

Westford Energy Committee News

Our first project was to draft the Energy section of the new 2010 Town Plan. You can view the draft of this at the Town website, <http://www.westfordvt.us/>. For reference, the Energy section of the Town Plan is section 8. Within the Energy section, many objectives strive to reduce energy use and increase private and public use of renewable energy. The draft Plan is being reviewed by the the Planning Commission and later the Selectboard. Be on the lookout for more announcements.

The Committee is actively pursuing energy reduction and renewable energy grants. We reviewed grant proposals at our December 9th meeting and made recommendations to the Selectboard. An example of such projects funded through grants is the recently completed energy related upgrades for the Town Office. Westford was awarded a Climate Change grant from the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and also secured some incentive money from Efficiency Vermont. The upgrades included air sealing, improved insulation, and more efficient lighting and hot water heating. The upgraded office should save 20% in heating oil and 25% on electricity costs. The estimated Carbon Dioxide reductions are 5,864 lbs/year or 103,675 lbs over the life of the upgrades.

The Westford Library is pursuing grant funding for similar work, submitting an application to the Vermont Department of Public Service's Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant, made available for Vermont by the Federal American Recovery and Re-investment Act. Please join us in wishing the Westford Library good luck!

This fall we turned our attention to getting information out about weatherization projects. We hosted two Button-Up Vermont presentations, one for the seniors at the November senior luncheon and one for the public at large. There was lots of information about both technical and financial resources to help make our homes warmer while using less fuel. If you missed the presentation but are still interested in the information you may find most of the handouts, with the financial help that is available, along with an instructional video at a display at the Town Library.