



Cornwall Energy Task Force Annual Report 2015

Cornwall Energy Task Force supports our commitment to energy conservation and clean energy. We provide educational materials and public events, reports in local publications, and a consistent presence at town events to present innovative ideas. We present programs by government (and government funded) organizations and make recommendations to selectmen, educators, businesses and residents.

This past year the Energy Task Force focused on the energy efficiency of our town buildings, while maintaining our educational programs in gardening, energy audits and the fuel group. For our community's participation in the Home Energy audit program, we won a \$10,000 Smart Grant Award to spend on a new door and windows, asbestos abatement and insulation in the Town Offices. We then audited seven town buildings using the SBEA program described below, upgraded and saved \$12,305 annually, a savings that will continue to appreciate with time. With our EPA Portfolio Manager data up to date, we qualified for ASHRAE audits from Eversource to help us target deep retrofits at the school and got an extra \$5000 grant to apply this format to 3 extra buildings. Those improvements for the school, WC Firehouse, Garage, and Town Hall are in the works. Last, but not least, we were recognized by the Northwest Hills Council of Governments as the best example to represent Energy Task Force participation in our energy future at the Torrington Economic Development Forum. It's been a great year.

Home Energy Solutions, the Small Business Energy Audits: CRI has provided HES audits to us since 2010 with average savings estimated at \$437/home/year. They recommend incentives and rebates for savings in a customized report for each homeowner. Ask your neighbors about their good experiences with this program. Likewise, the SBEA Program is available to businesses and non-profits. We chose JK Energy Solutions and they have done a great job with our town buildings (Town Hall, Town Offices, Child Center, CCS, WC Fire and Cornwall Fire Departments, and the Garage). Non-profits (churches and libraries) may also apply.

The Cornwall Fuel Oil Group is in its sixth year. We represent homes, offices, and church buildings to obtain reduced pricing on heating oil, service and cap prices. Fuel oil is lower by generally 20-60 cents/gal saving \$400/1000 gal (average bldg). Again Bantam Fuel provided the lowest and most qualified bid with three pricing options: floating, capped or fixed at \$1.959/gallon. They also provide discounted A+ service and the highest level of standard biofuel (10%) without going custom in the state. (If you are interested in information, please contact Bantam Oil and Rick Wolkowitz at 860 672 6366 or richard_wolkowitz@yahoo.com).

Let's Get Growing: Debby Bennett of Kent Greenhouse is the garden angel providing instruction and guidance to maintain the garden boxes in back of the library. Heidi Kearns and Bonney Brook residents are assisting. Our goal is to promote gardening and local food through schools and libraries. CCS has two similar boxes in full fruit and flower that we provided. Extra produce is brought to the Pantry. We also supply the library with films on environmental activism. Check it out.

As always, please visit us at the Ag. Fair in the fall and the Memorial Day Fair in the spring to get updates on current issues, incentives and programs and come celebrate our Solar Christmas tree. Programs are announced and updated on our website <http://www.cornwallctenergy.org/>. We'd love to get your feedback. Come join us! We meet annually with subcommittees working in the interims. Cornwall is working on a Sustainable Future with diligence and creativity!

We are coming on our tenth year. To celebrate we are teaming up under the umbrella of the Cornwall Association with the Land Trust, HVA and Housing Development to herald a decade of well-considered conservation of our natural resources to keep Cornwall the gem it is. Come to the Going Green Fair 10/29 at CCS from 11-3. Look for our posters to see all the wonderful events and offerings.

*Respectfully submitted,
Katherine Freygang, Cornwall Energy Task Force Chair*