

## **THETFORD ENERGY COMMITTEE (TEC) 2012 ANNUAL REPORT**

This year the TEC organized two energy-related forums held at the Montshire Museum – one was on “Dirty Energy” (hydrolic fracturing and tar-sands extraction) and the other was on “Smart Meters.” TEC also initiated a bicycle Park and Ride program for Thetford residents who want to leave their cars at a convenient location and bike to work. The Wells River Savings Bank and the Baptist Church in East Thetford agreed to participate in the program and provided parking sites.

The TEC agreed to participate in a pilot program started by Efficiency Vermont (EVT) and the VT Dept. of Public Service to inform local contractors, banks, and residents about the new Vermont Residential Building Energy Standard (RBES) and is organizing public workshops on the RBES. To encourage Thetford residents to improve the energy efficiency of their homes, TEC proposed setting up an Energy Audit Revolving Loan Fund through the Sustainable Energy Resource Group (SERG) to help homeowners cover the expense of the first vital step in any energy improvement process—the energy audit. This program is on hold until the state provides PACE funding. The TEC is also partnering in the Go VT Program Promotion to educate commuters about the Go VT web site that lists opportunities for carpooling for daily commutes to and from work.

As part of Vermont’s climate change goal to increase energy efficiency in 80,000 VT homes by 2020, towns are being asked to get 3% of their homes weatherized in 2013, as part of the Vermont Home Energy Challenge. The TEC was one of the first energy committees to sign on to the Challenge and has begun planning for its implementation, building off our successful 2011 Thetford HEAT initiative.

As has been done for a number of years, TEC is offering a new Warmth in Winter series, in which energy-related videos/films will be show at the First Congregational Church of Thetford on several Sundays in January and February of 2013.

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