

Bordentown City Environmental Commission

NEWSLETTER

Issue #22

www.bcec.us

Spring 2010

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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SUN POWER ON FARNSWORTH AVENUE

If you've visited Dr. Rossos or looked at his office/home on Farnsworth Avenue, you've seen a bank of 52 shining solar panels on the roof. At the urging of their "green"-oriented daughter, Dr. Nicholas Rossos and his wife Noreen decided to do the right thing and install solar electric while retrofitting the building with Energy Star appliances, bamboo floors, low flow (1/3 less water use) toilets, and compact fluorescent light bulbs. It also fits with their near-future plans for an electric car.



Solar panels at the Rossos' office/home

After consultations with solar installers, NJ, Federal and local governments they decided the panels would work. Although not inexpensive, substantial rebates and tax credits for solar installations are available.



Nicholas and Noreen Rossos

And since unused energy is sold back to PSE&G, the installation should be paid off (and generating profit) within seven years. The panels have a 25-year lifespan, add value to the house, and physically protect the existing roof.

Thanks to the Rossos, Bordentown City will be greener than ever. We've also seen some new solar panels on Hilltop. **What are your plans for eco-friendly renovations? Let us know at bcec@mail.com**

Upcoming Events/Programs

BCEC Earth Talk – County Parks/Crystal Lake Park - Tuesday, March 23, 7:00 p.m.

A photographic powerpoint presentation on Burlington County's Park System by County Naturalist Jen Bulava, with a special focus on the unique ecology of Crystal Lake Park, just a few minutes from Bordentown City. Learn about the amenities, best times to visit, and the plants and animals you may find there. FREE. *Carslake Community Center.*

Annual Arbor Day Tree Planting, Saturday, April 17, 9:00 a.m.

Bring a shovel & gloves and help plant trees! Meet at City Hall. *Sponsored by the Bordentown City Shade Tree Committee.*

Earth Day Ramble - Saturday, April 24, 10:00 a.m. – D&R Canal Towpath

Join us for a ramble along the newly created section of the towpath. Meet at I-295 scenic overpass.

BCEC Earth Talk – Bats in the Garden State - Tuesday, April 27, 7:00 p.m.

Maria Grace of the Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ will talk about the amazing lives of bats, their importance to our communities, and the threats they face in NJ, including the devastating spread of White-nose Syndrome. Learn about what's being done to conserve bat populations and how you may be able to help! FREE. *Carslake Community Center.*

Earth Day - Oliver Street Planting and Trail Maintenance, Saturday May 1, 10:00 a.m.

Help plant native plants, remove invasives and improve the nature trail. Bring gloves and trowel or shovel. Meet at corner of Oliver and W. Chestnut Streets.

Bordentown Street Fair, Saturday/Sunday, May 15 & 16

Stop by BCEC booth for information about local issues, new parks and trails, and free raffle for eco-friendly prizes!

BCEC Earth Talk – Local Food, Healthy Food - Tuesday, May 25, 7:00 p.m.

Speakers will explore the connections between local farms, local gardens, local schools and our communities. FREE. *Carslake Community Center.*

LOCAL ECO-NEWS

Return of the Bordentown City Farmers' Market

The Bordentown City Community Farmers' Market will open for its second exciting season on Wednesday, June 9th offering "Jersey-Fresh" fruits and vegetables, baked goods and unique crafts for sale every Wednesday from 4:00 p.m. to dusk. Sponsored by the City Commissioners, the market will be open rain or shine (except during declared weather emergencies) through the fall. It will be located in the City parking lot between Farnsworth and 2nd Street (next to the Farnsworth House Restaurant). Buying food locally not only helps our local economy, it also supports our local farmers. The market is being expanded to include more entertainment, educational displays and cooking demonstrations throughout the season. Market rules and vendor applications are available on the City's website.

Kill A Watt EZ at the Bordentown Library

The Bordentown City Environmental Commission has donated a Kill A Watt EZ meter to the collection of the Bordentown Library, where library members can check it out just like a book. You can use this device to help cut your energy costs and find out what appliances are actually worth keeping plugged in. Simply connect any appliance to the Kill A Watt EZ, and it will assess how efficient it is. The large LCD display will count consumption by the Killowatt-hour, the same as your PSE&G bill. You can also calculate and forecast an appliance's energy costs in dollars on a daily, weekly, monthly or yearly basis. So why not find out how much all those new phones, iPods, and other gadgets (not to mention that old fridge) are costing you!

Thanks to Goodwill Industries, City Residents Can Now Recycle Electronic Waste at Public Works Yard

Bordentown City finally has a solution to the disposal of electronic material, such as out-dated or damaged computers, monitors, printers and fax machines. The Department of Public Works has made arrangements with Goodwill to provide a trailer, which will be located at the recycling area behind Carlslake, and Goodwill will be responsible for collecting and recycling the e-waste deposited there.

Public Works expects the trailer to be in place by the end of March. City residents can then take used equipment to that trailer area. This is a good move for all. Electronic stuff will be kept out of the landfill. There is no charge to the City for this service. And the City's cost for trash removal will be lessened by not having to handle and dispose of e-waste.

Reminder: No Idling is the Law!

Unnecessary vehicle idling contributes to health risks, pollution, and harms the environment. Current regulations limit engine idling for both diesel and gasoline vehicles, including cars, trucks, school buses, public and private transportation buses, and off-road construction vehicles/equipment, to **three minutes**, with limited exceptions. For more information on NJ's anti-idling regulations go to www.stopthesoot.org.

Planning Board 2010 Schedule: New Date & Location

The Bordentown City Planning Board has changed the date of its meeting from the first Wednesday of each month to the first Monday of each month. The location of meetings has also been changed, from City Hall to the Carlslake Community Center at 209 Crosswicks Street.

Environmental Calendar

Tuesday, March 23

BCEC Earth Talk: Burlington County Parks/Crystal Lake Park
Carlslake Community Ctr., 7p.m.

Monday, April 5

Bordentown City Planning Board
Carlslake Community Ctr., 7p.m.

Wednesday, April 14

Bordentown City Environmental Commission
Carlslake Community Ctr., 7p.m.

Saturday, April 17

Arbor Day Tree Planting
Meet at City Hall, a.m.

Saturday, April 24

Earth Day Hike: D&R Canal Towpath
Meet at I-295 scenic overpass, 10am

Tuesday, April 27

BCEC Earth Talk: Bats in the Garden State
Carlslake Community Ctr., 7p.m.

Saturday, May 1

Earth Day Oliver Street Planting/Trail Maintenance
Meet at corner of Oliver and W. Chestnut. 10:00 a.m.

Monday, May 3

Bordentown City Planning Board
Carlslake Community Ctr., 7p.m.

Wednesday, May 12

Bordentown City Environmental Commission
Carlslake Community Ctr., 7p.m.

Saturday/Sunday, May 15-16

Bordentown Street Fair
Stop by the BCEC booth.

Tuesday, May 25

BCEC Earth Talk: Local Food
Carlslake Community Ctr., 7p.m.

Monday, June 7

Bordentown City Planning Board
Carlslake Community Ctr., 7p.m.

Wednesday, June 9

Bordentown City Environmental Commission
Carlslake Community Ctr., 7p.m.