

**ALLIANCE FOR A LIVABLE NEWPORT GREEN FORUM**  
**JUNE 2, 2008**

**Presentation by Beth Milham:**

**PART I**

Report to city summarizing Newport Goes Green Task Force recommendations:

Highlights:

- Appoint an environmental task force committee. The Energy and Environment Commission has been appointed.
- Create a database of all city buildings square footage and energy use. The database of buildings and addresses has been completed but not their square footage or energy use.
- Enforce state five-minute idling regulations for all diesel-powered vehicles. One suggestion is to have meter monitors as enforcement monitors. The law also states that non-vehicle diesels should not idle at all.
- Add 50 recycling containers throughout the city. Waste management will service these containers as part of their contract with the city. 25 containers have been ordered and are awaiting distribution.
- The other principle recommendation was for the city to begin looking into to fine-tuning their existing building energy operations, and training the managers to keep them working optimally. (The first meeting about these possibilities took place June 2 with Bill Riccio, Director of Public Services, representatives from National Grid's Demand Side Management programs and Beth Milham representing the commission.)
- After that, we would encourage the city to get RISE audits for smaller buildings that do not qualify for any of the above programs.

For a more detailed and the complete list of recommendations, please refer to the full text of the report posted on this website.

## **PART II:**

Little things you can do to live a greener lifestyle.

- Abide by the watchwords: “Reduce, reuse, recycle,” in that order.
- Make simple changes like driving less, combining errands, walking, biking and using RIPTA before investing in a hybrid.
- Start with small steps to encourage forming permanent changes in habits.
- Engage children and grandchildren in doing things more sustainable to carry change into the next generations.
- Be mindful of how you use energy and resources and continue to revisit your activities to fine-tune the ways you do things every day.
- For cleaning, use baking soda, white vinegar and water. Baking soda paste (with vinegar or lemon juice) cleans soap scum off shower walls.
- Eat locally and try to consume less meat.
- Keep thermostats lower in winter and higher in the summer.
- Walk to save gas and stay healthy
- Use a clothesline to dry clothes
- Pots and pans make great toys
- Color comic sections of the newspaper makes great wrapping paper, especially for children.

**Presentation by Cheryl Cadwell,  
Master Gardener and President of the Rhode Island Wild Plant Society**

- When mowing grass, cut top  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch from the top and leave clippings. They will feed the grass. Doing this consistently eliminates the need for fertilizer and constant watering. Keep grass about 3 inches long. It will choke out weeds and retain moisture.
- If you water, water deeply no more than once a week.
- Use native plants in landscaping. They are much more adaptable and require less maintenance
- Mulch, mulch, mulch. It controls weeds and retains moisture. Leaves make great mulch. For larger trees put raked leaves around the base. For smaller areas grind leaves with lawnmower and spread.
- Do not use the red dyed mulch. It looks unnatural and breaks down more quickly.
- Remember, whatever chemicals go into your lawn end up in your water.

Presentation by Scott Milnes and Tim Hedland  
Rhode Island Windpower

- Wind power systems are available for commercial and residential use.
- The payback for wind systems depends on installation costs and tax credits available.
- As of this publication, a residential windpower installation requires a special use permit in all Rhode Island towns and cities.
- The company also installs solar systems. They are researching geothermal and cogeneration heating systems.
- The Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources has the most current information about tax credits available for wind, solar and geothermal installation. These credits apply only to residential installations.

