

Sherman- A Clean Energy Community

As you may know Sherman has joined the 20% by 2010 Clean Energy Community program sponsored by the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund (CCEF) to encourage the development and use of clean, renewable electricity in our state. As part of our pledge the Town of Sherman and the Sherman School have recently signed a new contract with Constellation New Energy and agreed to purchase 20% of our municipal electricity from a renewable energy supplier. This power comes from a regional mix of wind, small hydro and methane sources and helps to support the expanded production and use of clean, renewable electricity. An added bonus to this clean energy purchase is a newly renegotiated rate per kilowatt-hour saving us approximately 17%!

The CCEF program offers Towns an incentive for homeowners who sign up to purchase renewable energy. For every 100 households that make a clean energy purchase the CCEF will provide a free, demonstration scale solar photovoltaic system for a Town building. Currently Sherman has 32 households signed up. The Conservation Commission would like to encourage everyone in Sherman to explore the option of purchasing clean electricity. There is a new and expanding market of alternative energy suppliers offering real competition to CL&P. Therefore, making a clean energy purchase will not necessarily cost you more. For instance, you could choose Public Power and Utility (based in New Milford) and partner with Sterling Planet (a clean energy producer) and spend no more than you currently pay to CL&P. For more information, contact Public Power and Utility at 888-354-4415 or visit www.PPandU.com. You can also contact Sterling Planet at 877-457-2306 or visit www.sterlingplanet.com. For more information about the CCEF please visit www.ctcleanenergy.com.

Clean Energy Task Force Anyone?

The Conservation Commission has been exploring the possibility of establishing a Clean Energy Task Force for Sherman. This new group would be charged with developing an energy audit of Town buildings with the goal of reducing our consumption. Many area Towns have formed Task Forces like this and have been able to achieve savings of up to 10% of municipal energy use. Our question for you: is there a desire to set up such a Task Force for Sherman and would YOU be interested in serving your Town? If so, please contact me at 860-350-4390 or any member of the Conservation Commission. A Sherman Clean Energy Task Force would also promote residential sign ups for clean energy purchases, educate homeowners about other energy saving solutions and lead an out reach effort to Sherman seniors to retrofit older homes to be more energy efficient.

The CCEF has several other incentive programs supporting residential solar photovoltaic, solar thermal heating and geothermal heating. We will explain these options and opportunities in a future article.

Finally, the Conservation Commission has an opening for any citizen interested in land conservation, local agriculture and the preservation of our precious natural resources.

Please contact me (or any member of the Commission) or call the First Selectman's office at 860-355-1139.

Joseph Keneally
Chair, Sherman Conservation Commission