

MCAN Tip Sheet - June 2007

Ideas and help for climate protection supporters

MCAN Highlights

MCAN's Energy-Efficient Homes Program Gets Underway

MCAN announces its Energy-Efficient Homes Program—a friendly way to reduce the cost of home energy and the impacts of global warming. With this program, beginning this fall, groups of five to eight households in a community will use teamwork and behavior change to "lose 5,000 pounds of carbon in 30 days." Members of a team with eight households will lose at least 40,000 pounds of carbon in a month and slash each home's energy bills, while developing stronger community bonds. The program is modeled on the successful Low Carbon Diet (LCD), which was developed and tested by the nationally known Empowerment Institute.

Households will measure their carbon footprints before they begin the program, and will continue monitoring as they reduce carbon emissions. Participants will improve their energy efficiency and "lose" pounds of carbon dioxide by making their own choices from a suggested list of 22 items, including areas such as solid waste disposal, use of hot water, home heating and cooling, and personal vehicles. Teams will make changes to their household systems and their lifestyles to reduce carbon emissions, and will take other actions to become carbon neutral.

The first workshop to train Team Leaders will be held Saturday morning (9:00am-Noon), June 30, in Newton. To sign up, contact: Susan Altman, Acting MCAN Outreach Manager, 781-395-4664, news.altman@comcast.net

Volunteers Needed for Website Committee

MCAN is working on a new content management system based website that will make it easy for contributors and chapters to provide up-to-date website information. We are developing the site over the summer, and plan to go public sometime in the fall.

We are looking for volunteers with following technical skills: PHP, SQL, XHTML, CSS, Drupal themes, and Drupal site administration. We also need people who have experience with constituent relationship management and writing and editing content for the web. If you would like to participate, please contact Bob Luoma: rmluoma@aol.com

Spring Donation

If you haven't yet renewed your MCAN membership or made a spring donation to MCAN, please do so now! Individual memberships are \$30 and family memberships are \$50. As a supporting member of MCAN, you are an important part of the nation's largest network of local community organizations dedicated to halting the threat of global climate change. The more members we have, the more attention we will attract in the fight to protect our state and the world from the impacts of climate change. Your support is vital to our success. Thank you!

MCAN Seeks Executive Director

Applications due: July 3

As many of you know, Marc Breslow recently took a position with the state of Massachusetts making climate change policy. We are very pleased that he will be working on global warming for the Patrick Administration, and he's staying on the MCAN Board, but even so we need a new Executive Director. An excerpt from the position description follows:

MCAN seeks a passionate, effective leader to strengthen and expand the existing network of local climate action chapters and raise the organization to a new level of visibility and effectiveness. MCAN's new director will work with the Board of Directors and Steering Committee to:

- Assist local chapters in building up the local climate action network to affect change at the local level and in promoting sustainable practices
- Work with local chapters to develop/deliver energy efficiency programs
- Organize annual climate conference
- Collaborate with other organizations (including advocacy, government, academic, corporate) on statewide policy initiatives and developing/promoting sustainable practices throughout the state and Northeast region
- Help local communities to establish MCAN chapters and take local actions
- Perform/oversee necessary fundraising to maintain and grow the organization

The complete position description is at:

<http://www.massclimateaction.org/ExecutiveDirector.htm>, send electronic resume and cover letter to: massclimateaction@gmail.com

MCAN Hires Part-Time Staffer

The Board of Directors recently approved the part-time temporary hiring of Susan Altman of Medford as Acting Outreach Manager to assist Fred Schlicher (the Acting Executive Director) on a variety of projects. This hiring is an interim measure (three months or so) to handle workload demands until the new Executive Director is on board and can determine what staffing will be needed in the future. The search committee hopes to have the new Executive Director on board by the second week in September.

Susan is an environmental communications and social marketing consultant. She currently serves on the MCAN Board, Medford Clean Energy Committee, Medford Climate Action Network, and a host of other climate action and environmental organizations. She will be working on the residential EE program, maintenance of the network database, communications/outreach, newsletter and fundraising.

Save the Date!

Sixth MCAN Global Warming Action Conference
Sunday, Nov. 18, 2007 at MIT's Stata Center

MCAN Chapter Updates

- Arlington: Working with town to implement the recently approved climate action plan
- Belmont: Launched High Performance Green Building Initiative as part of "Belmont Vision 21"
- Boston: Meeting with City of Boston officials to promote energy efficiency and climate change action plans for 80% green house gases reduction by 2050
- Cambridge: Got over 300 new signups for Clean Energy Choice program, and has qualified to receive two 2-kW solar panels for schools
- Cape Ann: City Council just passed Commercial Land-Based Wind Energy Conversion Facilities Ordinance
- Groton: Have started an active CFL campaign and will provide services to seniors in exchange for free light bulbs
- Lexington: Signed up enough new Clean Energy Choice members to get two free solar panels from the MTC program
- Marlborough: Started a new climate action group focusing on a CFL campaign
- Medford: Received a \$250,000 grant from MTC to build a wind turbine on property between two public schools;
- Medford and Somerville : Collaborating on a series called "The Green House," which includes public forums and a public fair in the fall
- Salem: Received Regional EPA Environmental Award from New England EPA as result of nomination by Salem Mayor Kim Driscoll and past outstanding work in community
- Sudbury: Working with Selectmen on tactical and strategic issues for "Green Sudbury"

campaign. Signed up 100 new Clean Energy Choice members raising over \$9,000 for Town of Sudbury for future renewable energy projects.

- Wakefield: Have started a new climate action group
- Waltham: Have just started a project publicizing how to dispose of CFLs if they break

Climate-Related News around Massachusetts

MA Firms Join in 'Green Power' Coalition

Responding to a call from Governor Deval Patrick, dozens of Massachusetts "green power" companies, trade groups, lawyers, and academics have agreed to launch a Massachusetts Clean Energy Council by fall 2007, and pledged tens of thousands of dollars to fund it. Read the *Boston Globe* article (June 16, by Peter J. Howe) at:

http://www.boston.com/business/globe/articles/2007/06/16/firms_join_in_green_power_coalition/

Cambridge

Energy Alliance

Starting this fall, the Cambridge Energy Alliance (CEA) will carry out a high-profile energy efficiency campaign in the City of Cambridge, involving commercial, industrial, governmental, university, hospital, residential, and transportation sectors. CEA has a goal of reducing peak electric demand in Cambridge by 40-50 megawatts over the next 5 years. CEA will offer favorable financing options for efficiency investments and other clean power projects, such that the borrower would pay back his or her loan out of utility bill savings. CEA will also act as an aggregator of different funding sources (Forward Capacity Market payments, renewable energy credits and equivalent "attribute" credits for energy efficiency and carbon reductions) for participants, and reinvest the proceeds in the project through a revolving fund. CEA will soon put out a Request for Qualifications for firms or teams interested in being approved contractors for efficiency services through CEA. Later this summer, CEA will begin holding meetings to explain the program to the public. For more information: <http://www.CambridgeEnergyAlliance.org>

NEGEF Small Grants Program - Deadline September 15

The New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF) is a small grants program designed to foster local grassroots environmental initiatives in New England. NEGEF provides small grants of up to \$20,000 to fuel local activism that results in broader community involvement in projects that address a wide range of environmental issues and opportunities. The mission of NEGEF is to energize and nurture long-term civic engagement in local initiatives that create and maintain healthy, just, safe and environmentally sustainable communities. Applications are accepted anytime, with the following deadlines for each round: January 15, May 1 and September 15. For more information and copies of their brochure contact NEGEF at PO Box 1057, Montpelier, VT 05601, email info@grassrootsfund.org or visit the website www.grassrootsfund.org.

New Report Says Cape Wind Will Not Interfere With Radar

A new report by the Department of Defense Missile Defense Agency says that wind turbines outside a buffer zone emanating approximately 25-kilometers, or 15.5 miles, from the Air Force-run PAVE PAWS radar station in Sagamore should not cause a problem. The Cape Wind project missed being in the zone by 1.4 miles. The report is an analysis only, and the Defense Department is not a permitting agency for Cape Wind. This is the third such report to be issued, and each time the Cape Wind project has not been considered of concern to the PAVE PAWS radar. Read the news story at: <http://www.capecodonline.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070616/NEWS/706160335>

Resources

Wolfe & Rita Climate Fund

Applications due: June 29

MCAN chapters can apply for up to \$1,000. Projects that will receive priority are educational and

training conferences; lectures; forums; prizes to recognize and promote climate activism; successful climate protection or educational projects, or journalism about climate activism; policy initiatives; local climate action campaigns if funds are matched dollar for dollar by the local MCAN chapter with funds raised for the same campaign. All funds must be disbursed as grants or earmarked for climate action projects for and by Massachusetts and or New England climate activists groups and approved by the MCAN Board of Directors. To apply, answer the following questions on one to two pages:

- 1) In a title and one sentence, what is the project you want funding for?
- 2) \$ amount of request
- 3) What will the money be used for? Provide a brief budget.
- 4) Briefly describe the project's goals, how you will go about accomplishing the project, and how you will measure the results.
- 5) Which individual(s) will carry out the project? Briefly relate the person(s)' participation in your group and their abilities to carry out the task(s).
- 6) During what time period will the project be completed?
- 7) How will you handle the funds? Does your group have a checking account, or will an individual handle the money, or do you need MCAN to write checks to cover specific expenses?

For more information, contact: Fredschlicher@comcast.net

Cape Wind: The Book

Cape Wind: Money, Celebrity, Class, Politics, and the Battle for Our Energy Future on Nantucket Sound, by Wendy Williams and Robert Whitcomb, by Public Affairs Books. \$26.95, 368 pages. This new book detailing the political intrigue of Cape Wind has attracted a great deal of controversy, as has the project itself. Available in bookstores, or contact the publisher: <http://www.publicaffairsbooks.com/publicaffairsbooks-cgi-bin/display?book=1586483978>

Events and Activities

Live Earth Concert

July 7, 2007

Live Earth is a 24-hour, seven-continent series of nine concerts that will bring together more than 100 music artists and 2 billion people to trigger a global movement to solve the climate crisis. Live Earth will reach this worldwide audience through an unprecedented global media architecture covering all media platforms-TV, radio, Internet and wireless channels. For more info: <http://liveearth.org/>

Cape Wind Support Postcard

Clean Power Now has started a postcard campaign to gather support for the Cape Wind project, and hope to deliver 25,000 signed cards to Congressman Ed Markey this summer. If you plan to have a presence at a Farmer's Market in your town or have some type of fair or festival and would like cards to distribute, contact: Chelsea Harnish at chelsea@cleanpowernow.org

About the Newsletter

We welcome submissions of substantive and broad interest to the MCAN community. If your MCAN chapter would like to submit an item, please send email with a short paragraph or two and contact information, including a name and email or phone, to: news.altman@comcast.net

We reserve the right to edit all submissions, and we may not publish every submission we receive.

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Mass. Climate Action Network | 86 Milton Street | Arlington | MA | 02474