

June 2009 Volume 8

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 **Plainfield, NH; Coventry, CT; and Chelmsford and Norfolk, MA** as 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 142 CEC members. Welcome!

3) Launch of New Build Green NH Website: A Resource for Consumers and the Building Industry

The newly opened web site has resources for consumers and builders interested in the new National Green Building Standard for single-family homes, apartments and condos, residential remodeling and renovations. The incentives page is particularly helpful. For more information go to: <http://www.buildgreennh.com/>

4) eBill Program for Central Maine Power Companies

Central Maine Power (CMP) is encouraging members to sign up for their new eBill program. To learn more about the program, or to see if an opportunity exists for someone from CMP to speak to your community about how this effort can help you meet your emissions reduction goals, contact John Hastings at John.Hastings@cmpco.com. For more information on the eBill program go to: <http://www.cmpco.com/>

5) LEED 2009, the new version of the LEED Green Building Rating System released

The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) has released the LEED regional credits as part of LEED 2009, the new version of the LEED Green Building Rating System. These LEED credits encourage that specific regional environmental priorities be addressed when it comes to the design, construction and operations of buildings in different geographic locations.

LEED 2009 is one of the three major components that make up LEED Version 3, the next version of the LEED green building certification program, launching April 27, 2009. Changes to the LEED rating system reflect the rapid advancements in building science and technology and provides incentives for strategies that have greater positive impacts on energy efficiency and CO2 emissions reductions, among other priorities. For more information go to: <http://www.usgbc.org/Docs/News/Regional%20Priority%20Credits.pdf>

6) Recovery Act Announcement: Secretary Chu, Governor Patrick Announce \$25 Million for Massachusetts Wind Technology Testing Center

U.S. Energy Secretary Steven Chu and Governor Deval Patrick announced the Department of Energy's intent to award Massachusetts \$25 million in funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to accelerate development of the state's Wind Technology Testing Center and create hundreds of new jobs in the area. The new center will test commercial-sized wind turbine blades to help reduce cost, improve technical advancements, and speed deployment of the next generation of wind turbine blades into the marketplace. State Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles joined Secretary Chu and Governor Patrick for the announcement at the Autoport in Charlestown, the eventual site of testing center. For more information go to: http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts.cfm/pa_id=171

ARTICLES

1) Middle school state finalists named in green community competition

Twenty-two teams of U.S. middle school students have been named state finalists in the inaugural Siemens We Can Change the World Challenge, in which the students were asked to "go green" by creating and implementing environmental change in their local communities. Two national winning teams and one grand prize-winning team were chosen and announced on May 18. State finalists from New England include:

Greenwich, Connecticut: Convent of the Sacred Heart

Norwood, Massachusetts: South Area Solomon Schechter Day School

For more information go to:

<http://www.greenrightnow.com/ozarksfirst/2009/05/05/middle-school-state-finalists-named-in-green-community-competition/>

2) New England Colleges and Universities recognized in EPA Green Power Challenge

On May 6, EPA New England announced the results of EPA's 2008-2009 College & University Green Power Challenge. Highlights for New England schools include:

- Harvard University bought a total of more than 225 million kilowatt-hours of green power, the equivalent in carbon dioxide emissions reductions to taking nearly 30,000 vehicles off the road.
- Yale University's School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, which purchased 1.2 million kWh or 47 percent of its power from green sources.

Two schools buying 100% of their electricity needs through green power were:

- Colby College in Waterville, Maine bought 15.98 million kWh. Colby is committed to buying all of its electricity from renewable resources
- Southern New Hampshire University bought 12 million kWh

Additionally:

- University of Southern Maine, which purchased more than a million kWh, representing about 7 percent of its electricity consumption
- Connecticut College, which purchased 15 million kWh, representing all of its electricity consumption
- Bowdoin College, which purchased 12.6 million kWh, 66 percent of its electricity consumption
- Middlebury, which purchased 2.2 million kWh, 10 percent of its electricity consumption.
- University of Massachusetts/Lowell, which purchased 4 million kWh, or 13 percent of its electricity consumption.

For more information on EPA's College and University Green Power Challenge go to:

http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/initiatives/cu_challenge.htm

3) City of Concord takes the New Hampshire Carbon Challenge

As part of the Earth Day activities, the Concord Energy and Environment Committee launched the city into the Concord Carbon Challenge. Making a difference in the face of global environmental challenges and climate change often seems overwhelming, but simple changes in our everyday lives can make a significant difference - both in saving money through increased energy efficiency and in reducing our carbon dioxide emissions. The Carbon Challenge will help focus our efforts on making these changes. Suggestions included:

- Simple lifestyle changes such as replacing the five most used lights with CFL bulbs can save \$70 per year and reduce CO2 emissions by 600 pounds.
- Putting all electronic devices on a power strip will save \$60 per year and 500 pounds of CO2 emissions.

The average New Hampshire household produces 41,000 pounds of CO2 per year. By taking the Concord Carbon Challenge, residents could reduce their carbon footprint by up to 10,000 pounds annually, or 25 percent! Individual actions are magnified by community action. The Concord Energy and Environment Committee challenges you to become involved in the New Hampshire Carbon Challenge, a web-based initiative of the University of New Hampshire committed to providing residents and businesses with the tools and support necessary to enable households to make real and measurable changes in energy consumption and reductions in carbon dioxide emissions.

To take the Concord Carbon Challenge, collect your household energy data and log on to <http://carbonchallenge.sr.unh.edu/>. Click on "Take the Challenge," and the carbon estimator will appear. Enter your information and select those actions you'd like to take to improve energy use. You will be e-mailed a customized report. It only takes about 20 minutes to take the Carbon Challenge - and the average household will save \$800 in energy costs and 16 percent of energy use annually, a terrific return on time invested.

The unique feature of the Concord Carbon challenge is the competition by city ward. Concord residents who take the Carbon Challenge will be directed to select their voting ward, and all 10 wards will have an opportunity to compete for the best participation rate by percentage of population over the next six months. When the Concord Carbon Challenge wraps up in October, prizes will be awarded to the top performing wards. We will also be measuring ourselves against other New Hampshire communities, and we want a strong showing for the capitol city! (Reprinted with permission of Concord City Councilor Rob Werner, Chair, Concord Energy and Environment Committee.)

4) New York City proposes ENERGY STAR legislation (a model others could follow...)

On April 22, 2009, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg proposed legislation related to commercial building energy efficiency that would require all privately owned buildings on tax lots with more than 50,000 gross square feet of built area and all municipal buildings greater than 10,000 gross square feet to benchmark annually with EPA's building energy benchmarking tool, Portfolio Manager. Other items proposed in the package include creating a New York City Energy Code that existing buildings will have to meet whenever they make renovations; requiring buildings of 50,000 square feet or more to conduct an energy audit once every 10 years and make any improvements that pay for themselves within five years; and requiring commercial buildings of 50,000 square feet or more to upgrade their lighting to more energy-efficient systems that pay for themselves through energy savings.

Hearings on the entire legislative package are expected to be held in June 2009. A summary of the benchmarking bill is available at: http://www.nysar.com/476a_benchmarking_legislation_summary.pdf

5) Seattle's Green Building Capital Initiative (another model...)

On April 22, 2009, Seattle Mayor Gregory Nickels announced Seattle's Green Building Capital Initiative, a suite of policies that represent the culmination of the city's year-long Green Building Task Force effort. Included in the package is benchmarking legislation that would require mandatory energy performance disclosure in the commercial building sector using EPA's building energy benchmarking tool, Portfolio Manager. Other items proposed in the package include residential home energy audit discounts, funded through a partnership with Puget Sound Energy and Seattle City Light; a loan program for residential home improvements; increased energy efficiency requirements for new buildings; and expanded training programs for auditors and other energy-efficiency technicians. The policies are scheduled to be introduced to Seattle City Council in spring 2009. For more information, visit <http://www.seattle.gov/environment/GBTaskforce.htm>

6) Marshfield, MA demand side management project

NStar, like other utilities, is confronting soaring demand for energy and has launched an aggressive effort in one little seaside town to find ways to ease that pressure, doling out money for solar panels, "smart" thermostats and energy audits to cut power usage by 8 percent during peak hours. If it fails, it may be forced to spend millions upgrading substations. As part of its two-year project, NStar helps residents of Marshfield, MA purchase solar panels, offers free energy audits and installs "smart" thermostats that the utility can remotely control and rein in air conditioner use.

So far, NStar has completed more than 800 energy audits and placed solar panels at five commercial buildings and 27 homes. That's four times more than any other community in NStar's service area in the eastern half of Massachusetts in 2008, despite Marshfield's small size. NStar has also installed "smart" thermostats for free in 240 homes and 80 businesses.

Other utility companies have cut deals with business owners who let them put solar panels on their roofs. Utilities have also signed agreements with residents who voluntarily allow them to regulate air conditioners during certain hours of the day. If demand falls in Marshfield, the utility can expand the program, said NStar spokesman Michael Durand. The "Marshfield Energy Challenge" was launched in April last year by NStar and its partner, the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative, the state's economic development agency for renewable energy, which is splitting the project's \$4 million cost.

For more information go to:

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/ap/article/ALeqM5ibdO4YcdX4wMzGxjh4-A51fGFgLgD986TP7G2>

EVENTS

1) Local Energy Solutions 2009: June 20, 2009 at the Grappone Center in Concord, NH

This day-long conference for Local Energy Committee members and interested citizens will include examples of projects and provide participants with tools for action aimed at empowering local energy committees. The agenda includes presentations from state agencies, energy committee volunteers, utilities and NGOs.

Keynote Speaker will be Senator Jeanne Shaheen, member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy, U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, and U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations

Senator Shaheen's attendance on June 20 will spotlight local energy solutions in a very big way, and she will bring back to Washington a vivid picture of New Hampshire people working in their communities and municipalities to reduce energy costs and polluting greenhouse gas emissions. Putting stimulus funds and RGGI funds to good work depends a great deal on people prepared on the ground. Don't miss this opportunity to be one of those people!

Please visit <http://carboncoalition.org/Conference/> for more information and to register.

2) ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager for Wastewater Treatment Facilities, June 16 in New Haven, CT from 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

This workshop will provide interactive instruction on entering energy use information into the ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager tool. This is a free online software tool designed to help facilities manage and track their energy use.

Participants should bring one or more years of energy use data (electric, oil, natural gas, propane, etc.) and be prepared to answer some basic questions about their plant's average pollutant load. You will leave with a benchmark ranking from 1-100 letting you know how well your facility performs from an energy standpoint. You will also learn how to use the tool to track energy improvements, calculate your carbon footprint, and set a target for improving your baseline score. We will discuss incentive payments available from electric utilities for energy efficiency upgrades and the opportunities for renewable energy use on site. All registered operators will be sent a list of energy related data you'll need to bring with you to enter when at this training session.

Space is very limited. Please pre-register at:

<http://newea.wawwgo.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=WiY1Aim%2fIPs%3d&tabid=188>

3) Green Building at Financially Strained Institutions: Models and Resources June 27, 2009 in Boston, MA

Pre-Conference Only Registration \$75; With Annual Meeting Registration \$50

Green Building at Financially Strained Institutions: Models and Resources will offer insights into the financial mechanisms and strategies that colleges and universities are turning to for assistance with their green building projects in this tough economic time. Attendees of this pre-conference session of the National Association of College and University Business Officers, (NACUBO), to be held on June 27-30 in Boston, MA, will hear from under-resourced schools that are building green and learn about some resources available to support campus green building projects.

For more information go to: <http://www.nacuboannualmeeting.org/nacubo2009/public/enter.aspx>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

1) Climate Showcase Communities Grant Program

U.S. EPA will be issuing a solicitation for a \$10 million nationwide grant program for communities this summer with grant selection this fall. The grant program will award 20-30 grants of \$100,000.00 - \$500,000.00, and will require a 50% match (that can be in-kind). Local governments, regional communities and tribes will be eligible to apply for funding for projects including mitigation, outreach and education, and implementation of energy efficient technology. More information will be distributed as the grant program is finalized.

To receive the solicitation when it is issued, sign up for EPA's Clean Energy Program State & Local Government Listserv at: <http://epa.gov/cleanenergy/energy-programs/state-and-local/listserv.html>

2) New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning (NH OEP) Receives Department of Energy Funds

NH OEP has received \$9.5 million and they will be passing along at least 60% of this to municipalities and counties. NH OEP is currently developing this program and will be required to obligate the funds to municipal and county proposals within 180 days from the date its plan is accepted by the Department of Energy. The acceptance date is anticipated to be in June 2009.

To stay informed, please see the NH OEP website devoted to ARRA funding at:
<http://www.nh.gov/oepr/recovery/index.htm>

3) Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources Block Grant Guidance

Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (MA DOER) has posted Revised Guidance for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) stimulus sub-grant program for communities with populations less than 35,000. All revisions are highlighted in yellow. The most notable revision is that for the competitive grant program, we have added thermal energy efficiency measure in oil heated buildings only. This is because these buildings have no access to utility rebate programs for thermal related energy efficiency measures.

<http://www.mass.gov/Eoeea/docs/doer/gca/gc-stimulus-opportunities.pdf>

The MA DOER website also has a link to a website for Questions and Answers. This website provides instructions for submitting questions, and then the questions and answers will be posted on this public website. This website will be updated on a regular basis. For more information go to:

<http://www.mass.gov/?pageID=stimhomepage&L=1&L0=Home&sid=Fstim>

TIP OF THE MONTH

1) Barnstable County Wastewater Treatment Plant “Kill a Watt” Committee

The Barnstable County Wastewater Treatment Plant, located in Hyannis, MA, serves 4000 + direct and septic processing customers. Since benchmarking their facility with ENERGY STAR’s Portfolio Manager, Barnstable has installed a number of energy efficiency upgrades including variable speed drives and upgraded motors, and is investigating renewable energy installations including wind and solar. Barnstable has a “Kill a Watt” committee that meets every two weeks to brainstorm potential energy saving measures including monthly tracking and review of energy bills, and putting big, wall clock size thermometers on the walls of their office buildings so that staff can see the actual temperature and are less likely to tamper with the thermostat.

TOOLS/TRAINING

1) Rapid Deployment Energy Efficiency (RDEE) Toolkit Planning Guide

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to announce the release of the first portion of the Rapid Deployment Energy Efficiency (RDEE) Toolkit. The RDEE Planning Guide is intended to help states, local governments, and other program administrators to design and implement effective energy efficiency programs under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). The Planning Guide provides key information on the following 10 energy efficiency programs with proven track records across the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors:

- Home Performance with ENERGY STAR
- ENERGY STAR Labeled Products
- Residential Efficient Heating and Cooling
- Residential Energy Audit and Direct Installation
- Non-Residential On-Site Energy Manager
- Non-Residential Prescriptive Rebates
- Non-Residential Retro-commissioning
- Non-Residential Benchmarking and Performance
- Non-Residential Custom Incentives
- Commercial Food Service Efficiency

A RDEE Toolkit Help Line is available as a go-to resource for RDEE questions. EPA designed the RDEE Toolkit Help Line to assist state and local governments in deploying ARRA energy efficiency funding in a successful,

sustainable manner by having a go-to resource for RDEE questions. Call 866-602-7333 or email RDEE@icfi.com and you will receive a response to your inquiry within one business day.

The RDEE Toolkit was developed through a joint effort of EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), with technical input from the Leadership Group of the National Action Plan on Energy Efficiency.

For more information about the Toolkit and to access the Planning Guide, please visit:
http://www.epa.gov/RDEE/energy-resources/ee_toolkit.html

2) Online Course Helps Build 30% Energy Savings into School Design

The U.S. Department of Energy, through its Energy Smart Schools program, is offering a no-cost, 2-hour, Web-based training course that helps building professionals implement the recommendations in the Advanced Energy Design Guide for K-12 School Buildings. Members of the American Institute of Architects (AIA) who complete the course and pass the quiz can earn 2.0 AIA/Continuing Education System learning units with credits for Health, Safety, and Welfare (HSW) as well as Sustainable Design (SD).

The course, which can be taken at the user's convenience, includes a recorded webinar that was presented to more than 1,100 attendees on April 16, 2009. Paul Torcellini and Shanti Pless, from the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, provide an overview of the guide, including recommendations to achieve 30% energy savings over the baseline standard in building projects. The 90-minute presentation is followed by a 30-minute question and answer session. Directions on how to receive AIA/CES learning units are displayed at the end of the webinar. It's fast and free!

Access more information and the actual course from the AEDG Webinar page on the Buildings Technologies Program's Energy Smart Schools Web site at:
http://www1.eere.energy.gov/buildings/energysmartschools/aedg_webinar.html

3) ICLEI's Free Webinar: How to Make Your School Buses Cleaner June 5 at 2-3 p.m. EST

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability USA invites you to participate in a FREE webinar where you can learn how to make your school buses cleaner, more efficient, and reduce harmful pollution associated with diesel exhaust. Join us for a FREE webinar that will give you the tools and resources needed to start a program in your school district to:

- Complete technology retrofits on school buses to burn diesel more efficiently;
- Switch from petroleum diesel to a biodiesel blend; and
- Reduce vehicle idling around school buildings.

The webinar will introduce three toolkits designed to help your school district. Each toolkit contains a step-by-step guide, fact sheets, outreach materials, case studies, and more.

You will need a computer with internet access and a phone. For more information go to:
http://www.icleiusa.org/news-events/event-folder/iclei-webinar-how-to-make-your-school-buses-cleaner-6_5

4) WasteWise Communities Program Offers Tools to Track GHG Emissions.

WasteWise Communities helps support local governments in conserving natural resources and reducing residential solid waste. In 2006, the EPA estimated that approximately 60% (150 million tons) of the 251 millions of tons of trash generated in the United States came from residences. Waste reduction also helps mitigate global climate change. Every stage of a product's life cycle – extraction, manufacturing, distribution, use and disposal – emits greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. WasteWise works with communities to provide tools, resources and economically viable solutions that both reduce waste and the impacts of climate change.

WasteWise complements your CEC efforts by using calculators such as the EPA WARM model, found at: http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/wycd/waste/calculators/Warm_home.html, to translate your waste reduction data into GHG emissions reduction data.

EPA encourages all New England communities to join WasteWise Communities as a Partner or Endorser or both! To start, fill out a simple on-line registration form at <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/partnerships/wastewise/join.htm> or contact Janet Bowen at 617-918-1795

6) Northeast Web-based Forum on Climate and Waste Connections, June 4, 24, and July 23

U.S. EPA Regions 1 and 2 invite you to participate in the Northeast Forum on Climate and Waste Connections, a free series of web-based trainings and discussions with experts, practitioners and peers from the Northeast and around the country. Join us as we advance the discussion about the materials management and climate connection and provide information to help communities plan for the future, integrate waste reduction and recycling into climate plans, and get climate credit for their recycling and waste reduction efforts on June 4, June 24 and July 23 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm (EST) . Through these programs we'll:

- Bring attention to the climate impacts of managing solid waste and recycling
- Provide tools and assistance for incorporating materials management into climate action plans
- Identify issues that would benefit from regional and national collaboration

Webinar I What is the Climate-Waste Prevention Connection?

June 4, 2009 1:30 to 3:30 pm EST

Webinar II Make Materials Management Count: Tools & Techniques

June 24, 2009 1:30 to 3:30 pm EST

Webinar III Working Together: Reducing GHG through Materials Management

July 23, 2009 1:30 to 3:30 pm EST

For more information about these free programs, including agendas and speakers, and to register, go to: www.epa.gov/region2/sustainability/greencommunities/webinar_waste.html

7) ENERGY STAR Webinars of Interest to Communities

a) Office Buildings: Rating Energy Performance with EPA's Portfolio Manager

- **Session date:** Tuesday, June 16, 2009
- **Starting time:** 12:00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time (GMT -04:00, New York)
- **Duration:** 2 hours
- **Presenters:** Dr. Sharon L. Levin
- **Description:** In this training, you will learn how EPA's Portfolio Manager can help you evaluate the energy performance of office buildings you own, manage, or hold for investment. This training will cover creating a user account, identifying data requirements, managing and sharing information, and establishing an energy performance rating. The rating serves as a benchmark to compare the energy performance of your office building against similar ones across the nation. From a portfolio perspective, energy performance ratings provide valuable information for making decisions regarding investments in energy efficiency, developing energy management plans, and measuring improvement over time. Who should participate: Property managers, energy managers, engineers, and organizational leaders interested in learning about energy performance benchmarking.

b) Purchasing and Procuring Energy Efficient Equipment

- **Session date:** Wednesday, June 17, 2009
- **Starting time:** 2:00 pm, Eastern Daylight Time (GMT -04:00, 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.

For more information and to register for these webinars go to:

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

All 142 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.