & Recycler program, the Master Energy Program is taught by Robert S. Cerio, who has over 25 years of experience as an energy resource manager.

Dates & Topics:

Monday, Feb. 23, 6-8 PM: Energy 101

Monday, Mar. 2, 6-8 PM: Around the Home I

Monday, Mar. 9, 6-8 PM: Around the Home II

Monday, Mar. 23, 6-8 PM: Energy Legislation & Policy

Fee: \$75; fee includes 4 training sessions and a resource manual

Location: Room 010, Center for Biotechnology & Life Sciences,

University of Rhode Island, Kingston Campus. To Register: Download the registration form at: <http://www.uri.edu/cels/ceoc/documents/masterenergyflyerspring09.pdf>, fill it out, and mail it with your check.

For more information: Please visit our website at <http://www.uri.edu/cels/ceoc/master-energy-training-program.html> or contact Rachel Sholly at [rachel.sholly@gmail.com](mailto:rachel.sholly@gmail.com) or 401-874-5558.

### **4) Special Workshop Offers for MA Municipalities**

BuildingEnergy09 is the longest running renewable energy conference and trade show in the Northeast, known for providing the highest quality content and highest caliber presenters from across the sustainable energy, building and design industries. This year track 2 is all about policy and track 8 focuses on the green workforce, but there is excellent content in every track that would appeal to municipal energy groups. Municipal representatives are eligible for a one day conference registration for \$150 (over 50% off the regular registration price of \$335) or a 2 day pass for \$230 (60% off the regular registration price of \$575). This offer is for the conference sessions on Wednesday, March 11 and Thursday, March 12.

A special Municipal Energy Workshop will be presented by the EPA on Tuesday March 10 from 9:00am-12:00pm, also at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston. The municipal energy workshop is intended for municipal officials, staff and local energy committees representing Massachusetts communities. The afternoon workshop will involve a peer-to-peer review of community energy-related tools such as ENERGY STAR's Portfolio Manager, ICLEI's Clean Air Climate Protection and the Commonwealth of MA's Energy Information System. A facilitated discussion with audience members will follow presentations to help participants explore the applicability of available resources, and, if possible, create networks of user supported groups. The cost for this workshop is \$30 (vs. \$155 for the other half day workshops). Anyone interested in registering for the reduced rates should contact Mary Biddle, at 413-774-6053 by Friday, February 27. For more information on BuildingEnergy09 go to:

<http://www.buildingenergy.nesea.org/>

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All 131 communities in New England Community Energy Challenge program will automatically receive this email unless they indicate that they would like to be removed from the list. All other New England communities that would like to receive it are welcome to subscribe as well (for more information on joining the Challenge please visit: <http://www.epa.gov/region1/eco/energy/energy-challenge.html>.) For additions or deletions from this email list or if you have ideas on information that you would like to see in future monthly updates, please contact Linda Darveau of EPA New England at [Darveau.Linda@epa.gov](mailto:Darveau.Linda@epa.gov) or at (617) 918-1718.