



## MCAN News

Ideas and help for climate protection supporters

[www.massclimateaction.net](http://www.massclimateaction.net)

[www.massclimateaction.org](http://www.massclimateaction.org) (archive site)

September 2007

Note: Where you see the characters <AT> in an email address, replace all these characters with an ampersand before you send a message to the person.



### Low Carbon Living (LoCaL) Program Update

MCAN's LoCaL program is a friendly way to reduce the costs of home energy and the impacts of global warming. With this program, which is based on the [Low Carbon Diet](#), groups of five to eight households in a community use teamwork and behavior change to "lose 5,000 pounds of carbon in 30 days." MCAN ran a LoCaL training workshop on June 30, which was attended by 31 people representing 21 chapters. Already, 14 MCAN chapters have set up a LoCaL group or plan to do so this fall:

- Boston (Jamaica Plain)
- Brookline
- Cambridge
- Concord
- Duxbury
- Groton
- Lenox
- Lexington
- Marlborough
- Medford
- Milton
- Salem
- Somerville
- Sudbury

#### ***New LoCaL Training Session Being Held this Fall***

MCAN plans to hold a training workshop for new LoCaL Team Leaders, in October or November. You do not need any special skills to be a Team Leader, but the training is helpful and inspiring. Most important are your passion for reducing our climate change impacts, willingness to talk to other people in your town during the next several months, and the commitment to following up until you have brought a group together. (If you just want to *join* a LoCaL group, you don't need any training.) We will hold the

training on a weekend (2 hours), but we will arrange it for a day that suits as many people as possible. If you are interested in being trained, send a message to: [news.altman@comcast.net](mailto:news.altman@comcast.net)

For more information about the LoCaL program, visit: <http://www.massclimateaction.net/lcl/home>

## MCAN Highlights



### ***MCAN Executive Director Update***

The Executive Director Search Committee worked through the summer, reviewing 26 resumes and interviewing 6 candidates. The board expects to be able to announce a new ED shortly.

### ***Wolfe-Rita Climate Grants Awarded***

MCAN is pleased to announce the newest Wolfe-Rita Climate grant winners. Each chapter will submit a case study to MCAN after finishing the work that is funded. The awards will go to:

- **Somerville Climate Action (SCA):** \$500 to support a business-to-business project called "GoGreen Davis Square." The first phase will create a model, piloted by a popular local restaurant- music venue and other Davis Square businesses, for businesses to significantly decrease their carbon-footprint by taking energy-conservation measures, increasing energy efficiency, greening their products, and obtaining green power. Then, SCA will approach businesses in other areas of Somerville with the hope of replicating this project. SCA will publicize the project and its results.
- **Lenox Environmental Committee:** \$500 to support six to eight LoCaL teams, which will be set up through faith-based organizations and the middle-high school.
- **Harvard Local:** \$500 to support a unified effort at cutting carbon emissions in Harvard, including a presentation of the new version of the "Inconvenient Truth" show, two workshops on committing to specifics at the home and municipal levels, and LoCaL teams.
- **Marlborough Climate Action:** \$500 to support a CFL campaign to engage members, local businesses, residents, and neighboring communities. The goal of this project is to provide a practical solution that will serve as an initial step toward the mission of transforming Marlborough into a green community.

### ***Cape Ann Energy to Launch Four-Step Carbon Footprint Reduction Campaign***

MCAN chapter Cape Ann Energy is developing a web-based footprint tracking tool called "2020 by 2012." The campaign asks individuals, business, institutions, and local government to calculate their carbon emissions and reduce them over the next five years through energy conservation and the direct or indirect use of renewable energy. The program, which is expected to be launched this November, includes four primary steps:

- Step 1: Take the Pledge-Participants pledge to reduce their energy use by 20% and to source 20% of their remaining energy use by 20% by 2012.
- Step 2: Calculate Carbon Footprint-Participants use a Cape Ann Energy carbon calculator, or equivalent tool, to calculate their footprint, based primarily on energy and electrical usage and travel, and enter their baseline data into the Cape Ann Energy website database.

- Step 3: Reduce energy usage by 20% through conservation and share activities and results through Cape Ann Energy.
- Step 4: Source 20% of remaining energy from renewable sources, through installation of on-site systems, participation in programs (e.g., GreenUp) or purchase of offset credits.

### **Energy Efficiency Video Created by Somerville Climate Action**

MCAN chapter Somerville Climate Action (SCA) has completed the first of a three-video series on energy efficiency (EE) topics. The first video-which is basic and applicable to any community, not just Somerville-covers free and low-cost EE measures that homeowners can take. The video is currently showing on Somerville Cable Access and will be posted on YouTube.com. It also will be given out for free to every new homeowner in Somerville. If you would like to order a copy of the video, contact Vanessa Rule, SCA Chair:

[beckrule@rcn.com](mailto:beckrule@rcn.com)

## Legislative and Climate News in Massachusetts



### **Massachusetts RGGI Proposal**

Deadline for comments: September 24, 5 pm

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and Massachusetts Division of Energy Resources announce the release of draft regulations for public hearing. Two versions are available: The PDF version (<http://www.mass.gov/dep/service/regulations/proposed/co2regs.pdf>) shows the differences between the RGGI Model Rule and MassDEP's proposed rule. The Microsoft Word version does not. Links to the regulations and the public hearing schedule can be found at: <http://www.mass.gov/dep/public/publiche.htm#co2trade>

### **Green Communities Act of 2007 (HB No. 3965)**

In March 2007 Representative Sal DiMasi, Speaker of the Massachusetts House, introduced House Bill 3965, which seeks to establish a comprehensive energy policy for the Commonwealth. A host of environmental organizations (MCAN included) and state agencies quickly expressed concerns about the bill's possible effects on established energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE) programs, and the possibility that significant EE and RE money might be diverted to non-RE programs.

It appears that the legislature will address some sort of a comprehensive energy policy in the upcoming session. Players most likely to be working on bills to address this situation include Rep. Brian Dempsey, Chair of the House Energy Committee, Senator Michael Morissey, Chair of the Senate Energy Committee, and the Executive Office of Energy and Environment.

Things likely to be addressed in the new set of bills include:

- Increase in EE and RE financial assistance to cities and towns.
- Improved management and distribution efforts for EE and RE funds, along with new initiatives to better leverage these funds.
- New standards to the Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) that may include "interesting" non-renewable technology forms.
- Increased commitment to EE and RE that may involve some agency restructuring.
- Increased state incentives for installation of RE facilities.
- Decoupling of utility energy rates and establishment of mechanisms to adjust distribution rates so that changes in sales volumes (EE improvements) don't affect distribution companies' earnings.

### ***NSTAR Proposes Wind Energy Option for Customers***

NSTAR is proposing to let its 1.1 million electric customers in Boston and 80 eastern Massachusetts cities and towns buy their power directly from a wind farm in upstate New York and a second under development in Maine. The program will need approval from state utility regulators before it is launched, which could be as soon as January 2008. Customers will be able to choose to have half or all of their electricity come from the new program, called "NSTAR Green." The program will initially offer electricity generated from Maple Ridge Wind Farm in upstate New York. A typical homeowner would pay a premium of about \$7.50 to \$15 monthly.

[http://www.nstaronline.com/residential/customer\\_information/nstar\\_green/nstar\\_green.asp](http://www.nstaronline.com/residential/customer_information/nstar_green/nstar_green.asp)  
[http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2007/07/25/from\\_nstar\\_an\\_offer\\_in\\_the\\_wind/](http://www.boston.com/business/articles/2007/07/25/from_nstar_an_offer_in_the_wind/)

## Events and Opportunities



### ***Volunteers Needed to Work on MCAN's New Website***

With the superb efforts of volunteer Bob Luoma of Carlisle, MCAN is well into development of our new website. The content management system we are using will make it easy for contributors and chapters to provide up-to-date website information.

The Low Carbon Living section (<http://www.massclimateaction.net/lcl/home>) is fairly well populated. Please visit! You will see a poll on the right side (green box), and we encourage you to vote.

We need your help transitioning to the new website:

1. Now is the time for MCAN chapters to add resources or links to the Chapters section of the website. Several chapters have begun doing this (e.g., Boston, Medford). If your chapter already has a website that you like, you can just provide a link from the MCAN website to that one. For an example of such a link, click on "Arlington" under Local Chapters in the box on the left, at:  
<http://www.massclimateaction.net/chapters/home>
2. Are you detail-oriented? Comfortable with Excel and spreadsheets? If so, we would like to talk with you about helping us track and analyze the results of the LoCaL project. You do NOT need to know how to create spreadsheets to do this work. Please contact:  
[rmluoma<AT>aol.com](mailto:rmluoma@aol.com) or  
[news.altman<AT>comcast.net](mailto:news.altman@comcast.net)
3. We are ready to start moving other content onto the new website. This is not hard, it's fun, and you can do it from home. If you are comfortable with computers (you do NOT need to be an expert or a programmer) and have a fairly fast Internet connection, we would appreciate some of your time. Please contact:  
[rmluoma<AT>aol.com](mailto:rmluoma@aol.com) or  
[news.altman<AT>comcast.net](mailto:news.altman@comcast.net)

### ***MCAN Grassroots Climate Conference November 18: Volunteers Needed***

The annual MCAN Grassroots Climate Conference is coming up on Sunday, November 18—hold the date! This year as always, volunteers make the MCAN Annual Conference possible. We are scheduling volunteers in two-hour chunks for all the tasks below.

- Signage setup: morning
- Ushers: all day
- Check-in table: all day
- Food and coffee setup: all day
- Audiovisual aides: various times
- Runners (miscellaneous jobs): morning

To sign up, contact [news.altman<AT>comcast.net](mailto:news.altman@comcast.net). Thank you for your help!

**AltWheels Festival**

When: September 28 and 29 (Friday and Saturday)  
Where: Boston, City Hall Plaza

A special feature of AltWheels this year is the Energy Freedom Trail, which educates and inspires visitors about steps they can take to make a difference. Volunteers are needed to help out a few hours at the following exhibits: Calculate Your Carbon Footprint, Vehicle Choices (best/worst), Home Energy Efficiency Audits, Climate Action Network, Water Conservation, Green Architecture, and Green Urban Landscape. To volunteer, contact:

<http://www.altwheels.org/volunteer.html>

For more information about AltWheels, go to:  
<http://www.altwheels.org/>

**Environmental Faire, Watertown**

When: Saturday, September 29, 10:00 am-4:00 pm  
Where: Watertown Square, Watertown

This year, the Faire on the Square will include a new "Environmental Fair inside the Faire." The Environmental Faire will feature exhibitors whose common focus will be to teach people about energy conservation and environmental issues, and organizations whose activities or businesses are directed at sustaining and improving our environment. The Environmental Faire is the brainchild of MCAN member Lisa Alexander, who chairs the Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee. More about the Faire at:

<http://www.faireonthesquare.org/index.htm>

**Renewable Energy Events in the Pioneer Valley and Berkshires**

2007 Green Buildings Open House Tour: October 5 and 6  
Wind Farm Tours: September 8, September 19, October 3, October 13  
Renewable Energy Workshops:  
September 18, 6:30 pm: Wind, at Greenfield Community College  
September 26, 6:30 pm: Solar, at Berkshire Athenaeum  
October 18, 6:30 pm: Wind, location TBD (Berkshires)  
November 8, 6:30 pm: Solar, at Barrington Brewery  
More info at:

<http://www.cetonline.org/Events/events.php>

**NESEA's Green Buildings Open House**

When: Saturday, October 6, 10am-4pm

[NESEA's Green Buildings Open House](#), which is part of the American Solar Energy Society's National Solar Tour, lets people see first-hand how clean energy and green building practices can be put to work. Homeowners and building managers are on site to describe their green building features and answer questions. Members of the public can learn basic principles of green building, such as designing for solar heating ("passive solar"), energy-efficient building techniques such as superinsulation and air sealing, safe indoor air quality, and resource-efficient and healthy building materials. Many of the buildings demonstrate how solar hot water is collected and stored, how photovoltaics can be placed on or integrated into the shell of a building to produce electricity, and how wind can be used to generate power. The Green Buildings Open House demystifies green buildings, proving that they are comfortable, affordable, and attractive. Site listings will be posted on the NESEA website in mid September, and October 6th (10am-4pm) you may visit any buildings you like. For more information, contact Susannah Herron:  
413-774-6051 x30  
[sherron@nesea.org](mailto:sherron@nesea.org)

**Global Warming & Energy Solutions Conference**

When: October 12-13, 2007  
Where: Raddison Hotel, Manchester, NH

Clean Air-Cool Planet is organizing its third energy and climate solutions conference, to be held in the Granite State three months before the New Hampshire presidential primary. We are taking advantage of the location and timing to invite and involve Presidential candidates. The conference will convene business, labor and community leaders to communicate specific challenges to the next president of the United States.

[http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/conference\\_GWS07/index.php](http://www.cleanair-coolplanet.org/conference_GWS07/index.php)

***Global Warming: How you can make a difference***

When: Wednesday, October 17 at 7:15 p.m.

Where: Newman Elementary School Auditorium, 1155 Central Ave., Needham, just south of Rte. 135 (Great Plain Ave.)

This event is sponsored by the Needham League of Women Voters. After a keynote address by Larry Chretien, executive director of the Mass Energy Consumers Alliance, participants will choose one of four break-out sessions: cutting home energy use, residential solar energy, fuel efficient cars, or important climate change legislation. An environmental fair will follow, with information on the New England Wind Fund, MCAN's Low Carbon Living teams, community supported agriculture, and more. Some great eco-friendly door prizes will be given out.

***The Third Annual Bioneers by the Bay: Connecting for Change***

When: October 19-21

Deadline for early bird registration: September 14

Where: UMASS Dartmouth

Presented by the Marion Institute, this conference will bring together over 2,000 students, teachers, green business innovators, scientists, grassroots leaders and everyday folks from across the East Coast "to embrace, share, brainstorm, network, heal, learn, teach, celebrate, recharge and connect for change." The conference will include live plenary presentations; afternoon workshops; an extensive youth program; a live satellite downlink of the 18th Annual Bioneers Conference in California; an exhibition hall featuring sustainable businesses and organizations; a community action center, films; music; art installations; a farmers market, and local and organic food.

***Focus the Nation: Global Warming Solutions for America***

Focus the Nation is coordinating teams of faculty and students at over a thousand colleges, universities and K-12 schools in the United States, to collaboratively engage in a nationwide, interdisciplinary discussion about "Global Warming Solutions for America." Focus the Nation will culminate January 31, 2008, in the form of national symposia held simultaneously at over a thousand campuses, places of worship, businesses, and other venues across the country. On that day, each Focus the Nation team will invite local, state and federal political leaders and candidates for office to come to campus and participate in non-partisan discussions of global warming solutions. Every campus will also vote on their top five national priorities for global warming action, producing a campus-endorsed policy agenda for the 2008 elections.

<http://www.focusthenation.org/main.php>

**Resources**

*This section features educational materials, funding ideas, and commercial ventures of significance to Massachusetts or the New England region, and that relate to our mission and activities.*

*Note: L*

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***New England Grassroots Environment Fund (NEGEF) Grant Application***

**Deadline: September 15**

NEGEF makes grants of \$500-\$2,500 to grassroots environmental groups. Applicants must be working at the grassroots level, and must demonstrate a major element of volunteer involvement in their programs. NEGEF defines a grassroots group as one that is all or largely volunteer driven, having no more than two paid, full time staff persons or their equivalents, and an annual budget, including projects, of less than \$100,000. Fundable activities include, but are not limited to: communication needs, computer networking, capacity building, advocacy campaigns, institutional support, conferences, meeting travel, and enhancing partnerships in the region. For details about the grant-application process and whether your group may be eligible, go to:  
[http://www.grassrootsfund.org/guide\\_1.html](http://www.grassrootsfund.org/guide_1.html)

### ***EPA's Community Energy Challenge***

Municipalities that join the Community Energy Challenge commit to assess energy use, take action to improve energy efficiency, save money, and seek out renewable energy choices that reduce air pollution. Participants measure building energy use in schools, municipal buildings, and wastewater facilities using the ENERGY STAR "Portfolio Manager" tool. Participants have access to a network of resources that can help them improve energy efficiency and take advantage of renewable energy resources in their community. Massachusetts communities that have joined the Challenge include Billerica, Boston, Brockton, Easton, Hanson, Lancaster, Lowell, Mansfield, Medford, Melrose, Milton, Needham, New Bedford, Quincy, Salem, Somerville, and Waltham. For more information, go to:  
<http://www.epa.gov/Region1/eco/energy/energy-challenge.html>

### ***Two New Films on Climate Change***

"The 11<sup>th</sup> Hour," produced by Leonardo DiCaprio, documents the cumulative impact of human actions upon the planet's life systems and calls for restorative action through a reshaping of human activity. The film interviews many prominent thinkers and activists, including reformer Mikhail Gorbachev, physicist Stephen Hawking, and Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai.  
[www.11thhouraction.com](http://www.11thhouraction.com)

"Out of Balance: ExxonMobil's Impact on Climate Change" shows the influence that the largest company in the world has on governments, the media and citizens, and its effects on global warming.  
<http://www.worldoutofbalance.org/>

### ***GreenSource Supply and Design***

A new business, located in Braintree, GreenSource provides green building materials and lifestyle products. GreenSource responds to the growing interest in building or renovating homes that provide healthy, energy-efficient environments and use building materials that have low environmental impacts, including products made from recycled or renewable resources. GreenSource has its own on-site custom cabinet division that builds kitchen cabinets, vanities and custom millwork using sustainable, renewable and reclaimed woods. GreenSource also has skilled and licensed electricians, plumbers and carpenters who can install these speciality products. Website: <http://www.greensourcesupply.net/>  
Store: 530 West Street, Braintree, MA 02184

### ***Greendepot***

A residential/commercial lumberyard dedicated to environmentally friendly products, Greendepot recently opened a new store at 100 Fallon Road in Stoneham, MA. Greendepot carries flooring, cleaning products, low-VOC caulk, no-VOC paints, natural wool carpet, and many other products. They have trucks for delivery, or customers can pick up materials.  
[www.greendepot.com](http://www.greendepot.com)

### ***A Potpourri of Climate and Energy Resources***

A New York Times grouping of energy-related sites and news:  
<http://www.nytimes.com/ref/science/earth/energy.html>

Thanks to Nancy Kramer of Hull (MCAN chapter Sustainable South Shore), for supplying the following wide-ranging list.

Stop Global Warming

<http://www.stopglobalwarming.org/default.asp>

Environmental Defense: Fight Global Warming

<http://www.fightglobalwarming.com/>

Wind Energy Projects around U.S.

<http://www.awea.org/projects/>

Residential Wind Generator

<http://www.skystreamenergy.com/skystream/product-info/>

Southwest Wind Energy

[http://www.windenergy.com/index\\_wind.htm](http://www.windenergy.com/index_wind.htm)

Green Vehicle Guide

<http://www.epa.gov/greenvehicles/>

Climate, Energy & Transport

<http://www.wri.org/climate/>

Ideas for Environmentally Sustainable Living

<http://eartheasy.com/homepage.htm>

Green Buildings

<http://www.greenroundtable.org/>

Green Corps - Grassroots Environmental Organizing

<http://greencorps.org/>

## About the Newsletter

MCAN welcomes submissions of substantive and broad interest to the climate change community in Massachusetts. 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](mailto: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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## Please Support MCAN

Thank you for your dedication to creating and implementing ways to fight climate change. We also would like to ask that you take a few minutes to help MCAN. The LoCaL program, our annual Climate Conference, and our legislative advocacy all depend on the generous help of supporters like you. Ways you can help include becoming a member or making an additional donation ([click here to make your gift online now](#)), or getting involved as a volunteer. (See "[Volunteers Needed to Work on MCAN's New Website](#)" and "[Volunteers Needed for MCAN Grassroots Climate Conference](#)" below.) Together we are making a difference in Massachusetts. Thank you!

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