



# EMC News

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## **ENERGY COMMITTEE REPORT**

*Submitted by Kenny Christianson*

The Energy Committee met twice last month, on March 8 and March 22. We developed a resolution to encourage the county to adopt a renewable energy standard to increase the amount of green electricity used by the county. The library solar panels currently provide 2% of the county's electricity. The resolution would ask the county to increase the proportion of renewable energy to 5% by 2008, corresponding to the date for the Local Action Plan. The resolution is included in members' meeting packets and will be discussed at the April meeting.

April is energy month! There are a myriad of activities in Tompkins County in April focusing on issues of energy and sustainability. Members of the energy committee have been involved with the Sustainability Salons sponsored by Sustainable Tompkins, and the Ithaca College Summit on Sustainability on April 6 - 7. The Sustainability Salons will continue to meet in April and May at the following times and locations:

- Rogues Harbor, Lansing, 5:30 - 7 pm Mondays, March 29 - May 3
- Gimme Coffee, W. State Street, Ithaca, 5:30 - 7 pm Tuesdays, March 30 - May 4
- Juna's, Ithaca Commons, 5 - 6:30 pm Wednesdays, March 31 - May 5
- WowNet, N. Aurora Street, Ithaca, 7 - 8:30 pm Thursdays, April 1 - May 6
- Simply Red, Trumansburg, 7:30 - 9 pm Thursdays, April 1 - May 6

We urge EMC members to attend one of these salons if possible. The first rounds have been promising.

In addition to the above events, the Cornell Society of Engineers is sponsoring a conference on energy demand and sustainable development on April 15 - 17, and the EMC Education and Energy Committees will be involved with the Earth Day festivities at Dewitt Park on Sunday, April 25. There is no shortage of energy activities in April!

Also coming up, Dryden Central School District will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their NYSERDA-sponsored solar panels and an energy conference on June 4 - 5. The EMC plans to be involved in this as well.

## **FIRST HIGHWAY CLEAN UP FOR 2004**

*Submitted by Steve Nicholson*

Saturday, April 24 (This is the day before the Earth Day 2004 celebration in DeWitt Park.)

Now that the deep snow cover has melted, my naiveté has also been uncovered.

I expected that our 2-mile stretch of Route 13, prominently labeled as maintained by the EMC, would have remained litter free. I was hoping the litterbugs would have withheld their contributions till they reached NYSEG's stretch of highway.

Please bring all your friends and your work gloves to help rectify this problem. We will meet at Warren Rd. and Rt. 13 at 9 AM.

## **REPORT FROM CAROLINE**

*Submitted by Stephen Nicholson*

A Town Planning Workshop was held on March 31. Crystal Buck from Tompkins County Planning was there as facilitator. The 28 residents who attended divided into 3 groups to discuss affordable housing, safe roads and public safety, and cleaning up roadways and properties. Many great ideas were put forward on how best to accomplish these goals.

On April 29 another workshop will be held to discuss preserving water quality, environmentally sensitive areas (such as UNA's), and open space. A "dot vote" will be held to identify the most popular issues and goals. The Planning board is seeking residents who would like to join subcommittees on environmental protection, farming and transportation. They will also be mailing out a survey soon to get input on the comprehensive plan.

## **SPEAKERS SOUGHT**

*Submitted by Christian Nielsen-Palacios, AIA*

In my role of Co-Chair of the Programming Committee of the New York Upstate Chapter of US Green Building Council, I am trying to compile a roster of possible speakers, for our monthly Salons in Syracuse, Albany, Buffalo and the Hudson Valley.

If you could send me some suggestions, including a way to contact those persons, I would appreciate it. Of course, if you would like to be a speaker yourself, please let me know as well. Phone: 277-7100 (w), 539-6786 (h)  
Email: [cnp@thethomasgroup.com](mailto:cnp@thethomasgroup.com)

## **MEMBER ITEM**

*Submitted by Ashley Miller*

Currently floating around the NYS legislature is a bill calling for a statewide ban on pesticide use for aesthetic purposes. This bill would prohibit the use of pesticides that meet certain toxicity and hazard criteria for purely aesthetic purposes such as lawn and grounds maintenance, athletic fields and golf courses. Similar bans are already in effect in the Province of Quebec and several Canadian cities.

During the past decade, a steadily growing body of evidence has linked certain pesticides with various cancers. In addition, some pesticides are suspected of disrupting the body's hormonal system by acting to mimic or block naturally-occurring estrogens and other hormones. Such an effect, known as endocrine disruption, can be especially hazardous during critical windows of development for fetuses, infants, and children. Since extended exposure to estrogen increases breast cancer risk, long-term exposure to synthetic endocrine-disrupting chemicals that accumulate in breast tissue could also generate breast cancer.

This bill (Assembly Bill A4105, Senate Bill S1797) has a long list of co-sponsors in the Assembly, but as yet, none in the Senate.

## **CAP-AND-TRADE**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published a free downloadable guide entitled *Tools of the Trade: A Guide to Designing and Operating a Cap and Trade Program for Pollution Control*. The guide introduces the concept of cap-and-trade as a policy tool; provides guidance on how to determine if cap-and-trade is the right solution to a particular problem; explains the processes for developing, implementing, and operating a cap-and-trade program; and discusses how to assess and communicate a cap-and-trade program's results.

The guide draws upon the experience of the highly successful sulfur dioxide trading program used to address acid rain. It includes appendices on the economics of emissions trading and an example assessment of the potential for cap-and-trade. *Tools of the Trade* may be downloaded at <http://www.epa.gov/airmarkets/international/tools.pdf>.

## **ENERGY SAVING TIP OF THE MONTH**

Solar Powered Clothesline

*Submitted by Steve Nicholson*

An ancient technology had been revamped for the new millennium! Be the first on your block to fly the banner of environmental sustainability.

Clothes dryers are major energy hogs, especially electric ones. A typical electric dryer uses six kilowatt/hours per load, and accounts for about 25 percent of a household's energy use for the year. Using one contributes one ton of carbon dioxide a year to the planet.

Why not use the free energy from the sun? Almost everyone has a space in their yard to install one. The extra time it takes to hang up your laundry can be used to gain appreciation of your local natural environment. I recommend green plastic covered aluminum wire and hardwood clothespins, for their durability. Your laundry will be fluffy and fresh smelling. In the winter, buy a sturdy wooden clothes rack, and contribute valuable humidity to your house.