

## CLEAN ENERGY NOW!

April 19<sup>th</sup> is National Hanging Out Day. This celebrates hanging out laundry on the line, not being a couch potato, as you might think. Do you remember the lovely smell of sun-dried clothes? It is easy and of little cost to install a clothes line outside. Installed from a porch it assures you can hang a sheet at shoulder level and not have it hit the ground as you pull it out along the line. Wooden racks can be moved outside on sunny days, be used inside in wintertime, and folded when not in use. Some hanging devices are designed to be raised by pulleys to hang below a high ceiling or high in a garage. When I was young, our neighbor, a high school teacher, listened to the weather forecast and hung his laundry out before leaving for those early classes. Don't excuse yourself because of your early start in the morning or long working hours.

Each load of clothes in an electric dryer uses 3 or 4 kilowatt hours of electricity. Clothes dryers account for 5.8% of the electricity consumed by U.S. households according to the U.S. government's Energy Information Administration. Fifty- seven percent of U.S. households have dryers (61 million households) so a lot of carbon emissions, as well as the \$85-\$100 per household per year in energy costs, could be saved if more people line dried their clothes.

This is the second year a "Freedom to Dry" bill has been introduced in the Connecticut Legislature. It is HB5995. Passage of it would prevent a restriction on laundry drying outside and would require community associations to provide for residents who want to dry their clothes using wind and sun. Three states already have laws that prohibit bans on clothes drying outside: Hawaii, Utah, and Florida. Let's hope Connecticut will join them.

Of course, in addition to saving money by line drying, you could become a clean energy household in a second way by signing up for a small portion of your electricity bill to come from renewable sources. The North Haven Clean Energy Task Force will be at the North Haven Earth

Day event at the North Haven Middle School, Saturday, April 25 , 9 am to 1 pm to help you sign up. We each need to contribute to a cleaner atmosphere and this is another way we can do it.

References: AMC Outdoors, April 2008 and November 2008

**ENERGY HINT: Try to cut down on the number of times you open your refrigerator door. Plan ahead and take out everything you need at one time.**