

Energy Fair Sampler:

A Six Pack of Ideas to Get you Started

Here are a few simple ideas and resources for Town Energy Committee members and others interested in encouraging behaviors that reduce the use of fossil fuels. These ideas can be combined to offer your own small Energy Fair ,or, perhaps, even better, pick one or two you especially like and join another big event such as Windmill Weekend, Cranberry Festival, etc. That way, somebody else does the publicity and you get access to some people outside the 'choir.'

1. **Compact Fluorescent Bulbs: Light Bulb give away, demo and math problem**

Cape Light Compact has a light bulb demonstrator that compares CFL and Edison light bulbs with an electric meter as well as a math problem sheet where people can "do the math" and find out how much money and green house gases they are saving. In addition to lending out the demonstration, the Compact will also consider requests to provide up to 50 free light bulbs to give away at your event for people who pledge to try it out in their home (if you want additional CFLs, the Compact will sell them to you for \$1.00 each)

Contact: Debbie Fitton: Cape Light Compact, 508-375-994-1743

2. **Cape Light Compact Green and Solar PV:** Support renewable energy while at the same time earning money for your town to spend on energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. All you really need for this is flyers from Cape Light Compact however an added activity, if you have access to internet and a computer in your location is to let people look up how the PV panels on a school in their town is doing (<http://view2.fatspaniel.net/CapeLightPortal/FSTportal.php>). These solar panels were bought with money earned for the town by people who signed up for Cape Light Compact Green (www.capelightcompact.com).

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3. **Watt's Up Meter:** This meter which you can plug in to find out how much energy a device or appliance uses, is available at all Cape Cod libraries. You'll need to borrow it from your library (or buy one for yourself- they're cheap and can be found on line or at many hardware stores for less than \$20 and up) and bring some items to check (you will need to be located near an electricity source). While you're at it, give out info on free energy audits through Cape Light Compact, Energy Star rebates, and Lighting Catalogs.

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(www.capelightcompact.com)

4. **Wind-** A few good audio visual props and a knowledgeable person or two is probably enough to get people coming over asking questions, especially if you're planning a wind installation in your town. Possibilities: models of municipal scale wind turbines- Self-Reliance and Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve have some they are willing to lend out.

"Wind: Then, Now and in the Future", is a table top display at Self-Reliance. Although this is not available for lending out, if you contact Self-Reliance they will e-mail you a pdf of the display that you can print out and mount to make your own version. You can download Wind Resource maps from Massachusetts Technology Collaborative's website site (masstech.org) .

Contact:Joan Muller, Waquoit Bay Reserve, 508-457-0495 x107

Contact:Cape and Islands Self-Reliance, 508-563-6633

5. **Biodiesel**- Self Reliance has a display for lending and they will even give you a sample of biodiesel that people can sniff!

Contact: Cape and Islands Self-Reliance, 508-563-6633

6. **Sustainable Design and Building**: Check out the model house Self-Reliance had one of their volunteers make. It even has working solar PV panels and demonstrates many aspects of sustainable design. Make one for yourself. You can put out samples of sustainable materials (reclaimed lumber, bamboo, recycled lumber,...) people can pick up and feel.

House: Contact: Cape and Islands Self-Reliance, 508-563-6633

(if you don't have your own scraps of sustainable materials, you can contact Joan Muller at Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve- 508-457-0495 x 107)

A couple more ideas:

If you have some funding, you can request the presence of the **Renewable Energy Trailer** at your next event. It's a rolling display with a solar thermal system (complete with a working shower), a 1 KW wind turbine as well as photovoltaic panels which charge batteries so you can plug into the trailer for your electricity needs at your event. Clean Energy Design, a local designer and installer of renewable energy systems will staff the trailer. Contact them for more details (www.cleanenergydesign.com).



Anti Idling Campaign

AmeriCorps Cape Cod (508-375-6974) can provide you with information on idling facts and resources to start your own anti idling project.

GoGreen Challenge: Hand out the GoGreen Challenge extended by Cape and Islands Renewable Energy Collaborative. Get community members to sign off and commit to the actions on the page. Download the colorful sheet (and view lots more useful information and links) at

www.cirenew.org



For more information contact Joan Muller, Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, joan.muller@state.ma.us, 508-457-0495 x107