

Bordentown City Environmental Commission NEWSLETTER

Issue 2, Winter 2003



WINTER CONSERVATION

Using energy efficiently saves us money, improves the comfort of our homes, and impacts the quality of the air we breathe. Most homes and businesses use two forms of energy, electricity and natural gas.

Most electricity is generated by burning coal which contributes to acid rain and emissions of harmful air pollutants including carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas. While we look forward to the increased use of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power, it is sensible to adopt conservation practices when utilizing non-renewable energy resources.

While we consume energy all year around, conservation becomes particularly relevant in the winter months when thermostats are turned up and heating bills rise. According to the US Army Environmental Center, it is common for energy consumption to increase during the winter months. The following are simple tips for winter energy conservation:

- Change from incandescent to fluorescent lighting (see back page).
- Check insulation in your attic, basement, exterior walls & floors.
- Insulate water heater and all exposed hot water pipes.
- Caulk and weatherstrip doors and windows that leak air.
- Install rubber gaskets behind outlet and switch plates on exterior walls.
- When the fireplace is not in use, keep the flue damper tightly closed.
- Keep blinds of sun-exposed windows open in the day time and closed at night.
- Install clear window films that trap heat indoors.
- Set ceiling fans to run clockwise to draw up air & keep warm air circulating.
- Lower your thermostat five degrees at night to cut energy use.
- Plant trees/shrubs to serve as a windbreak around your house.
- Have furnace inspected and upgraded, if necessary, to a more efficient model.

BCEC CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Meeting time is 7:00PM;
Meeting place is Carlslake Community Center.

Email may be sent to the BCEC at: mail@bcec.us

Mail may be sent to BCEC c/o Bordentown City Hall 324 Farnsworth Avenue Bordentown, NJ 08505

Bordentown Environmental Survey



The BCEC surveyed Bordentown residents who stopped by the BCEC booth at this October's Cranberry Festival to find out their environmental concerns. The following results reflect the percentage of respondents who indicated that they were "Concerned" or "Very Concerned" about the topic:

93%	Water Quality	70%	Noise Pollution
90%	Air Quality	66%	Light Pollution
86%	Open Space/Greenways	66%	Litter & Waste
83%	Habitat Protection	60%	Access to Walking/Biking Trails
79%	Water Conservation	52%	Alternative Transportation (Mass Transit/Biking)
72%	Shade Trees	48%	Pest Control
72%	Environmental Education	45%	Pedestrian Safety
72%	Energy Conservation		

The BCEC welcomes public input on these and other environmental issues. Please feel free to drop us a line or attend the regular monthly meetings!



Bordentown City to be part of Delaware River Heritage Trail

Bordentown City will be a link in a 50-mile trail located on both sides of the Delaware River between Trenton and the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge. The National Park Service fostered the concept for a trail that would emphasize the vast historic and natural resources found within the Delaware River region. The trail will link 24 municipalities in Mercer and Burlington counties in New Jersey, and Bucks County and the City of Philadelphia in Pennsylvania. It will be available for walkers, bicyclists, and in many areas, the wheelchair disabled. Segments of existing paths will be incorporated into the trail, including the riverfront Promenade in Burlington City, and Delaware and Raritan Canal State Park in Mercer County. All of these efforts will provide greater opportunities to walk and bike for both health and outdoor recreation, as well as provide additional links to greenway projects throughout the region.

At the present time, Burlington County is conducting a final scoping study for a specific route in New

Jersey, expected to be completed in late spring of this year. Draft plans call for Bordentown's segment to begin at the pedestrian crossing for the light rail line over Crosswicks Creek, and then continue onto Farnsworth Avenue and Burlington Street, where it will continue into Fieldsboro and points south. The Delaware River Greenway Partnership is developing a management plan that will assure continuity of the trail and compatibility with the surrounding landscapes, and provide a framework for various public agencies to assume long-term management.

Water Plant Field Trip

BCEC was privileged to tour Bordentown's Water Treatment Plant this November. Escorted by Commissioner John Wehrman, the BCEC was given an in-depth tour of the plant which provides water for Bordentown City, the Township as well as the City of Fieldsboro.

Plant Operator John Walls filled the BCEC members in on the testing that they are required to perform on the water by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), as well as additional testing they regularly undertake.

BCEC also learned about the investments made at the plant to keep up with the latest technology. This includes the replacement of all water meters with new meters that can be read electronically from the street.

The largest Bordentown area consumers of the plant's water are the local industries such as Ocean Spray, Mastoris and the Petro Truck Stop. BCEC is pleased to report that during the summer drought restrictions, the water plant noticed a significant drop in the amount of water usage.

Community Calendar

January 18

7:30am-4pm
NJ Ecological Fire Management Forum
NJ EcoComplex
Columbus, NJ
Contact: The Nature Conservancy
609-735-2200

January 25

7:30pm
George Dyson,
Kayak Builder
Slide presentation
Bordentown Senior Center
Contact: Paint Island Canoe & Kayak
609-324-8200

March 13

7:00pm
Meeting of the Friends of the Trenton-Hamilton Marsh
Bowhill Mansion
Hamilton, NJ
Caontact: Delaware & Raritan Greenway
609-924-4646

March 29

A full day event
7th Annual Land Conservation Rally
Lafayette Yard
Marriott, Trenton
Contact: 908-234-1225

What's in a Light Bulb?



A lot! About \$37 billion dollars, or one quarter of the total electricity generated in the US, is used for lighting. Most Americans still light their homes using incandescent bulbs, which are one third as efficient as flourescent lighting. Yet, Compact Flourescent Lamps (CFLs) are now available for most fixtures. While costing more at the cash register, a 25-watt CFL emits as much light as a 100-watt incandescent and lasts ten times longer. Compare this to a halogen torchiere which sucks up 300 to 500 watts of power!

If you want to receive the BCEC Quarterly Newsletter by email, send an email to mail@bcec.us