

Town of Rhinebeck, Conservation Advisory Council Spring 2009 a CAC NEWSLETTER

Meg Crawford, Chairperson

The CAC “official duties”

Our specific duties are to review applications before the Town Planning Board and to make recommendations (in an advisory capacity) on environmentally sensitive aspects of those applications. As the “voice of the Rhinebeck environment”, we have also made it our mission to provide environmental education to the Rhinebeck community.

In December 2008, we extensively examined and commented on the Draft Comprehensive Plan, the proposed Zoning Law and Wetlands Law. Our comments applied to the Rhinebeck environment as well as the **LWRP** (Local Waterfront Revitalization Project). The LWRP is a planning document prepared by the community and recognized by the State of New York. It is based on the policies of the NYS Coastal Management Program. These 44 policies address such issues as flooding, fish and wildlife, energy management, development, historic and scenic resources, agricultural lands, wetlands and water and air resources.

To read about Rhinebeck’s LWRP and to see a map of the LWRP area please visit:

<http://www.rhinebeck-ny.gov/local-waterfront-revitalization-program-summary-online-version>

Also in our application review, we use the **Hudsonia** Biodiversity maps. Hudsonia, Ltd. provided these maps in 2007 when they presented the report “Significant Habitats of the Town of Rhinebeck”. The actual maps may be viewed at the Town Hall. Both the maps and the “Significant Habitats” report may be found online on the Town web site at <http://www.rhinebeck-ny.gov/committees/town-conservation-advisory-council-cac>

The CAC always welcomes guests to our meetings. They are scheduled once a month, on a Thursday night at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.

Our 2009 meetings are:

April 2, □ April 30, □ May 28, □ July 2, □ July 30, □ Sept.3, □
Oct 1, □ Nov.12, □ Dec. 3 and □ Wed. Dec 30, 2009

What is Energy Star?

ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices. Results are already adding up. Americans, with the help of ENERGY STAR, saved enough energy in 2008 alone to avoid greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 29 million cars — all while saving \$19 billion on their utility bills.

For example: If every American home replaced just one light bulb with an ENERGY STAR qualified bulb, we would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes for a year, more than \$600 million in annual energy costs, and prevent greenhouse gases equivalent to the emissions of more than 800,000 cars. And that's with just ONE bulb per household!

Because CFLs use less electricity than traditional light bulbs, they reduce demand for electricity. And, in turn, that reduction means less mercury is emitted from power plants. But, CFLs contain a very small amount of mercury themselves — an average of 4 milligrams in each bulb. However, no mercury is released when the bulbs are intact or in use.

Upon disposal, to prevent mercury from being released into the environment CFL's may be **recycled, free of charge, at Williams Lumber and Home Depot.**

a ANNOUNCEMENTS a

Meg Crawford, CAC chairperson, is pleased to announce that the Town of Rhinebeck has received a **\$40,000**. DEC grant for tree planting. This grant, made under the State's RE LEAF program will fund four planting seasons during the next two years. The Spring planting, to celebrate Arbor Day, will be on **Saturday April 25th** when 23-25 trees will be planted in the Village along South Street, Mulberry Street and the Lions Club Mini Park. The Fall planting (Date TBA) will plant trees in the Town cemetery on Mill Road. For more information, or to **volunteer** to help plant these trees, contact Meg Crawford at 876.5113 or meg_crawford@hotmail.com

The CAC, in support of the recent tree plantings, compiled and printed a ***Tree Care Brochure*** to educate the community in the care of newly planted trees. Copies may be found at Town Hall.

a QUICK TIPS THAT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE a

While we can't all afford to buy hybrid vehicles or expensive appliances we **CAN** do many little things in our daily life that will make a big difference in the long run. Here are some ideas to get you started:

1. Use **energy saving CFL** light bulbs and then recycle them at a take-back center (Williams Lumber and Home Depot)
2. Carry **re-usable bags** and use them at all stores, not just at the grocery store. Reuse or recycle plastic bags. (Stop N Shop and Hannaford offer plastic bag recycling bins) Recycle paper bags with newspapers.
3. Use **recycled paper products** such as computer paper, napkins and toilet paper. Making these products use less energy and water, produce less greenhouse gas, require fewer trees and reduces the amount of solid waste.
4. Wash your clothes in **cold water**. Your clothes will be just as clean and you'll cut your energy use in half.
5. **Eat less meat**. The production of meat contributes to almost 20% of our greenhouse gas emissions, even more than transportation. Incredibly, if we all skipped meat for one day each week it would be like taking 8 million cars off the road.
6. **Don't let your car idle voluntarily**. It's unnecessary pollution and it wastes gas. It's bad for our air and it's just as bad for your engine. When you're waiting for someone (even for a minute), or if you're in a drive-thru at the bank, or even just running in to buy a newspaper, turn the key. Idling for only 30 seconds uses more gas than restarting the engine.
7. **Buy local food**. The average American meal travels 1,500 miles from farm to table. This impacts not only the environment, with energy required for shipping, but the nutritional value of the food as well.
8. **Buy American**. Consider the carbon footprint of products made overseas and seek American produced products such as clothing, furniture, even toothpaste. Read the labels and support American manufacturers.
9. **Buy smart**. Search out non-disposable, reusable and less-packaged products. Consider the environmental impact when you throw an item away. Buy at consignment shops, antique shops and garage sales before you head to the mall.
10. **Understand the 3 R's**. **REDUCE** the amount of things that you buy. (This is the most important concept, because if you buy less than you have less "stuff" to reuse or recycle!) **REUSE** (or repair) what you already have and properly **RECYCLE** what you have left.

The Hudson Valley Green Fair will be at the Fairgrounds on April 25-26. This year, the Fairgrounds Green Initiative, (<http://www.dutchessfair.com/recycling.html>), will sponsor a 3-day electronics take-back. Keep old electronics out of our landfill! A carload is only \$10.

Recycle Your Old PC/TV

During the Hudson Valley Green Fair
Dutchess County Fairgrounds
April 25th and 26th, 2009



EARTH DAY 09



The Dutchess County Fairgrounds, in partnership with Advanced Recovery, Inc. and the Hudson Valley Green Fair is hosting electronics take-back days during Earth Day weekend. Let's keep 100% of "E-WASTE" out of the landfill!

WHEN

For Individuals:
Sat. April 25th & Sun. April 26th, 2009 – 10 AM to 4 PM
For Businesses:
Fri. April 24th, 2009 – 10 AM to 4 PM

WHERE

Dutchess County Fairgrounds
Route 9, Rhinebeck, NY 12572
(enter through Main Gate)



COST TO TURN IN ELECTRONICS

\$10 per carload for individuals. No pre-registration required.

Businesses, school districts and government agencies will be invoiced based on inventory of equipment recycled. Registration Required.
Please contact Bob Travers at Advanced Recovery, Inc.
845-858-8809 or btravers@advancedrecovery.com

Items Accepted

Monitors, Printers, Keyboards, VCRs, Batteries, Cell Phones, Terminals, Cables, Fax Machines, Radios, Modems, CRTs, Telephones, TVs, CPUs, Copiers, Scanners, DVD Players, Typewriters & Stereo Equipment

Every car turning in e-waste receives up to two discount coupons for \$2.00 off the admission price to the Hudson Valley Green Fair at the Fairgrounds April 25th or 26th!!

For Further Information: please contact Laurie Rich, Coordinator, Dutchess County Fairgrounds Green Initiative at: Lrich@frontiernet.net, or by phone at 845.876.6330

