

July 2009 Volume 9

## 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 the Newest Members of the Community Energy Challenge**

EPA New England welcomes the communities of Lee, New Hampshire; and Ashford, Simsbury and Farmington, 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. With these additions, there are 146 CEC members. Welcome!

### **2) Governor Douglas Announces Energy Grant to Fund Solar Project at Farm Way in Bradford**

Vermont Governor Jim Douglas announced that Farm Way has received a grant through the Clean Energy Development Fund (CEDF) to construct solar panels at their Bradford store. A computer panel inside the store displays real-time information on how much electricity the solar panels are producing, so the visitors who come from far and wide can learn about the technology, and how Farm Way is greening its carbon footprint while they shop. The system is generating 77,000 kW annually which helps the store avoid sending 76,000 pounds of carbon dioxide into the air annually.

This is just one of the many important projects that the CEDF has been responsible for. Since its inception in 2005, the CEDF has funded 84 projects with \$2.2 million of low interest loans and \$13.2 million in grants resulting in 9.6 Megawatts of renewable capacity. For more information go to:

<http://www.vermontbiz.com/news/june/bradfords-farm-way-gets-226000-grant-solar-project>

### **3) EPA Issues Clean Energy Guidebook to Help States Save Money, Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

EPA has released a first-of-its-kind guide to help states save money and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by adopting clean energy practices in their facilities, operations and vehicle fleets.

States spend about 10 percent of their operating budgets on energy bills, yet these costs can be greatly reduced by implementing well-designed energy management and greenhouse gas reduction programs. For example, in New York, where a 2001 executive order directed state agencies to reduce energy consumption by 35 percent by 2010 relative to 1990 levels, the state saved \$54.4 million in energy costs from energy efficiency improvements between fiscal years 2001-2002 and 2003-2004.

EPA's Clean Energy Lead by Example Guide helps states identify key strategies, resources and tools best-suited to their energy needs. Each strategy has been tested and is proven to be cost effective. The guide was created as part of EPA's State Climate and Clean Energy Program, which assists states in developing and implementing clean energy policies and climate change solutions.

To download the guide and find out more about the program go to: <http://epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/index.html>

### **4) Connecticut Awarded \$15.4 Million on June 24 by U.S. Department of Energy**

DOE Secretary Steven Chu announced more than \$204 million in Recovery Act funding to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in ten states. Under DOE's State Energy Program (SEP), states have proposed statewide plans that prioritize energy savings, create or retain jobs, increase the use of renewable energy, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Connecticut will use its SEP funding to create or protect jobs and save energy with several projects, including in-home energy audits and the deployment of a variety of technologies, such as alternative-fuel vehicles. In one project, Recovery Act funds will enable more residents to take advantage of inexpensive in-home energy audits designed to reduce energy bills and encourage energy efficiency. For each home, a specialist will perform an energy assessment, find and professionally seal critical leaks and drafts, replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps, provide and install water conservation devices, and check insulation and appliances.

The state will also use funding to support four Clean Cities coalitions—Greater New Haven, Clean Cities of Southwestern Connecticut, Norwich Clean Cities and Capital Clean Cities—to support their efforts to facilitate the adoption of alternate fuels and petroleum-reducing technologies in Connecticut.

After demonstrating successful implementation of its plan, the state will receive an additional \$19 million, for a total of \$38 million. For more information go to:

[http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress\\_alerts.cfm/pa\\_id=190](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=190)

### **5) An Act Regarding Maine's Energy Future**

On June 12, 2009, Governor Baldacci signed into law *An Act Regarding Maine's Energy Future* (LD 1485), putting Maine on a path to reduce statewide heating oil consumption 20% by 2020. The bill is enacted with an emergency provision so that it will take effect immediately upon passage.

The legislation establishes the new, independent Efficiency Maine Trust (Trust) for the purpose of administering programs for energy efficiency and alternative energy resources to help individuals and businesses in Maine “meet their energy needs at the lowest cost.” On July 1, 2010, the existing Efficiency Maine programs will be moved out of the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and merged with the existing Energy and Carbon Savings Trust programs. The new Trust will be governed by an independent, 9-member board representing diverse state agencies, customer classes, and environmental interests and is subject to oversight by the PUC.

The Trust is directed to develop a 3-year plan providing integrated planning, program design and implementation strategies for all energy efficiency and alternative energy resources programs in the state, for all customer classes, for all fuels, except that Maine State Housing Authority’s energy programs are exempted from coverage by the plan. The plan should be designed to advance enumerated “targets,” including:

- weatherizing 100% of Maine residences and 50% of Maine businesses by 2030,
- achieving energy savings of at least 30% of electric consumption, 30% of natural gas consumption, and 20% heating fuels consumption by 2020,
- capturing all cost-effective energy efficiency resources available for electric and natural gas utility ratepayers, and
- reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the heating and cooling of buildings in Maine consistent with the statewide goals of reducing such emissions least 10% below 1990 levels by 2020 and ultimately 75-85% below 2003 levels.

A novel feature of the law directs the trust to design programs that will address both electric *and* thermal energy needs of customers at the same time, through an integrated set of programs. Both energy efficiency and alternative energy options are eligible for funding from these programs, so long as they meet tests for “cost-effectiveness.” For a summary of the bill go to:

[http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/documents/ENE\\_Summary\\_MaineEnergyFuture\\_Act.pdf](http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/documents/ENE_Summary_MaineEnergyFuture_Act.pdf)

### **ARTICLES**

#### ***1) Greenhouse Gases And The American Lifestyle: Understanding Interstate Differences In Emissions***

A new study highlights the wide differences between the states in the United States in terms of their greenhouse gas output, with some states nearing European efficiency levels while others have per capita emissions far beyond the national average.

The gap between high-emission and low-emission states is huge, with large per capita emitters pumping out more than six times the amount of greenhouse gases per person that states on the low end produce, say the authors of the new study, "Greenhouse Gases and the American Lifestyle."

Varying levels tend to correlate with energy production, population density, relative access to public transportation, and even how much states tax gasoline sales, according to the authors of the study, two Tufts University economists and the director of Economics for Equity and the Environment: E3 Network.

The economists say six states -- Vermont, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, California and Washington -- have per capita emissions levels from energy consumption that are roughly half the national average of 21 tons of CO2 equivalent, with residents in these states enjoying "a U.S. lifestyle with European levels of greenhouse gas emissions." The report says the emission rates from energy in these six coastal states put them on par with Denmark, Germany, Belgium and Japan.

For the complete article go to: [http://www.e3network.org/papers/NRDC\\_state\\_emissions\\_report.pdf](http://www.e3network.org/papers/NRDC_state_emissions_report.pdf)

**2) *Employee Personal Appliances Circumvent Energy-Efficiency Efforts***

While many companies and organizations have gone to great lengths to minimize energy consumption in primary facility systems (HVAC, lighting, kitchen appliances, and so on), personal appliances brought into the facility by employees are defeating these efficiency efforts. The typical power rating and annual energy consumption in an office environment for each of these appliances is shown in the following table:

Appliance	Average Power (Watts)	Annual Operating Hours	Annual Energy (kWh)
Space Heater	1,500	500	750
Mini-fridge (3 cu ft ENERGY STAR)	150	Year-round	320
Microwave	1,000	125	125
Portable Fan	180	500	90
Coffee Pot/Warmer	300	250	75

Annual Energy (kWh) = Power (kW) x Hours

How much does it cost to operate these personal appliances per year? Assuming an electricity rate of \$0.10/kWh and a total annual energy consumption of 1,360 kWh, it would cost \$136 per room or cubicle. If you assume a school has 20 instances of this per building and has 7 buildings in its district, the cost would be over \$19,000 per year!

For the complete article go to:

<http://members.questline.com/Article.aspx?userID=1263959&articleID=11292&NL=6386>

**3) *The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) can help schools achieve efficiency.***

As school boards and superintendents develop programs to utilize recent U.S. economic recovery stimulus funds, projects focused on improving energy efficiency can result in long-term savings for school districts.

Guidance from The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) can help schools earn an A+ in achieving that efficiency.

ASHRAE and other leading building industry organizations have developed the Advanced Energy Design Guide for K-12 School Buildings. The guide provides recommendations for achieving 30 percent energy savings over the minimum code requirements of ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-1999. Estimates show that a full 16 percent of schools districts' controllable costs are spent on energy.

The recommendations in the guide allow those involved in designing or constructing school buildings to easily achieve advanced levels of energy savings without having to resort to detailed calculations or analysis. All of the energy-saving recommendations for each of the eight U.S. climate zones are summarized in a single table.

Additional recommendations point to other opportunities to incorporate greater savings into the design of the building.

More than 14,000 free copies of the Advanced Energy Design Guide for K-12 School Buildings were sent to school systems in the United States last spring.

Copies of the Advanced Energy Design Guide for K-12 School Buildings are available for free download at <http://www.ashrae.org/publications/page/1604> or print copies may be ordered from the ASHRAE Bookstore at <http://www.ashrae.org/>

ASHRAE, founded in 1894, is an international organization of some 50,000 persons. ASHRAE fulfills its mission of advancing heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration to serve humanity and promote a sustainable world through research, standards writing, publishing and continuing education. For more information go to:

<http://www.schoolfacilities.com/coreModules/content/contentDisplay.aspx?contentID=3178>

#### ***4) Vermont Community Energy Mobilization Project***

Almost 500 homeowners in Vermont received energy-saving tips and devices with a personal touch through Efficiency Vermont's Community Energy Mobilization Project pilot program, according to organizer Paul Markowitz.

The program worked with local volunteers to both deliver and receive its message. A team of local residents in participating communities were trained to offer some simple energy efficiency tips and to install some small items like efficient bulbs and foam covers for water pipes.

Homeowners in those communities were given a chance to have a visit by the volunteers, who would then install the items and have a conversation with the residents.

With Efficiency Vermont donating materials, the volunteers were also able to install equipment like low-flow shower heads, faucet aerators and compact fluorescent light bulbs. For more information go to:

[http://www.encyvermont.com/pages/Residential/Home\\_Heating/VermontCommunityEnergyMobiliza/](http://www.encyvermont.com/pages/Residential/Home_Heating/VermontCommunityEnergyMobiliza/)

#### ***5) University of New Hampshire uses garbage to go green***

Colleges are going green all over New England by installing solar arrays to illuminate campus paths to starting grassroots groups to pressure politicians to pass carbon limiting laws. There is even an effort to make students take shorter showers to save on heating hot water.

But few are doing as much as the University of New Hampshire. The five million square foot campus is now getting up to 85 percent of its electricity and heat from a nearby landfill's methane gas. It is the first university in the country to use landfill gas as its main fuel source.

Called Ecoline, the project gets its methane from a landfill at Waste Management's Turnkey Recycling and Environmental Enterprise in Rochester. Methane is a natural by-product of decaying waste and is collected via 300 extraction wells and miles of collection pipes.

The University of New Hampshire's EcoLine™ is a landfill gas-to-energy project that will use purified methane gas from a Waste Management landfill as the campus's main energy source. After the gas is purified and compressed, it travels through a 12.7 mile pipeline to UNH's power plant where it is replacing commercial natural gas.

The project cost \$49 million but some of that will be returned by selling excess power back into the region's electricity grid and selling renewable energy certificates to other companies.

UNH has pledged to lower its greenhouse gas emissions 50 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2080. For the complete article go to:

[http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/green/greenblog/2009/06/unh\\_uses\\_garbage\\_to\\_go\\_green\\_1.html](http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/green/greenblog/2009/06/unh_uses_garbage_to_go_green_1.html)

## **EVENTS**

### **1) Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Workforce Education: A National Conference for Educators and Trainers**

The organizers of the third national conference on New Ideas in Educating a Workforce in Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency are pleased to announce that the preliminary program is now available.

This workforce education conference will take place on November 18-20, 2009 at the Marriott Hotel in Albany, New York. Conference sessions are planned for November 19 and 20. On Wednesday, November 18, six technical workshops will be offered.

With over 60 speakers, this event will offer the most current information on instructional strategies, curricula development, and best practices for training in the renewable energy and energy efficiency fields.

Twenty sessions will cover the latest information on job forecasts and labor profiles, state and federal workforce initiatives, career pathways, training partnerships, model curriculum, standards, and new approaches to training in this rapidly emerging green economy.

Speakers from all corners of the United States will be representing community colleges, training organizations, skill centers, workforce development programs, technical high schools, state and federal government agencies, industry and credentialing bodies.

To view the preliminary program and to register go to:

[http://www.meetmax.com/sched/mie1109/~public/conference\\_home.html?event\\_id=3120](http://www.meetmax.com/sched/mie1109/~public/conference_home.html?event_id=3120)

### **2) Photovoltaics - System Design and Installation for Electricians**

Where: NH Audubon's McLane Center

3 Silk Farm Rd, Concord, NH

Date: Saturday, July 25th, 2009

Time: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Join New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association (NHSEA) for a full-day hands-on workshop for licensed electricians. For more information about this event please contact:

Madeline McElaney, 603-226-4732, [madeline@nhsea.org](mailto:madeline@nhsea.org) or go to: [http://www.nhsea.org/event-calendar/events\\_detail.php?cal\\_id=1216](http://www.nhsea.org/event-calendar/events_detail.php?cal_id=1216)

### **3) The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Presents: Energizing Your Classroom**

August 19, 2009

8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center

181 Boston Post Road West

Marlborough, MA

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources, NGRID, NSTAR, NUS, the Cape Light Compact and NEED have partnered to provide teachers statewide with curriculum and resources at the upcoming Massachusetts Energy Workshop for Teachers to be held August 19, 2009 at B.W. Royal Plaza Hotel & Trade Center, 181 Boston Post Road West, in Marlborough.

This workshop presents a unique opportunity for classroom teachers (K-12) to learn about energy in a fun and exciting way!

Register online by August 10, 2009 at <http://www.regonline.com/builder/site/Default.aspx?eventid=746676>

Confirmation and additional information will be sent via email after registration. Please make sure your email will allow email from need.org.

Questions? Contact conference organizers at 1-800-875-5029 or via fax 1-800-847-1820, or by e-mail at [info@need.org](mailto:info@need.org)

#### **4) Lighting for High Performance and LEED Buildings**

Date: July 17, 2009

Time: 8:00 am - 12:00 noon

Location: The McLane Center, Audubon Society

3 Silk Farm Road, Concord, NH 03301

Price: \$95.00

Registration deadline: July 9th.

Details: The Jordan Institute and AIANH are happy to bring you another session in its series of high performance and LEED building workshops. Peter Romaniello, LC will lead this training on lighting.

As designers, we have a variety of choices to make concerning technologies that allow our projects to be as energy efficient as possible. LED and CFL technology changes and improvements have been frequent, but are they being developed and used sensibly? Do we jump to use LED and CFL fixtures because they are the "in" thing without considering all of the possible negative results? Having a good grasp on energy efficiency in design has more to do with using common sense and balancing the use of appropriate technology than it does with typical thoughts such as watts per square foot and being "green." Good design practice is never excessive, especially when it comes to lighting design.

During this seminar, we will be able to review and evaluate LED and CFL fixtures, see them perform, and consider them in "typical" lighting applications. Commercial and residential applications will be analyzed and compared to "traditional" incandescent and halogen approaches.

High performance architecture needs collaborators who understand all the "lighting machine" components that contribute to a successful project. This high efficiency lighting workshop will build upon a review of fundamentals, providing knowledge of each of the component parts and how they interface with the whole. Project examples, working demonstrations, tools for measuring luminance and illuminated samples will be used to communicate concepts. For more information or to register go to:

<http://guest.event.com/EVENTS/Info/Summary.aspx?i=8011ee8e-fc10-445c-8ce4-77cbcdf46a6>

#### **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

##### **1) \$10M in EPA Grants Available to Develop Local and Tribal Government "Climate Showcase Communities"**

EPA is announcing the availability of up to \$10 million in "Climate Showcase Communities" grants for local and tribal governments to establish and implement climate change initiatives. The Agency expects to award approximately 30 cooperative agreements ranging from approximately \$100,000 to \$500,000. Approximately 5 percent of the funds (\$500,000) are set aside for tribal governments.

EPA requests proposals that create replicable models of sustainable community action; generate cost-effective and persistent greenhouse gas reductions; and improve the environmental, economic, public health, or social conditions in a community.

Eligibility for the program includes local governments (a county, municipality, city, town, township, local public authority, school district, special district, intrastate district, council of governments, any other regional or interstate government entity, or any agency or instrumentality of a local government), federally recognized Indian tribal governments, and inter-tribal consortia. A 50 percent cost-match or cost-share is required for this program with the exception of tribal governments and intertribal consortia, which are exempt from matching requirements.

Proposals are due by July 22, 2009, at 4 p.m. EDT. An optional notice of intent to apply is requested by July 1, 2009. Awards are expected in January 2010 and may run through January 2013.

The Climate Showcase Communities grant program is administered by EPA's Local Climate and Energy Program, an initiative to assist local and tribal governments to identify, implement, and track policies and programs that reduce greenhouse gas emissions within their operations and surrounding communities. Over the course of the grant program, EPA will offer peer exchange, trainings, and technical support to grant recipients, and share lessons learned with communities across the nation

More information on the grant program is available at:

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

### **TIP OF THE MONTH**

#### **1) Rye, New Hampshire Making the Connection Between Energy and Local Foods**

In collaboration with the Rye Public Library, the Rye Energy Committee has organized a local foods program, inviting residents to plant summer vegetable gardens. This project will reduce GHG emissions by eliminating the need for transporting produce over long distances and the use of manufactured chemicals to farm on large scales.

Rye will continue its commitment to local artists to paint or photograph the gardens from June 15 through September 10th. A gala opening and exhibit of the works will be held at the library on October 1st.

For more information please visit the committee's website at

[http://web.me.com/ojgrote/Rye\\_Energy\\_Committee/Rye\\_Eats\\_Local/Rye\\_Eats\\_Local.html](http://web.me.com/ojgrote/Rye_Energy_Committee/Rye_Eats_Local/Rye_Eats_Local.html):

### **TOOLS/TRAINING**

#### **1) ICLEI Releases Climate Protection Toolkit for Small Communities**

ICLEI—Local Governments for Sustainability has released a free resource to help communities with 25,000 people or fewer launch and maintain climate, energy, and sustainability initiatives. ICLEI's Small Communities Toolkit provides detailed resources, case studies, and insight to help small communities succeed despite limitations of staff and funding.

The toolkit also helps smaller communities understand how to take advantage of their significant opportunities. For example, in a small, close-knit community, a local government can more easily influence community members to make individual changes to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. With this toolkit in hand, small communities can become empowered to reach their goals.

The toolkit is organized into the following sections:

- Getting Started
- Education and Outreach
- Community Engagement
- Developing Partnerships
- Ordinances and Policies
- Financial Resources
- Planning Resources
- Additional Resources
- Case Studies

To use the toolkit, please visit: <http://www.icleiusa.org/action-center/learn-from-others/small-communities-toolkit>

#### **2) Small Town Carbon Calculator (STOCC) Your Local Tool to Inventory Energy Use and Greenhouse Gas Emissions.**

Creating a greenhouse gas and energy inventory will be simpler with the STOCC calculator, developed to serve the needs of small towns addressing the growing costs of municipal energy use and emissions. By using

STOCC, you can help your town understand and assess where you spend the most money on energy as well as the sources of the majority of your greenhouse gas emissions.

The STOCC and supporting documents are available for download on the Clean Air-Cool Planet website at: [http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for\\_communities/stocc.php](http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for_communities/stocc.php)

### **3) Energy Committee Handbooks**

New Hampshire Handbook on Energy Efficiency and Climate Change - This handbook helps to meet the immediate needs of the energy committees that are forming around the state.

- Volume I: This guide gives New Hampshire citizens a brief introduction on how to help mitigate climate change at the local level. Community-scale activities such as energy benchmarking and efficiency upgrades will not only reduce your town's fossil fuel emissions and fuel-related costs; they will also make an important public statement about your values and priorities. This guide is based on a Handbook that was created by Clay Mitchell, Julia Dundorf, and Wes Golomb. Download Volume I of the NH Handbook on Energy Efficiency and Climate Change here. [http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for\\_communities/documents/Handbook\\_Energy\\_Efficiency\\_Voll.pdf](http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for_communities/documents/Handbook_Energy_Efficiency_Voll.pdf)
- Volume II: This volume is provided to help local governments and energy committees or commissions measure and manage their energy consumption. Volume II explains how to obtain your energy data, what tools and software exist, and includes a chapter focused on financial resources available to communities. Download Volume II here. [http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for\\_communities/documents/Handbook\\_Energy\\_Efficiency\\_V2.pdf](http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/for_communities/documents/Handbook_Energy_Efficiency_V2.pdf)

### **5) The Climate Registry Reporter: Solving Climate Change Together**

The Climate Registry has adopted the Local Government Operations (LGO) Protocol, a comprehensive reporting protocol that can be used as a stand-alone document by local governments for consistent and rigorous greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reporting. By utilizing the protocol, local governments can create emissions inventories that meet the highest standards of reporting and are comparable with other local government emissions inventories. For more on the LGO Protocol, please visit The Registry website at:

<http://www.theclimateregistry.org/resources/protocols/local-government-operations-protocol/>

The Registry invites members in the local government sector to upcoming webinars about the LGO protocol:

- Monday, July 27, 2009 1:00-2:30 EDT. To register go to: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/574953299>
- Wednesday, August 12, 2009 1:30-3:00 PM EDT. To register go to: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/register/379585051>

### **6) Benchmarking in Portfolio Manager for Local and State Governments**

Date: Tuesday, July 14, 2009

Time: 1:00PM

This session will review EPA's online energy management tool, Portfolio Manager, which allows you track the progress of energy efficiency efforts and compare the energy use of your buildings to peer buildings across the country. Attendees will learn how to measure and track energy use and carbon dioxide emission reductions to establish baseline energy use, prioritize investments, set goals, and track improvements over time.

For more information and to register for this webinar go to:

<https://energystar.webex.com/mw03051/mywebex/default.do?siteurl=energystar&service=7%20>

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All 146 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.