

Energy Strategy Task Force April Newsletter

www.saltspringenergystrategy.org

We won the Community Challenge!!!

We have just been notified that we are co-winners with the City of Vancouver of the Community Challenge Contest between all the Community Action on Energy Efficiency (CAEE) pilot communities in BC. The prize money of \$30,000, shared between SSI and Vancouver, will go to Islands Trust and is dedicated to energy upgrades for the Murakami affordable housing project.

BCSEA Sustainable Energy Teleworkshop: The New BC Energy Plan Join us on April 10, 2007 Noon-1pm @ I-SEA: 124 Lower Ganges Road, across from Info center.

Bruce Sampson, VP Sustainability, BC Hydro, was closely involved with the drafting sections of the Energy Plan relating to electricity and sustainable energy. He will guide us through the new Plan, followed by time for questions and discussion. The Energy Plan online <http://www.energyplan.gov.bc.ca>.

Pembina's EnerAction Program for Gr. 4-6 teachers, Apr. 11, 5-7:30 pm at Fulford Elem. School

EnerAction is an innovative and integrated conservation and action program that provides students with the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding of energy and be inspired and empowered to take action on energy issues in their lives, schools and community. Register: nadiner@pembina.org

Perennial Foods in your Ornamental Garden with Brandon Bauer: 1-4 pm Sunday April 15th, Farmer's Institute meeting room. \$5.00

Ornamental gardens are beautiful and peaceful. Imagine the peace of mind one might have knowing there was also food mixed into that beautiful scene. Food plants, often stigmatized as messy and unattractive, can attract birds, insects and people into those less visited corners of your garden. The workshop is an afternoon discovering how to incorporate perennial foods into an ornamental landscape. There will be a slide show, lecture and discussion/question period.

Brandon Bauer's background is in organic agriculture, horticulture, and related topics. His main interest lies in permaculture, sane community development and healthy living.

Good news: Foxglove Farm and Garden Supply has agreed to participate with the Salt Spring Energy Strategy on growing winter gardening starts. Watch for the sign that says "winter gardening" throughout the season and check out the ESTF website for a planting guide.

SolarCrest information session for homeowners thinking about a solar hot water system. SolarCrest is a Victoria company that sells and installs several different types of residential solar hot water systems. They are coming to Salt Spring on April 16, 1 pm at I-SEA. Contact Marion Pape 537-4567.

Guy Dauncey is coming to Salt Spring on April 19 Community Gospel Chapel, 7:30pm, Discussing Climate Crisis and what we all can do about it, now! A follow-up to Inconvenient Truth, not to be missed!

Youth Coordinators, Fiona and Heather Munro, have finished making presentations and having students fill out Student Pledge Forms at GISS. There was a great response from both students and staff. The highlight of Climate Change Action Month was the Climate Change Quiz Show which tested the knowledge of students and teachers as they competed against each other. Students at the high school have pledged to reduce their GHG emissions by a total of 137 tonnes a year. In April this program will be taken into Salt Spring Island Middle School.

Fiona and Heather have been invited by the Ministry of Education to make a short presentation at the Student Congress 2007 for students showing leadership in British Columbia

Monthly Gardening columns : Have you noticed the monthly gardening columns in the Driftwood? They contain lots of valuable information about what you need to do in your garden each month including seeds you can start for later planting, edible and medicinal wild plants readily available and many valuable permaculture tips. Check out the postings at www.saltspringenergystrategy.org

Transportation Options Fair/Eco-Home Tour: June 16-17 Mark your calendar for this exciting event that will feature many workshops, a critical mass ride, film screenings, information and displays, etc.

Home energy assessments and grants for homeowners now available.

If you are planning a renovation, get a home energy assessment done first.

Contact CityGreen for details www.citygreen.ca.