

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WITH CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAMS

Healthy economic growth and clean energy development in small cities and rural areas need not be centered on high-tech enterprises or new facilities. Rather, they can employ locally available resources such as private contractors and trained volunteers to reduce energy consumption in existing housing units and commercial spaces or to install solar and wind powered energy units. The Cincinnati example, *Home Weatherization Assistance Program* (below), saves energy and reduces energy bills, helping small businesses and homeowners to direct limited resources to more productive uses; the New Hampshire example, the *Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative* (next page), produces clean, renewable neighborhood energy with the same goals.

The Cincinnati Example

The Cincinnati-Hamilton County Community Action Agency is a private, non-profit organization that has served as a lifeline for low-income children and adults throughout Hamilton County for more than four decades. Delivering a seamless system of services, CAA provides assistance with employment, supportive services, home energy, early childhood education, housing, and youth programs.

Home Weatherization Assistance Program

By weatherizing homes and apartments, Home Weatherization Assistance Program groups help families reduce their energy consumption and therefore, lower their utility bills. Not only is this good for low-income families struggling to pay their bills, but it's also beneficial for our environment, reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

"After the services were performed, the crew cleaned up after themselves and shook my hand goodbye. That was the best handshake I have ever had in my life. You see, I would have sleepless nights not knowing how I would pay my gas bills. Some of those nights were filled with nightmares and headaches in the morning. Now I wake up warm, without the headaches and full of relief. My furnace comes on a few times a day, instead of running all day. I am very confident you have saved me thousands of dollars a year. I hope this program goes on forever. You're helping our natural resources, helping the economy and families."

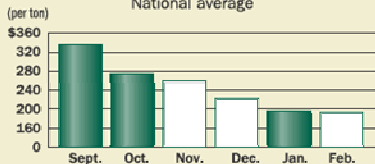
Home Weatherization Assistance Program households lower utility bills by making homes more energy efficient. Trained weatherization experts use the most advanced technologies and testing protocols available in the housing industry to identify and repair health, safety, and comfort problems common in older homes. Services include: replacing incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs; insulating the attic, basement, and exterior walls; replacing or repairing the heating system; and numerous other energy saving updates.

www.cincy-caa.org

COMMODITY PRICING

What Paper Mills Are Paying for baled paper

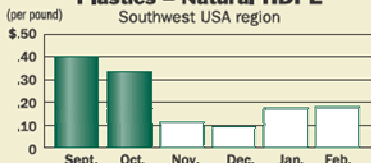
PSI 40 – Sorted white ledger
National average



For more on baled paper, call 877-825-6555 or go to www.wasterecyclingnews.com/secondaryfiber

What Recyclers Are Paying for secondary materials

Plastics – Natural HDPE
Southwest USA region

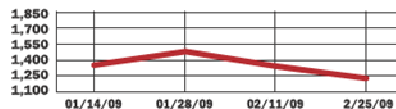


For more on loose material, call 877-825-6555 or go to www.wasterecyclingnews.com/smp

STOCK REPORT

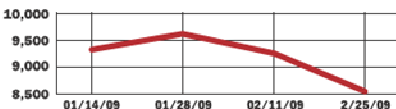
Waste & Recycling News Stock Index

-8.3%



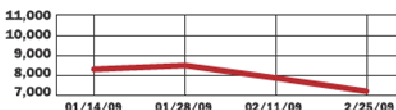
Calvert Social Index Fund

-8.0%



Dow Jones Industrial Average

-8.4%



Percentage Change By Market Segment

Waste collection, disposal and management	-3.0
Incineration and medical waste	-1.1
Metals	-20.4
Paper	0.0
Other materials and equipment makers	+77.5

For more, go to www.wasterecyclingnews.com/stocks.html and www.calvertgroup.com
Sources: Financial Content Inc. and Calvert Group Ltd.

WASTE & RECYCLING NEWS

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Neighborhood energy

New Hampshire communities install solar water systems

By Elizabeth McGowan

Panic about peak oil almost paralyzed Peter Adams about six years ago. But instead of curling into the fetal position permanently, the New Hampshire advertising executive did his green due diligence.

He corralled a couple of like-minded friends into creating the Plymouth Area Renewable Energy Initiative in 2004. The nonprofit's signature act is organizing "energy raisers" for homeowners, based on a New England tradition of barn raisers.

"Our original idea was to take care of our own neighborhood, so we thought we'd last about three years," Adams said about the central New Hampshire town of some 6,000 residents west of Lake Winnepesaukee. "But we've got a tiger by the tail because the demand has been so high. This is a different world we're living in now."

Thus far, PAREI has orchestrated 35 energy raisers where neighbors help neighbors install a solar hot water system. Trained volunteers provide free labor and the homeowner covers costs for a licensed plumber and the hardware. PAREI also reduces the cost by purchasing Apricus hot water systems — designed in England and crafted in China — in bulk. In addition, homeowners are eligible for financial incentives from their utility and state government.

At first, Plymouth resident Eric D'Aleo was hesitant to invest in solar hot water because he constantly obsessed about the arithmetic.

"Finally, somebody told me that I was going to have to put the numbers away and jump in," D'Aleo said about having PAREI install the system on his family's mid-1970s one-story clapboard ranch house in June 2007. "I just had to put trust in everybody else and their knowledge."

D'Aleo's oil bill has dropped 35% since the sun, instead of a furnace, began heating his water. He is able to go fully solar mid-May through Halloween and rely on a combination of



SOLAR SYSTEM: Members of a central New Hampshire initiative organize "energy raisers" that help neighbors install solar hot water systems.

the sun and electricity the rest of the year.

"With PAREI, I've clicked with perfect strangers who have evolved into friends because we're all striving toward the same goal," he said. "Everybody is learning together because we're in the same boat."

Following its motto of "Get Energized! Plan for Your Energy Future," PAREI has doubled its budget and membership in the last year, attracting 300 households and businesses. In 2005, the U.S. Department of Energy rewarded the group's ingenuity and motivation with a Gauntlet Award.

"It's exciting," said Adams, PAREI's co-director and board president. "Once you start making your own energy, you don't want to waste it."

Thus far, the nonprofit with just two paid employees has also organized close to 60 solar hot water system installations that don't fall strictly into the energy raiser category. For example, its latest project is finding funding to help the local homeless shelter go solar.

PAREI serves a rural region of about

30,000 residents that includes Plymouth and eight surrounding towns. Recently, members have given energy raising lessons outside of that 30-mile radius to residents in the New Hampshire communities of Sandwich and Laconia. Leaders want to spread the concept of these low-cost community partnerships across New England.

Adams also has fielded questions from strangers in Delaware, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Arizona and other distant points eager to establish a similar venture in their own back yards. That prompted him to channel his professional expertise into creating a "how-to" CD-ROM and video documenting PAREI's step-by-step process. Those digital resources sell for \$40.

"It has blown us away how infectious this is," Adams said about the onslaught of inquiries. "We knew it was something 10 people would want to do. I didn't know thousands would be interested." ■

Contact Waste & Recycling News correspondent Elizabeth McGowan at elizabethharron@hotmail.com

Inbox by Pete Fehrenbach

Global Hazard: Last week a British newspaper, The Independent, published an eye-opening account about the European e-waste trade. According to the article, large amounts of electronic equipment discarded in Europe are subsequently sold in markets in Nigeria, Ghana, Pakistan and China.

Predictably, upon reaching those destinations, the material is mishandled in ways that seriously threaten the environment and the health of residents and workers. Clearly the shipping of toxic e-waste from wealthy countries to poor ones, and

the resulting pollution and health hazards, is a serious worldwide problem. And this will continue until the e-waste recycling industries and/or governments in those wealthy nations get serious about stopping it.

So What Are They Stealing? The Muskogee, Okla., Phoenix reports that the scrap recycling business in that part of the country is so weak that people have stopped stealing copper for resale. Someone should write a song about this.

Wish I Could Make This Stuff Up: This last item is almost too strange for Inbox. Almost.

According to Tampa Bay Online, an al-

ligator in a zoo in Sarasota starts acting "weird" whenever a certain garbage truck rumbles by. The creature's caretakers hypothesize that it's either territorial protection or, more likely, confused mating behavior. The gator, a female, goes by the name of Attitude.

Attitude? I'll say. ■

Contact Waste & Recycling News managing editor Pete Fehrenbach at pfahrenbach@crain.com. Inbox runs Tuesdays and Thursdays in Waste & Recycling News Daily E-mail. Sign up for our free daily news alert at www.wasterecyclingnews.com/news-mail/signup.html.