

Bordentown City Climate Change Action Plan

Earth Talk, March 27, 2007

Bordentown City Environmental Commission

www.bcec.us

Climate Change in NJ

- 2006: warmest year on record!
- 8 of the 12 warmest years in NJ (since 1895) have occurred since 1990
- Three 100-year floods since 2004
- Rising sea levels=coastal flooding

Local Climate Change Initiatives

- What is Bordentown City **currently doing to address global warming/climate change?**
- What can residents do **now?**
- What can government and residents do **in the future?**

Transportation

City

- Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan (adopted 2005)
- Bike racks, sidewalk improvements

Residents

- Walk/bike in town (1 square mile)
- More fuel efficient cars (gas prices only higher!)
- RiverLINE to work/play/NJ-NY & Philly airports
- Carpool/Ridesharing
- Telecommuting (Wi-Fi for Bordentown City?)

Energy

City

- Energy Audit of City properties is proposed in Conservation Element
- Buy Green Power? Solar on City Hall?

Residents

- Replace incandescent bulbs with CFLs
- Energy Star appliances
- Thermostats
- NJ Green Power

Recycling

- BCEC subcommittee is encouraging local recycling for residents and business owners (*Earth Talk*, April 24)
- Free recycle buckets; municipal composting
- Additional benefit: lower taxes!
- City/Schools: recycle paper/cans/bottles

Tree Planting

City

- Shade Tree Committee has planted over 250 trees in last 10 years!
- Arbor Day Tree Planting, April 28, City Hall

Residents

- Plant a tree!

Local Food

Minimizes the huge energy costs of transporting food across U.S.

- Backyard gardens
- CSAs (Fernbrook Farm starts in 2007!)
- Locals Farms (farmstands across Burlington County)
- Farmer's Markets: Bordentown City, West Windsor, Trenton

New Jersey Leading the Way

- 2007 NJ Executive Order: Reduce greenhouse emissions by **20% by 2020** (1990 levels) and **80% by 2050**
- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative:
 - cooperative of Northeast/Mid-Atlantic States
- NJ BPU rebates for solar/wind energy
- Best transit system in the US

What can you do?

- Replace a regular incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb (CFL)
- Move your thermostat down 2° in winter and up 2° in summer
- Clean or replace filters on your furnace and air conditioner
- Reduce the number of miles you drive by walking, biking, carpooling or taking mass transit wherever possible
- Start a carpool with your coworkers or classmates
- Keep your car tuned up
- Check your tires weekly to make sure they're properly inflated
- When it is time for a new car, choose a more fuel efficient vehicle
- Try telecommuting from home

What can you do?

- Install a programmable thermostat
- Choose energy efficient (Energy Star) appliances when making new purchases
- Wrap your water heater in an insulation blanket
- Use less hot water
- Use a clothesline instead of a dryer whenever possible
- Buy locally grown and produced foods
- Buy fresh foods instead of frozen
- Seek out and support local farmers markets
- Avoid heavily packaged products
- Recycle, recycle, recycle!

What can you do?

- Turn off electronic devices you're not using
- Unplug electronics from the wall when you're not using them
- Only run your dishwasher when there's a full load and use the energy-saving setting
- Insulate and weatherize your home
- Be sure you're recycling at home
- Plant a tree
- Get a home energy audit
- Switch to green power

What can we do for the future of our children and grand-children?

- What else can we all do?
- **Individuals?**
- **Businesses?**
- **Government?**

For More Information...

- *An Inconvenient Truth* www.climatecrisis.net
- Carbon Footprint Calculator
www.carbonfootprint.com
- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
www.rggi.org
- Bordentown City Environmental Commission
www.bcec.us