

CLEAN ENERGY NOW!

North Haven Clean Energy Task Force

This is the first of a monthly column series intended to introduce you to the North Haven Clean Energy Task Force and its goals. On February 15, 2007 the North Haven Selectmen committed to meeting the goal of 20% of the town buildings' energy supply coming from clean, renewable, non-polluting energy by 2010. The North Haven Clean Energy Task Force was established to help households and businesses understand the importance of altering our patterns of energy use and persuading building owners to sign up for clean energy for their own premises. The Clean Energy Option is available to all UI customers. Householders have the chance to sign up through our task force, on the town of North Haven website, www.town.north-haven.ct.us, to sign up on a form enclosed several times a year in your UI bill, or to sign up at our CLEAN ENERGY NOW! table which will be at the Tuesday evening concerts on the North Haven Green this summer. Clean energy comes from wind power and low-impact hydro power and solar power.

The town received a \$5,000 grant from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, which was established by the General Assembly. The Task Force is empowered to give grants from this fund to local non-profit groups for the purpose of signing up households and businesses for the Clean Energy Option that is available to all UI customers. The objectives of the Task Force are:

1. to sign-up businesses and households for the Clean Energy Option. The town receives two solar panels for every 100 sign-ups.
2. to promote and publicize the Clean Energy Option and the importance of using clean renewable energy sources for electricity.
3. to enlist volunteers in the effort to promote clean energy.
4. to solicit grant proposals and to select, oversee, and report on grant projects by community groups.
5. to encourage efficient energy use by town officials, households, and businesses.

We hope to offer citizens ideas for energy savings in your homes and businesses which will bring you cost savings as well. The small additional cost of signing for clean energy will be offset by adopting energy saving practices in your homes.

The regular meeting Of the North Haven Clean Energy Task Force is the second Monday of the month at 7:30 at the Recreation Center. The meetings are open to the public.

ENERGY TIP: Don't underestimate the power of daylight. Use skylights and well-placed mirrors to reflect natural light and help reduce lighting costs.

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