

Bordentown City Environmental Commission

Issue #16

www.bcec.us

Winter 2008

BCEC Contact Information



BCEC meetings are held on the **2nd Wednesday** of every month and are open to the public.

Meetings are held at the **Carslake Community Center**, 209 Crosswicks Street, at 7:00pm.

Mail may be sent to **BCEC at:**
Bordentown City Environmental Commission,
City Hall,
324 Farnsworth Ave.,
Bordentown, NJ 08505

Email:
bcec@mail.com
(Send an email to join the BCEC email list)

Website:
www.bcec.us

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STEP UP BORDENTOWN CITY! CHANGE A LIGHT AND CHOOSE CLEAN POWER

The Bordentown City Environmental Commission has joined the NJ Clean Power Community Partnership in an effort to help educate Bordentown City and area residents about the climate change benefits of choosing CleanPower (wind, solar, hydro) and switching to energy-saving light bulbs. We hope to build awareness about CleanPower options and energy conservation, and greatly increase the number of local residents enrolling in the NJ CleanPower Choice Program and switching to energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs).

We are asking area residents and businesses to help meet the modest goals of the following two challenges towards making Bordentown City and our region more sustainable places in the future:

#1 - NJ Clean Power Choice Program: BCEC is challenging 2% of our residents to sign up for NJ Clean Power Choice program in 2008. By doing so, you choose to purchase clean renewable energy (wind, solar, hydroelectric, landfill gas), combat climate change, and support the expansion of the green technology industry in NJ. **Simply call (866) 657-6278 ext. 3** or email the Clean Energy provider of your choice, and a small surcharge (average: \$4-9/month) will appear on your monthly PSE&G bill. Go to this link to sign up: www.njcleanenergy.com (click "Clean Power Choice")

#2 - Change A Light Campaign: BCEC is challenging 200 residents to change 5 regular incandescent light bulbs to energy-saving compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) in 2008. Each CFL lasts up to 7 years, and saves an average of \$32 on your electric bill. Go to the link below to sign the pledge online (make sure you indicate BCEC referred you) and find local retailers that sell CFLs. Please let BCEC know when you have signed the pledge, and we will deliver 1 CFL bulb to you to help you get started!
www.njcleanenergy.com/CAL

Upcoming Events

Earth Talk: "Rivers and Tides" - Tuesday, January 22, 7:00 p.m.

A mesmerizing and poetic documentary about Scottish sculptor Andy Goldsworthy, whose long-winding rock walls, icicle assemblages, pine needles and other intricate masterpieces are made entirely of materials found in the wild. A beautiful study of the fragile relationship between man, art and nature. A must see! FREE.

Free door prizes! Carslake Community Center, 209 Crosswicks Street

Winter Wander - Saturday, February 16, 10:00 a.m.

Shake off the winter blues with a brisk wander along the Thorntown Creek Greenway. Meet at City Hall.

Earth Talk: The Environment in China - Tuesday, February 26, 7:00 p.m.

Brother Pat Hogan, SVD, Divine Word Missionaries, will speak about his involvement in environmental/ecological programs during 30 years of living and teaching in Asia. FREE. *Carslake Community Center, 209 Crosswicks St.*

Earth Talk: Connecting the Farm and the City - Tuesday, March 25, 7:00 p.m.

Larry Kuser, owner of Fernbrook Farm in Chesterfield, will discuss local "farm to fork" connections and challenges for the future of local farming. FREE. *Free door prizes! Carslake Community Center, 209 Crosswicks St.*

6th Annual Earth Day Cleanup - Saturday, April 19, 9:30a.m.

Help clean up a natural area in Bordentown City. Location: TBA

Earth Talk: Birding in Your Backyard - Tuesday, April 22, 7:00 p.m.

A presentation about the birds in our backyards, local birding opportunities during the spring migration, and how to create habitat in our backyards. Guest speaker: Kim Korth, wildlife biologist with NJDEP Division of Fish & Wildlife and Bordentown City resident. FREE. *Free door prizes! Carslake Community Center.*

LOCAL ECO-NEWS

Thorntown Creek Greenway Trailbuilding Day

October was an exciting month for the Thorntown Creek Greenway projects. Several dozen volunteers wielding shovels and clippers christened the first nature trail in Bordentown City in October, creating a 4 foot wide path along a 1/8 mile section of Thorntown Creek. Invasive multiflora rose was removed, fallen logs were moved aside, and a sinuous path along the creek emerged at the end of the morning's work.



Volunteers created the first section of the Thorntown Creek Greenway Trail in November

Thorntown Creek Greenway Grant

The Bordentown City Environmental Commission received a \$9,270.00 grant from the NJ Recreational Trails Program. These funds, applied for in December 2006, will enable the development of the first section of the proposed Thorntown Creek Greenway Trail, from Gilder Field to Elizabeth Street. Improvements will include interpretive and wayfinding signage, benches, bike racks, tree identification signs, a small footbridge, and trailhead access development. These improvements will begin to get underway in Spring 2008. In the meantime, temporary signage has been erected to encourage residents to explore this newly accessible green area in the City. (see Thorntown Creek Greenway maps at www.bcec.us)

Generous Bequest for Environmental Improvements in Bordentown City

Also in October: BCEC received an extremely generous bequest of \$5,000

from Anonymous, Harry Tutek, Esq., Donor Advisor. The funds will be used in coming years for a variety of projects, including the development of new parkland and trails in Bordentown City.

2008 Grants and Programs

BCEC has applied for \$14,660 in funding from the NJDEP Recreational Trails Program for trail improvements at Bordentown Beach, Lime Kiln Alley, and Oliver Street Park.

BCEC has also applied for 2008 NJ DEP/Rutgers Water Conservation Project, which would provide the City with a free evaluation of water use issues and create a water conservation program for municipal buildings, schools and residents.

Recycling Update: Local Recycling Rates and New Efforts at the High School

- Burlington County recently released information on municipal recycling rates for 2005, the most recent year for which the NJDEP has complete statistics. The overall average for Burlington County is 35%, which puts it about average amongst NJ counties. Bordentown City's recycling rate was 38%, or 8th highest out of 40 municipalities in the County. This is encouraging, but there is clearly room for improvement.

- In November BCEC Recycling Subcommittee members helped teachers at Bordentown High School schedule a recycling presentation from Wayne DeFeo, who made four presentations to different classes throughout the day. Several High School teachers have expressed interest in increasing the level of recycling at the school by increasing awareness and adding paper and bottles/cans containers to the campus. The Recycling Subcommittee will continue to assist the teachers in this regard in 2008.

Environmental Calendar

Tuesday, January 22

Earth Talk

Film: "Rivers & Tides"

Documentary about landscape artist Andy Goldsworthy. Carlslake Community Center, 7pm.

Wednesday, February 6

Bordentown City Planning Board
City Hall, 7pm.

Wednesday, February 13

Bordentown City Environmental Commission

Carlslake Community Ctr., 7pm.

Wednesday, February 13

Winter Wander

Meet at City Hall, 10am.

Tuesday, February 26

Earth Talk

The Environment in China

Speaker: Brother Pat Hogan, Divine Word Missionaries. Carlslake Community Center, 7 pm.

Wednesday, March 5

Bordentown City Planning Board
City Hall, 7pm.

Wednesday, March 12

Bordentown City Environmental Commission

Carlslake Community Ctr., 7pm.

Tuesday, March 25

Earth Talk

Connecting the Farm to the City

Speaker: Larry Kuser, Fernbrook Farm. FREE. Carlslake Community Center, 7 pm.

Wednesday, April 2

Bordentown City Planning Board
City Hall, 7pm.

Wednesday, April 9

Bordentown City Environmental Commission

Carlslake Community Ctr., 7pm.

Saturday, April 19

6th Annual Earth Day Clean-up
9:30am. Location: TBA

Tuesday, April 22

Earth Talk

Birding in Your Backyard

Speaker: Kim Korth, wildlife biologist. FREE. Carlslake Center, 7 pm.