

Salt Spring Energy Update, Jan-Feb, 2007

www.saltspringenergystrategy.org

This newsletter is produced for the Salt Spring Energy Strategy Task Force for interested people on Salt Spring and beyond. Pass it on and let us know if there are others who would like to be added to our email list. Email <marionpape@telus.net> to add names or if you wish to be removed.

Limited time left for home energy efficiency grants

Grants under the old federal EnerGuide for Houses (EGH) and provincial Energy Savings Plan (ESP) programs are still available for people already enrolled in the programs. If you have had an initial assessment and have completed some upgrades, call Elizabeth White at 537-2616 or City Green at 1-866-381-9995 to book your follow-up visit. BOOK NOW, the programs expire in just a few weeks.

New grant program starts April 1

If you are planning future renovations, take advantage of the new ecoENERGY retrofit incentive initiative which starts April 1, 2007. Call Elizabeth White at 537-2616 or City Green at 1-866-381-9995 to book your initial energy assessment. For more information call 1-800-622-6232 or go to www.ecoenergy-ecoenergie.gc.ca.

Winter Gardening Series begins at Seedy Saturday, Feb 10

Have you ever wondered how people produce those amazing cauliflower in March or how to grow your own salad greens throughout the cold winter months? This series of workshops provides practical information for successful winter gardening. Growing winter vegetables is fun, provides increased food security, and reduces Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

Feb. 10, 1—2:30	Introduction to Winter Gardening with Linda Gilkeson, at the Farmers' Institute.
April 15, 1—4	Perennial Food in Your Ornamental Garden with Brandon Bauer
June 3, 1—3	Preparing to plant winter vegetables with Linda Gilkeson
Aug. 26, 10:30—12:00	Seed Saving and Squash Curing including a tour of Salt Spring Centre garden with Dan Jason
Aug. 26, 1—4pm	Building Cloches and Covers for Winter Gardens with Brandon Bauer, Salt Spring Centre

Register at the Salt Spring Energy Strategy table at Seedy Saturday. Fee: \$5.00 per session. For information contact Marion Pape at 537-4567.

Youth Energy Strategy by Fiona and Heather Munro

We are really excited about how the youth awareness component of the Salt Spring Energy Strategy is progressing. We have plans for a month of weekly activities to provide awareness about climate change and encourage students to take the Climate Change pledge while encouraging their families to take the Salt Spring Challenge.

During the first week of the second semester we will be presenting the climate change program to the Gulf Islands Secondary Students.. The ground work for the presentations to students in the schools is almost complete. We have finalized the Student Pledge Sheet which will be presented from February 5th to 8th to every Grade 10 student.

Drama teacher Mr. Donaldson, has agreed to develop and present scenes to promote the climate change initiative to the entire school student body in exchange for our musical support for the play "Unity" before Christmas. With dates set for our classroom presentations we are very excited to begin broadening the awareness of youth to motivate action to reduce Green House Gases.

Editor's Note, Fiona and Heather (along with many other presenters) will be talking about their program in the schools at International Women's Day activities on March 8 at Mahon Hall 3:30-5:30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

Facilitating an Exchange of ideas: The Salt Spring Energy Strategy Blog by Christine Atkinson

Many of us on Salt Spring have valuable experience and ideas, and are already creating change in our community. Anytime there is progressive change, it's the early adapters who bear the brunt of the costs—devoting both time and money to do things differently. The same is true for individuals and organizations in our community who are taking action against climate change. Change has to happen at the individual level, but we can accomplish much more, if we share our knowledge.

To facilitate this discussion and to celebrate creative problem solving on Salt Spring Island, we are launching The Salt Spring Island Energy Strategy blog. Its main function is to provide a forum for the sharing of information and experiences relating to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, but its potential is limitless. In the future, communities like ours will need to cooperate more than ever. Check out the blog at: <http://www.saltspringenergystrategy.org/blog/> and send us your ideas!

Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Report Issued Feb. 2

In November, 2006 the Stern Review was released in England. http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_review/stern_review_economics_climate_change/stern_review_report.cfm Today, the IPCC released its 4th report in Paris.. You can check their website at: <http://www.ipcc.ch/> You can also check for commentary on: <http://www.desmogblog.com> The UK Independent Newspaper Feb.1, listed the following key findings of the IPCC's fourth assessment report.: <http://news.independent.co.uk/environment/article2193672.ece>

- Global temperatures continue to rise with 11 of the 12 warmest years since 1850 occurring since 1995. Computer models suggest a further rise of about 3C by 2100, with a 6C rise a distant possibility
- It is virtually certain (there is more than a 99 per cent probability) that carbon dioxide levels and global warming is far above the range of natural variability over the past 650,000 years
- It is virtually certain that human activity has played the dominant role in causing the increase of greenhouse gases over the past 250 years
- Man-made emissions of atmospheric aerosol pollutants have tended to counteract global warming, which otherwise would have been significantly worse
- The net effect of human activities over the past 250 years has very likely exerted a warming influence on the climate
- It is likely that human activity is also responsible for other observed changes to the Earth's climate system, such as ocean warming and the melting of the Arctic sea ice
- Sea levels will continue to rise in the 21st Century because of the thermal expansion of the oceans and loss of land ice.

This is the third issue of a newsletter produced by the Salt Spring Energy Strategy Task Force. Check out our website at www.saltspringenergystrategy.org To receive this newsletter by e-mail, contact marionpape@telus.net and put Newsletter in the subject line of your message.