

## **Report of the Fremont Energy Committee**

The Fremont Energy Committee (FEC) was formed in 2007 through the Board of Selectmen's Office in follow-up to the Town Meeting vote regarding reduction of carbon emissions / green house gases. A short time thereafter there was a significant increase in the cost of energy. So the reduction in the use of fossil based energy became a cost savings issue as well as a green house gas reduction goal.

In 2011 the FEC continued to focus its efforts on finding ways to reduce the use of fossil fuel-based energy in order to save money and reduce emissions of green house gases. The FEC continues to focus on the energy use in Fremont's public buildings and to provide energy efficiency and alternative renewable energy information to the public.

2011 was a fairly busy year for the FEC:

- In February 2011, the FEC received the Energy Audit Report from GDS Associates, Inc. for energy audits performed at the Ellis School and Fremont Public Safety Complex. These audits were funded by energy grants obtaining by the FEC in 2010. GDS held an informational meeting at the Ellis School on March 31<sup>st</sup> where they reviewed the audit findings and outlined several opportunities at both locations to reduce energy use and save money.
- In March 2011, the FEC received the Energy Audit Report from the SDES Group for the energy audit performed at the Fremont Town Hall. The report contained valuable information related to energy saving measures that could be implemented at the Town Hall to both save costs and reduce energy.
- Using grant money obtained in 2010, the FEC, through the Board of Selectmen, procured Freedom Renewable Energy to install a solar hot water generator for the Safety Complex. The contract to install the solar hot water system was signed in December 2011. The system is expected to be installed by the end of January 2012.
- The FEC solicited bids from Competitive Electric Power Suppliers (CEPS) to provide proposals to the Town and School District to provide electricity at prices lower than the Town and School District are currently paying using the utility company. Proposals from three different CEPS' were received in December 2011. If the Town and School District decide to move forward with a CEPS, a contract with one of the three bidders is expected to be complete in the first quarter of 2012.

The members of the FEC are volunteers who have an interest in their community, energy efficiency and the reduction of green gases. The FEC meets regularly for about two hours on the last Thursday of each month at 8:00 pm at the Town Hall. The FEC also participates in occasional events, workshops and projects as they come up and members are available.

The FEC is always looking for additional members that would like to get involved. Please contact the FEC through the Selectmen's Office or Town website if you would like to learn more or attend one of the FEC meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Members of the Fremont Energy Committee

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Pratt Memorial Park ~ Sandown Road  
Photo Courtesy of Mary Kaltenback  
Fremont Garden Club