

## **REPORT OF THE ENERGY COMMITTEE**

The Fremont Energy Committee has existed since 2007. The Committee is a volunteer group which meets approximately monthly. The Committee works closely with the Selectmen's Office and is most appreciative of the assistance and cooperation from Richard Rand, Code Enforcement Officer Thom Roy, Police Chief Neal Janvrin and Fire Chief Rick Butler. We are especially pleased that in 2009 two high school aged Fremont residents have joined the Committee.

The goals of the committee are to:

- Reduce energy costs in public buildings by improving energy efficiency in Municipal and School buildings,
- Provide information to the Fremont public regarding reducing energy costs, improving energy efficiency and reducing green house gas emissions, and
- Provide energy-related learning opportunities for school aged children and the Fremont public.

The Fremont Energy Committee's 2009 activity included:

- Completed assessment of the energy use of public buildings
- Supported and participated in the Green Fair at Ellis School
- Obtained funding approval for retrofitting of light fixtures of public buildings with energy efficient lighting. The installation was completed in the fall of 2009.
- Obtained grant funding for adding insulation at the Fremont Safety Complex. This work was underway at the end of the year and completed early in January 2010
- Obtained grant funding to purchase and install a small solar panel array at the Fremont Safety Complex. It is anticipated that this work will be completed in the spring of 2010.

In 2010 the Fremont Energy Committee intends to update tax incentive and other energy efficiency information that is available on the Town's web site, participate in the Green Fair at the Ellis School and continue to pursue grant funding for energy efficiency improvements to public buildings.

The Fremont Energy Committee is always looking for new membership. Those with interest and who have a few hours each month to attend a meeting and work on projects should contact the Fremont Energy Committee. Contact information is available through the Town of Fremont's web site on the Energy Committee page at [www.Fremont.nh.gov](http://www.Fremont.nh.gov).

### **Save Energy and Reduce your Carbon Footprint**

Reprinted from NHSAVES – Energy Solutions for New Hampshire ([www.nhsaves.com](http://www.nhsaves.com))

Whether you are driving, flying, turning on space heaters or air conditioners, our daily activities produce carbon dioxide (co2) emissions. Whenever you conserve energy by shutting off the power when an item is not in use, or increase the efficiency of an existing appliance, you are reducing your energy consumption, thereby reducing your carbon footprint.

## Home Energy Saving Tips

Energy-efficient improvements not only make your home more comfortable, they can yield long-term cost savings and can increase the value of your home. Our energy saving tips show you how easy it is to reduce your home's energy use without sacrificing comfort.

**HEATING:** Turn your thermostat down by 2 – 4 degrees in the winter, try 68 degrees. At night or when you're away, turn it down even further, to 55-60 degrees. For each degree you set back your thermostat you can save 25-30 gallons of heating oil per year. And if you have a/c, turn it up by 2 - 4 degrees in the summer, or try using fans and opening windows at night.

**LIGHTING:** Switch to CFL bulbs, which can last up to ten times longer than a normal bulb and use significantly less energy. (A single 20 to 25 watt energy-saving bulb provides as much light as a 100-watt ordinary bulb.) Each CFL can save you over \$13 a year.

**LAUNDRY:** Wash your clothes in full loads using cold water, and hang clothes to dry whenever possible. Just by running your dryer half as many times each week you'll save an average of \$32 a year.

**REFRIGERATION:** Unplug that extra fridge or freezer. It could be costing you up to \$160 a year. Use your main fridge wisely: keep it full, but not over-crowded; limit opening the door; repair leaky gaskets. When you're in the market for a new fridge, check the sticker to make sure it's ENERGY STAR rated and one of the most efficient models available.

**PHANTOM LOAD:** Smart Strip power strips are a new technology that can help reduce phantom load by turning devices on and off automatically, helping you save money on your electric bills. The red outlets always have power for routers, clocks, answering machines or cable boxes.

**WATER HEATING:** Most Americans have conventional water heaters that are barely more efficient than ones old 20 years ago. Today's new ENERGY STAR qualified water heaters include smart design enhancements that offer significant improvements in efficiency and performance. Depending on the technology you choose, you can cut your water heating costs in half.

**WEATHERIZATION:** Insulate your roof to at least R-49\* and seal all openings around doors and windows. This could cut your home heating costs by 25%.

\*R value insulation ratings are used to measure insulation's ability to resist heat flow. The higher the R value, the more effective it is. Insulation for homes should be based on its R value, not thickness or weight.

**WATER USAGE:** Take showers – a bath consumes 5 times more hot water – using a low-flow showerhead. You'll reduce hot water use and cut water costs by 10% to 16% without affecting comfort.

**COOLING:** ENERGY STAR qualified room air conditioners use at least 10% less energy than conventional models. You may also be interested to know that many people buy an air conditioner that is too large. ENERGY STAR suggests making sure your unit is properly sized.

**SAVINGS:** Did you know that the average home spends about \$2,200 on energy bills every year? Change to appliances that are ENERGY STAR qualified, and you can save \$75 a year in energy costs, while helping the environment.