

Kent Energy and Environmental Task Force will review energy use in the Town of Kent with the objective of determining ways to reduce energy use, and to encourage and establish the use of non or lesser polluting energy sources. We will identify practical means and methods of encouraging and instituting alternate sources of energy for municipal, educational, residential, commercial and industrial users. We will research and help develop a waste stream management system that will significantly increase the rate of town recycling. We will research potential costs and sources of funding and other available programs that would achieve the above objectives. We pledge to work collaboratively with the Board of Selectmen, Planning and Zoning Commission, Kent Conservation Commission, Kent Board of Education, the Kent School, the South Kent School, the Marvelwood School, the Board of Finance and any other institution or policy making body of the Town to achieve the above objectives.

We created a web site www.kentEdrive.org which is a resource for information and an ongoing record of our projects. To date the site has had over 4,000 visitors.

The initial goal of the Kent Energy and Environmental Task Force (KEETF) is to reduce the energy consumption of Town Hall by 10% by 2010. One of the long term goals is to research the Conservation and Alternative energy possibilities for making Town Hall energy-neutral. We are creating a template that can be applied to other municipal buildings and residences by using the following steps: behavioral changes, lighting audit, heating and cooling systems, building envelope study.

Our second initiative is to encourage Kent residents to opt to support clean energy through CL&P. For every 100 accounts that opt to do so the town of Kent will receive a free solar panel. Currently we have 41 accounts signed up. We hope to launch a town wide energy challenge in February, 2010.

We were also able to lend support to the BoS for the opening of the Transfer Station by redrafting the user contract and the permit. We also created a booklet about what items can be recycled. We are working on a plan to increase the rate of recycling from 17% to 35%.

In October we hosted a Green Tour. Four properties in Kent were showcasing solar, wind, geothermal and an 'off the grid'.

We are currently planning an Environmental Summit which will take place at Kent Center School on February 20, 2010. It is our goal to inform people about pressing environmental issues and to present them with concrete actions to address these problems on a local and personal level.