The Conway Daily Sun

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BUSINESS REAL ESTATE

Green Team makes progress in reducing local carbon footprint

By Tom Eastman
THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

CONWAY — In this day and age of rising fuel prices and dwindling natural resources, have you taken the Mount Washington Valley Climate Challenge?

According to Rob Burbank, chair of the Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce's Green Team, and Melody Nester, the chamber's representative to the group, as of late August, a total of 54 individuals or businesses had signed on to the Climate Challenge, which hopes to reduce the community's carbon footprint.

"We're pleased with that response, and we hope to reach our goal of having 500 join us our first year," said Burbank, director of public affairs for the Appalachian Mountain Club and a resident of North Conway. "That would translate into 5 million pounds of carbon that could be saved in just one year," added Burbank.

With summer on the wane, Burbank and Nester — membership director of the Mount Washington Valley Chamber — are hoping others will join them in their efforts to reduce the region's carbon footprint by taking the challenge.

"It's still a new effort, so we are still getting the word out," said Burbank, who said that the local Green Team is using the Granite State Carbon Coalition's "Carbon Calculator" as a way to teach others and to measure ways to reduce their carbon footprints.

Burbank and Nester said conservation not only improves energy efficiency — it saves money.

"If people can use the Carbon Calculator, they will be able to see how they can improve their energy efficiency and improve their carbon efficiency and save money all at same time. This is a good time to check in and see if your house is weather tight and see if the heating system is in

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chamber's annual Business to Business Expo at the Mount Washington Hotel May 5.

The Green Team was formed at the urging of Janice Crawford, executive director of the chamber. He said the Green Team has partnered its efforts with the New Hampshire Carbon Coalition.

That organization has worked to make presidential candidates campaigning in New Hampshire to address global warming and climate change, and has initiated grassroots efforts to put global warming on the front burner of New Hampshire politics by placing articles on town warrants in recent years.

The chamber has set up a town-by-town climate challenge among the 22 towns in New Hampshire and four in western Maine served by the organization.

The coalition has launched a town-by-town challenge in the state and border towns to reduce carbon impacts. Burbank reported from the coalition's Web site that three valley communities are in the Top 10 for having the most homes sign on to take the climate challenge. The current town rankings for having the most homes take the challenge in the last 30 days are:

- 1. Madison
- 2. North Conway
- 3. Exeter
- 4. Conway
- 5. Hancock
- 6. Plaistow
- 7. East Kingston
- 8. Dover
- 9. Kittery, Maine
- 10. Stratham

Burbank said the Climate Challenge takes little time to undertake.

"It's easy to do. Most of the people whom we have talked to say it is quite eye-opening, as it shows how we can all make changes in our daily behavior and make positive, significant differences in the environment," said Burbank.

Those steps include:

- Switching light bulbs to compact fluorescents.
- Increase insulation.
- Make sure weather stripping is in place and in good order.
- Make sure your heating system is in good order.
- Use the fresh outdoors in the form of a clothesline instead of an electric dryer to dry your laundry.
- Use cold water to wash your laundry.
- Be sure to recycle.
- Pledge to drive fewer miles per week by using alternative modes of transportation, such as bicycles, carpooling and public transportation.

"Probably the biggest thing that people can do — not the biggest but certainly having a lot of impact — is to plug your electronic devices such as your stereo, TV and computer into a power strip," said Burbank. "When you are not using them you should turn them off as it will save a lot of power. And, again, money."

Being careful to turn off electric lights when one leaves a room is also a good idea.

Burbank urged one and all to go to go to www.mtwashingtonvalley.org and click on the Green Team logo. The online calculator helps estimate the carbon reductions and energy savings that can be realized with a few changes in behavior.

He said the Green Team has set up subcommittees to address such issues as: community/sustainable agriculture, communications and media, recycling and conservation, legislative issues, fund-raising, education and outreach, and local energy and the steering committee.

Burbank said the committee members would very much like to make presentations to local civic groups about the Carbon Calculator, the Climate Challenge and other issues.

Organizations may contact Burbank via email at rburbank@outdoors.org

Conference will [redacted] to save energy — and money

'Get to Zero CO2' conference at Red Jacket Nov. 14

By Tom Eastman
THE CONWAY DAILY SUN

Chocorua resident Cimbria Badenhausen is driving home the message that conservation not only saves energy — it saves money.

Badenhausen is getting the word out about a conference that is to be held at the Red Jacket Mountain View in North Conway Nov. 14, as she is hoping that local residents, government leaders and business procurers will attend the day-long seminar to become better informed about making energy conscious b[redacted] where they [redacted] supplies for their [redacted] government buildings, businesses and homes. The conference is called "Get to Zero CO2: A revolutionary new conference: save money and reduce carbon emissions."

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The event kicks off at 8 a.m. An early bird registration of $45 will be charged prior to Oct. 31. A fee of $60 will be charged the day of the conference.

"I am hoping community leaders will attend and learn how to incorporate sustainable practices into their procurements, and that they will learn how by doing so, it saves money as well as energy. By reducing your energy consumption, you can lower carbon emissions. I am also hoping that everyone will discuss how we can tackle these issues regionally, working with other communities here in the valley

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and the state," said Badenhausen, a former New York state resident who has resided in Chocorua for the past year and who is a longtime valley visitor, as she is a first cousin of Conway children's librarian Olga Morrill.

A member of the Tamworth Energy Committee who has also been in touch with the Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce's Green Team, Baudenhausen is pursuing her master's in managing for sustainability at Marlboro College in Brattleboro, Vt.

Her business is Blue Sky Environmental Strategies: Making Sustainable Connections. She does event planning, business management, fund-raising and donor re[redacted] ects, staff and [redacted] ing and Web [redacted] BlueSkyDes@g[redacted] phone is (914) [redacted]

Keynote spe[redacted] Lyons, Ph.D., [redacted] ing for Rutgers [redacted] present a work[redacted] chasing and Su[redacted]

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Local business takes on the Climate Challenge

MADISON — A local business which has signed onto the Climate Challenge is Cormack Construction Management, a "Certified Green Professional" by the National Association of Home Builders.

Cormack is encouraging environmental responsibility within their own company by providing an incentive to staff members to take the Mount Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce's Carbon Challenge, officially known as the Mount Washington Valley Climate Challenge.

Any employee who takes the online challenge to reduce carbon emissions by the end of September will receive a $10 gas card from company president, Gordon Cormack.

"It is a great tool to get you thinking about carbon savings, and money savings," said Cormack.

Cormack Construction Management's Green Coordinator, Colleen Cormack, said she thought she was doing "all she could to save money and be more energy efficient."

"The challenge helped me see there were simple changes I could make around the house and with my car that I had never thought of before," she said. "The best part is most changes can be made without spending a lot, or in most cases, any money at all."

The Carbon Challenge incentive is one of many learning tools that Cormack Construction Management is using to help their company be able to serve their clients better as green hits the mainstream, according to Gordon Cormack.

"We hope to be the 'go to' company for green construction," said Cormack, "and we are well on our way."

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Cooperative Extension launches heating with wood Web pages

With the price of home heating oil rising, Granite State homeowners are once again turning in droves to New Hampshire's renewable fuel resource wood.

Folks just starting to investigate wood heat will find there's a lot to learn and do. Even people who have burned wood for years will want to keep up with changes in wood heating technology and firewood markets.

To help you keep up with the best and latest information on safe, efficient wood-burning, UNH Cooperative Extension has organized a comprehensive set of online resources in a new Web section called Heating With Wood (extension.unh.edu/Energy/WoodHeat.htm)

Heating with Wood contains information about: assessing a home for wood heat; cutting your own firewood; buying and storing firewood; sizing, locating, installing and maintaining a wood heating system; burning wood safely and efficiently; the health effects of wood smoke; managing wood ashes.

The site also includes a section on the controversy surrounding outdoor wood boilers and the new legislation regulating their installation and use.

NEWS RELEASE

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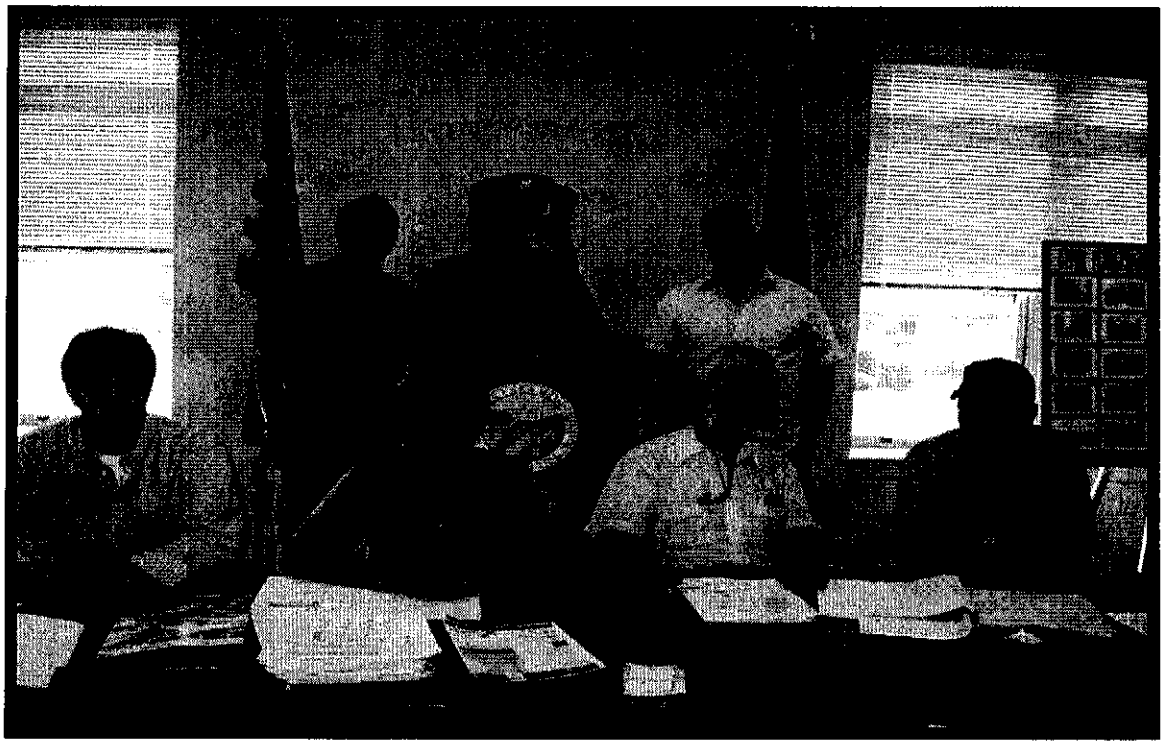

EAGL TEAM OF LINCOLN - The ***Energy Advisory Group of Lincoln*** **(EAGL)** held a recent meeting to discuss energy and water conservation initiatives, and elect committee and sub-committee chairpersons. On-hand were, from left: (Sitting) Peter Joseph, Town Manager; Jim Spanos, Community Education Sub-Committee chairperson; Wilfred Bishop, Water Sub-Committee chairperson; and Dave Beaudin, Town Water Department Representative. (Standing) Paul Kasianchuk, Committee vice chairperson; Lutz Wallem, Committee chairperson; Tom Smith, Energy Sub-Committee chairperson. The Town of Lincoln has begun the fight for energy independence with the formation of its new Energy & Water Conservation Committee (EAGL). Meeting monthly on the third Wednesday of the month, concerned citizens are encouraged to participate. The next meeting of the Energy & Water Conservation Committee is **Wednesday, January 21, 2009**. Learn more by calling Lincoln Town Hall at 603-745-2757, or visit lincolnnh.org.

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