

## **REPORT OF THE ENERGY COMMITTEE**

The Fremont Energy Committee was formed as a result of a positive vote on Article 21, regarding climate change, at the 2007 Town Meeting. The primary cause of climate change is due to burning of fossil fuels, the main source of our energy supply. It therefore follows that the focus of the Energy Committee is to promote reducing energy consumption by the municipality, and its residents and businesses. Energy conservation reduces greenhouse gas emissions, costs, environmental degradation and reliance on supply from unfriendly nations. As the Town, School District, and the Committee pursue their goals, it should be emphasized that it will be done with the additional goal of minimizing costs. To date, the Committee has incurred no expense to the Town.

Although progress has not been as rapid as we would have liked, we have moved forward. A partial list of accomplishments is as follows:

- ❖ Audit of the municipality and Ellis School energy usage;
- ❖ Arranged for audit of municipality energy use and proposal to install energy efficient replacement lighting by PSNH;
- ❖ Participated in Governors Task Force on Greenhouse Gas Reduction;
- ❖ Met with State and US Senators to express Fremont's concerns regarding energy and greenhouse gases;
- ❖ Received grant to install solar panels on the Safety Complex;
- ❖ Published suggestions in the Fremont Newsletter regarding energy conservation and trash recycling (ongoing);
- ❖ Initiated Articles for the 2009 Town Meeting Warrant regarding installation of alternative energy systems; and
- ❖ Initiated a program with the Jordan Institute to assess the energy use and evaluate energy conservation measures at Ellis School.

It should be mentioned that the Ellis School has been very pro-active with their efforts in energy conservation and green programs such as increased recycling, improved lighting efficiency, promotion of green issues on their website, and numerous other programs.

In 2009 we hope to expand and accelerate the 2008 programs as well as formulate an energy segment in the Fremont Master Plan and initiating a program for Fremont Residents to assess and improve their energy efficiency and "carbon footprint". There is much to be done in this area, and as in many of the town's programs which rely primarily on volunteer efforts, the Energy Committee would welcome the expertise of additional volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,

The Fremont Energy Committee

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Gene Cordes

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