

WILLINGTON ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ENERGY AUDITS POINT WAY TO SAVINGS FOR TOWN AND CITIZENS

By Pamela Wheeler for the Willington Energy Advisory Committee (WEAC)



An eye-opening energy audit of our Town Office Building on February 13, 2010, revealed a tremendous opportunity to decrease fuel bills by simply taking such steps as installing insulation and sealing open gaps around doors and windows and in the structure itself. Detailed recommendations will be presented to the Board of Selectmen as soon as we receive the full report from the auditor. Willington has already been approved for a \$40,000 State grant for new windows for the building. We would like to find out if the grant can be modified to cover other recommended repairs as well. The committee hopes that when townspeople see how much such repairs save over the course of a year they will be eager to look at other Town owned and Town supported facilities for further efficiencies.

For residents(including renters) and businesses who want to lower their energy costs there are many energy audit and weatherization programs offered by our public utility companies, some free and some for modest fees depending on the heating fuel you use, your income, etc. They are funded by natural gas and electric rate payers. Since these programs change with available resources it is best to get updated information either by phone: 1-877-WISEUSE, or online: <http://www.ctenergyinf.org/> or <http://www.ctsavesenergy.org/> .

Especially for Willington residents and businesses, Norman Nadeau, a committee member and local renewable energy consultant, has offered to help townspeople to arrange free energy audits by utility contracted vendors who work locally. Climate Partners (1-800-852-cold; code word: projectfeeds) and Conserve (860-817-0324). For information call "Mr. Norm" (860-268-6442).

If you are interested in doing more to bring about a sustainable energy future you can switch the source of part of your electricity from fossil fuel providers to clean, renewable energy providers. Information on how to enroll in Connecticut's Clean Energy Options program is shown on WEAC's new page on the Town of Willington's website, <http://www.Willingtonct.org/public>.

Our next regular meeting will be Thursday, April 1, 7:30 PM, at the Town Office Building. All meetings are open to the public and we invite others interested in assisting these efforts to attend or call the Robin Campbell at the First Selectman's Office for information (487-3100).