

TriVillage Energy Committee

The TriVillage Energy Committee's mission is to promote energy conservation, energy efficiency and explore ways to reduce carbon emissions among the town's residents, businesses and in municipal affairs.

We are pleased to report 2009 saw great strides made in assisting Drewsville, North Walpole and Walpole with their energy conservation efforts.

Our Local Transportation initiatives included a successful warrant article on the 2009 Town Ballot that authorized the Town of Walpole to give \$2,550 to the Red Cross to offset a portion of costs for coordination of a Volunteer Driver/Rider Program. To date the program has volunteer drivers trained and ready to drive. The program needs people who need rides. If you or someone you know needs a ride to doctor appointments, shopping or the hair dresser, please call Janet Kingsbury at the Red Cross in Keene (352-3210) or Gretchen Hurlbert (756-3145).

Our Local Food Group was very busy this year. Ground was broken, tilled, fertilized and planted for the first community garden behind the Hooper Institute on Prospect Hill. With the help of fencing, irrigation and tips from expert gardeners working side by side with gardening newbie's, the plots produced an abundance of fresh, delicious food, the surplus was donated to the Fall Mountain Food Shelf and SEVCA in Vermont. The garden was so successful that there are plans to enlarge the garden next year. If you are interested in getting your hands dirty with others, please contact Fritze Till (445-5283).

TVEC hosted several informational films and workshops, ranging from energy efficiency, seed saving and sustainability. We have met with the Regional Food Hub group to begin planning a regional center for local food producers. We again hosted a well-attended Farmers' Market in November on the Walpole town common, which featured local food producers and their products. We were honored to have the Dartmouth Symphony Orchestra give a concert to benefit the TVEC. Beethoven's Fifth Symphony sounds wonderful in the Town Hall. We want to thank the excellent young musicians who so generously donated their time and talents.

Perhaps the most exciting news is TVEC applying for and receiving a \$138,000 grant from the Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Fund of the PUC. This grant will be used to weatherize the Walpole Town Hall and North Walpole Village Town Building, helping to save future energy costs and carbon emissions. The committee would like to thank Andrew Dey of Walpole for taking the lead in this project. In addition, the kil-o-watt meters are still available at the Walpole Town Library to homeowners who want to evaluate energy efficiency in their home.

The TriVillage Energy Committee will be meeting the third Thursday of every month at the Town Hall and welcome everyone interested in helping save money and energy for the town and its residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Tri-Village Energy Committee:

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