

January 2009 Volume 4

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) **Lawrence, MA and Concord, NH join the EPA Region 1 Community Energy Challenge**
The City of Lawrence, Mass. has distinguished itself as a pioneer in energy efficiency by joining EPA's community energy challenge and creating affordable new energy-efficient homes with a near-zero energy goal. For more information go to:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/6d651d23f5a91b768525735900400c28/e87d737742b9110e8525751b006658c8!OpenDocument>

New Hampshire's capital city has also joined the federal challenge to cut its energy consumption by 10%. Concord Mayor Jim Bouley signed a letter accepting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Community Energy Challenge. City officials say as the economy becomes worse the need to save energy is taking on greater urgency, not only to help the environment but to save money. Concord is the 124th New England community and the 34th in New Hampshire to sign up for the challenge... For more information go to: <http://www.concordmonitor.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20081217/FrontPage/812170304>

2) NH OEP Model Ordinance for Small Wind Energy Systems

The New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning has developed a technical bulletin on Small Energy Systems. The bulletin presents a summary of HB310 and includes a model ordinance to aid communities in drafting regulations that conform to state law. For more information and a copy of the model ordinance go to: <http://www.nh.gov/oep/resourcelibrary/swes/index.htm>

3) 2009 Siemens Sustainable Community Awards Deadline January 30

The deadline for nominations for the 2009 Siemens Sustainable Community Awards is quickly approaching. The awards recognize communities that are setting and working to achieve goals that will improve the standard of living for their residents, while reducing emissions and waste and building a strong business community. One award will be presented in each of three categories; small communities (under 50,000 population), midsize communities (50,000-500,000), and large communities (more than 500,000). Communities can be nominated by any member of an ongoing sustainability initiative, including government officials, chambers of commerce, and local businesses. Nominated communities will be judged on seven criteria in three categories. For more information and a nomination kit go to:

<http://www.uschamber.com/bclc/sustainablecommunity.htm>

Completed nominations are due by January 30 at 5 pm eastern time. The awards will be announced at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Business Civic Leadership Center, National Corporate Community Investment Conference in Chicago, May 3-5, 2009.

ARTICLES

1) Getting New England ready for climate change

"How can a city reduce its greenhouse gas emissions?" Salem State College professor John Hayes posed at his recent presentation on "Climate Change and New England" at a Salem Sound Coastwatch meeting. The city of Salem's Renewable Energy Task Force, of which Hayes is a member, is working on this question as well as promoting renewable energy, conservation and responsible energy use. One goal is to develop a climate action plan and the task force is looking at plans made by Medford, Brookline, Burlington, Vt., and Portland, Ore. For more information on the Salem Renewable Energy Task Force go to: http://www.salem.com/Pages/SalemMA_BComm/energy

2) Wind Farms in New England

Windmills installed by nuns in Wrentham, high school officials in Worcester, and a bank chairman in Canton, MA are highlighted in this article about the popularity and feasibility of wind power in New England. To read the rest of this article go to <http://urbanenergy.blogspot.com/2008/11/higher-power-what-if-some-nuns-in.html>

3) Kittery Schools to be Part of Cool Schools Initiative

One Kittery, Maine School will be the site of the state's first Cool Schools program, and will receive a 1 kilowatt solar panel through a grant from the Maine Energy Investment Corporation and Maine Partners for Cool Communities. The Kittery Cool Team will embark on a four-month campaign, beginning in February, to promote the purchase of renewable energy credits to offset carbon dioxide emissions in town, as well as educate the community on the benefits of clean energy. This effort ties into the New Hampshire Carbon Challenge, which includes an online calculator students can use to determine the carbon footprint of their family, and get tips on how to reduce energy use. For more information on Maine Partners for Cool Communities go to: http://maine.sierraclub.org/cool_cities_maine.htm. To find out more about the Carbon Challenge visit <http://carbonchallenge.sr.unh.edu/>.

EVENTS

1) Connecticut Clean Energy Fund Workshop

The Connecticut Clean Energy Fund is planning a free municipal energy event in Bloomington, CT on Jan 28. The workshop will address climate change challenges at the local level and opportunities in a difficult economy. Representatives from ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) will speak about the Cities for Climate Protection Campaign and discuss what cities, particularly in CT and the Northeast are doing.

EPA staff will talk about the New England Community Energy Challenge and experiences of participants. For additional details, please contact Shubhada Kambli at Kambli.Shubhada@EPA.Gov

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1) Vermont Community Climate Change Program Funds Now Available

The purpose of the Vermont Community Climate Change Grant Program is to promote the implementation of innovative energy efficiency and clean renewable energy solutions by Vermont communities.

Eligible project examples include:

- Energy efficiency improvements in municipal buildings, street lights, and vehicle fleets
- Energy conservation projects in new and existing buildings and in rental markets
- Renewable energy projects, including the purchase and installation of solar thermal and photovoltaic cells on buildings, and construction associated with the production of energy from wind, solar, and biomass, and more.

Grants will be awarded on a competitive basis to applicants meeting the eligibility criteria up to \$12,000 per project. A total of \$360,000 is available in this grant cycle. Grant recipients are eligible for future grant awards on a competitive basis; however, each applicant organization is limited to one grant award per year. Grant applicants are expected to provide a match of 10% of project costs. Application deadline is January 15, 2009, and awards expected to be announced in March 2009. For more information and to apply go to: <http://www.anr.state.vt.us/air/Planning/htm/ClimateChange.htm>

2) Nine Clean Energy Projects Receive \$3 Million in Grants from Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust.

Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs Ian Bowles announced grants supporting nine new renewable energy projects awarded by the Massachusetts Renewable Energy Trust. The next round of \$17 million in funding for the highly successful Commonwealth Solar rebate program which has already led to 4.6 megawatts of renewable energy capacity through rebates awarded to 421 homeowners, businesses, and institutions across Massachusetts was also authorized, the Secretary said. There are many ways to put clean energy to work in homes, offices, businesses, and communities, and Governor Patrick wants the Commonwealth to capitalize on all of them, for economic as well as environmental benefits," said Secretary Bowles. "These nine grants will help build wind turbines, increase hydro power, and install fuel cells, while the next round of funding for Commonwealth Solar will put solar panels on homes and businesses." For more information go to:

http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=eoeceapressrelease&L=1&L0=Home&sid=Eoecea&b=pressrelease&f=081216_pr_mret&csid=Eoecea

3) Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) Grant Applications now Available.

Around \$3 million will be available in 2009 to support community-based partnerships to reduce pollution at the local level through the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program.

Applications for the CARE grants are due March 16, 2009. Eligible applicants include county and local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations and universities. EPA will conduct three conference calls, Feb. 3, 24 and 27, for prospective applicants to ask questions about the application process.

Additional information about the CARE program, previous cooperative agreement recipients, and applying for the 2009 grants is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/care>

To register for the upcoming CARE Internet Seminars for the above dates, please go to:

<http://www.epa.gov/CARE/agreements.htm#rfpqa> for more information please contact:

Amy Braz at EJ Coordinator, EPA Region 1, at Braz.Amy@epa.gov or (617) 918-1346

4) Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Energy Audit Program

The Department of Energy Resources (DOER) is accepting 2nd round applications for the Energy Audit Program (EAP) until April 15, 2009. This program, through the use of energy audits and clean technology feasibility studies, is designed to assist to cities, towns, regional school districts and waste water districts to identify capital improvements that help cut energy costs. Once applications are received, DOER will review applications, place them in a queue based on date received and assign auditors to conduct Preliminary Audits on a first in-first served basis. Audits are available for all facilities (schools, fire,

libraries, etc) owned and operated by a City, Town, Regional School District as well as facilities owned and operated by a municipal or district Wastewater/Water Treatment Department. The deadline for applications is April 19, 2009. For more information contact Scott Durkee, MA Department of Energy Resources, at (617) 626-7356, or go to: http://www.mass.gov/Eoeea/docs/doer/pub_info/eap-solicitation-12112008.pdf

TIP OF THE MONTH

The Melrose, MA Energy Commission has developed a Home Energy Kit that can be borrowed from the Melrose Public Library. The kit contains a Kill A Watt Meter that can measure the wattage of any appliance and be used to make informed decisions on energy use, as well as literature on energy efficiency and recycling. For more information on how to develop a Home Energy Kit for your Library visit: <http://www.cityofmelrose.org/departments/mec.htm>. Send entries for this update and your tips on Energy Efficiency for municipalities or homeowners to: Linda Darveau at Darveau.Linda@EPA.GOV, or (617) 918-1718

TOOLS/TRAINING

1) New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPC) Training: Benchmarking Costs and Identifying Energy Savings at Water & Waste Water Treatment Plants

On January 13, NEIWPC is holding a training course in Haverhill, Massachusetts that will cover the identification of unit processes with high horsepower requirements, methods for reading an energy bill and understanding the rate charges, and the use of the Pump System Assessment Tool (PSAT) and Energy Star software products. The MA DEP and MA Department of Energy Management's Pilot Program for Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants will also be discussed. All participants are encouraged to bring copies of their plant's electrical bills. This course is limited to 22 students, all of whom will be provided with a computer workstation. This course is approved for 6 TCH for MA Drinking Water Certification. For more information and to register, go to: <http://www.neiwpc.org/training/schedule-details.asp?ID=173>

2) Free Energy Star Web Ex Trainings:

- **Purchasing and Procuring Energy Efficient Equipment : January 13, 2:00-3:00 PM**

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. Certificates of Participation are available upon request for individuals wishing to pursue continuing education credits (CEUs). EPA and DOE make no guarantee that this course is eligible for CEUs. Please contact your accrediting organization to determine eligibility. To register go to:

<https://energystar.webex.com/mw03051/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=energystar&service=7>

- **PC Power Management: January 20, 1:30-2:30 PM**

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. To register go to:

<https://energystar.webex.com/mw03051/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=energystar&service=7>

All 124 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 or at (617) 918-1718.