

ENERGY COMMITTEE- 2010

As the Town Report goes to press, our committee is in the final stages of preparing for our second Energy Expo on January 29th at the Plainfield School. Modeled after our successful event in October, 2009, this expo will feature a Lee Lynd keynote address on “Transitioning to a Sustainable Energy Future” and a wealth of workshops and exhibits on energy-related topics from weatherization to renewable energy systems, bioenergy and green building. (For those of you new to town, Lee Lynd is a Son of Plainfield, a Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth biofuels scientist and a founder of the Mascoma Corporation.) Students of the Plainfield School will be in various supporting roles, providing food, childcare and “bike blender smoothies.”

Most of the committee’s new work has been oriented toward streetlight evaluation - with the eventual goal of reducing unnecessary lighting - and continuation of the no-idling initiatives that began at the Plainfield School.

We continue to look for opportunities to save energy and money in this town – whether through residential, municipal or commercial savings. Plainfield has been a part of the Community Energy Challenge issued by the EPA and we hope to take advantage of new opportunities to track our town energy use in order to measure progress.

Presently, remarkable incentives exist for installation of renewable energy systems and we urge community members to contact a member of the Energy Committee if they have an interest in exploring options for home or business. Several residential systems have been put in place and Townline Equipment has recently installed 352 solar photovoltaic modules on their roof that are estimated to produce 87,049 kW annually and meet approximately 53% of their current electrical demand!

The schools in Plainfield continue to set the standard for energy conservation. Thanks to the visionary Facilities Committee, The Plainfield School is seeing the benefits of its renovation work over the summer and has reduced its usage of energy by approximately 29%. And KUA has reduced its total energy consumption by approximately 26%.

We hope to produce a tour of “green” buildings in town in the near future which will showcase a variety of approaches to conservation, efficiency and renewable energy.

As always, we welcome new members at any time!

Submitted by
Nancy Mojielnicki, Chair



Participants enjoying the 2nd Energy Expo photo: K. Stephenson