



the

Farmington Town Letter

Volume 24 • No. 2 • Town Hall • February 2010

1 Monteith Drive • Farmington, CT 06032 • www.farmington-ct.org

GREEN EFFORTS COMMITTEE

In January 2009 the Green Efforts Committee was established with the goals of working to ensure a more environmentally friendly Town of Farmington, to seek out cost savings, increase public awareness and to encourage town wide participation in "green efforts." The Committee is a joint effort of Municipal and Board of Education officials and staff.

The Green Efforts Committee is working towards both long and short-term goals. Specifically, the charge of the committee is to:

1. Increase public awareness and municipal participation in "green" efforts including energy conservation, renewable resources, recycling, and other environmentally friendly practices.
2. Establish a leadership role in the community in promoting environmentally friendly practices in town.
3. Explore ways to fund "green" initiatives.
4. Participate in the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund's 20% x 2010 Clean Energy campaign and serve as the Energy Task Force as required for participation in the Environmental Protection Agency's (New England) Community Energy Challenge.
5. To make recommendations to the Town Council and Board of Education for cost effective ways to reduce the Town's reliance on traditional energy resources.
6. Find ways to facilitate private initiatives.

Members of the Committee include:

Michael Clark, Chair
Town Council Chair

Ronald Janeczko,
Board of Education Member

Webster Grouten, Resident

John Hinze, Resident

Bill Wadsworth,
Town Council Member

Vignesh Kumar,
High School Student

Donald Perrault, Resident

Kathryn Perry, Resident

John Vibert
Town Council Member

Emily Quallen,
High School Student

Mark Quallen, Resident

The Committee has met with enthusiastic support from the community and schools. If you would like to attend a meeting and offer your thoughts and ideas, please check the Town web site for a schedule of dates and times for future meetings. We welcome your input!

Best regards, *Mike Clark*
Town Council Chairman

What is Clean Energy?

Our society is heavily dependent on natural gas, coal and oil for our energy. To break this dependence we need to support non-polluting energy sources. Clean Energy is good for our society's health, security and prosperity.

Clean energy comes from both natural sources and innovative new processes. Clean energy sources include Wind, Sun, and Water. Science and technology are also giving us clean energy opportunities with Waste-to-Energy conversion, Biomass conversion, and Fuel Cells.

To learn more about clean energy opportunities in Connecticut go to the Connecticut Clean Energy website at www.ctcleanenergy.com and view the 3-D interactive clean energy experience.

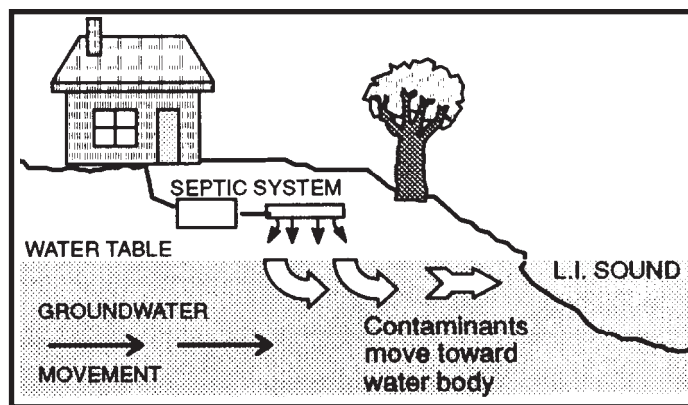
Stormwater Runoff Pollution: What You Can Do To Help

The Town of Farmington has the benefit of two major rivers that flow through its borders: the Farmington River and the Pequabuck River. These rivers provide a habitat for wildlife and provide many aesthetic and recreational opportunities including enjoyment of wildlife, canoeing, fishing and swimming to name a few. These benefits, however, are ours to enjoy only as long as we are good stewards and protect the water quality of these rivers and all the smaller tributaries that ultimately flow into them (collectively called a watershed). We can all do our part to prevent stormwater runoff from polluting our waters. Under natural conditions, some rainfall and snowmelt penetrates into the ground where it travels before being discharged into a river while another portion of the rainfall evaporates into the atmosphere. The remaining rainwater runs off when rain or snowmelt flows over impervious surfaces like driveways, parking lots and roads, where it picks up debris, dirt and other pollutants before flowing into rivers or streams either directly overland, or inside a storm sewer system via catch basins. The result is the discharge of untreated pollutants into the same rivers we treasure for their aesthetic and recreational values. We can all do our part to minimize pollution of stormwater by minimizing the contaminants that runoff comes in contact with.

Here are 10 Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution:

1. **Use fertilizers sparingly** and sweep up driveways, sidewalks, and roads. If you apply fertilizer shortly before a rainstorm, much of it will be washed into nearby storm drains, streams and lakes, and rivers. So when you fertilize your lawn, apply it well in advance of a rainstorm, use it sparingly, and use organic, slow-release fertilizers.
2. **Never dump anything down the storm drains.** Homeowners should be aware of any illicit connections or discharges they may have to the storm drain system. Any pollutants that enter the storm drains will be washed into nearby storm drains, streams and lakes, and rivers.
3. **Vegetate** bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.
4. **Compost** your yard waste. Grass clippings left on the lawn are a natural fertilizer.
5. **Avoid pesticides**; learn about Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

6. **Direct Downspouts away from paved surfaces.** Consider installing a rain garden or rain barrels as a great way to recycle water and to use around the yard for watering of gardens. Information on rain gardens and rain barrels can be found under the landscape construction link at <http://www.sustainability.uconn.edu>. Purchase rain barrels through the Farmington Valley Watershed Association at <http://www.frwa.org>.
7. **Take your car to the car wash**, where wash water is filtered and recycled, instead of washing it in the driveway. If you must wash at home, wash your car on a grass or gravel surface and use a small amount of soap.
8. **Check and/or repair fluid leaks in your cars**, and recycle motor oil and other automotive fluids.
9. **Pick up after your pet.** Pet waste can be a source of bacteria, and can lead to contamination of streams and lakes, and rivers.
10. **Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly.** An improperly operating/maintained septic system can lead to polluted surface and groundwater; therefore, improper use and failure of septic systems should not be taken lightly. Dispose of household chemicals properly. Do not dispose of them down the drain where they can contaminate the groundwater. Use household hazardous waste collection days to dispose of any chemicals. Additional information can be found at the MDC website (<http://www.themdc.com/hazwasteschedule.htm>).



In compliance with Federal regulations, the Town of Farmington has been testing runoff from various areas of Town over the past five years. The results of this testing is then utilized to determine areas of concern, and to pinpoint sources of contamination.

The Town is currently working on adding a link on its website, <http://www.farmington-ct.org>, addressing stormwater runoff pollution and recycling. The site will be filled with additional useful information you can do to prevent stormwater runoff from polluting our waters. Look for it in the near future.

CCEF's COMMUNITY INNOVATIONS GRANT

This newsletter was funded through the CCEF's Community Innovation Grants Program. The Green Efforts Committee is dedicated to supporting clean energy awareness and education.

CTCleanEnergyOptionsSM Sign Up Raffle !

SIGN UP TO SUPPORT CLEAN ENERGY

Act Now! This is something you can do today to support clean energy as well as the Town of Farmington. For every 100 Farmington customers who sign up for CTCleanEnergyOptionsSM the Town of Farmington can receive a FREE kW of a clean energy system from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund.

CTCleanEnergyOptionsSM is a Department of Public Utilities Control (DPUC) approved program that allows any Connecticut Light & Power or United Illuminating customer the opportunity to support clean energy made from approved renewable resources such as wind, small hydro and landfill gas. Customers who enroll continue to receive electric delivery service from their utility and pay a small clean energy surcharge.

The Town of Farmington has joined the Connecticut Clean Energy Communities program so by joining CTCleanEnergyOptionsSM you are also helping Farmington qualify for a free kW of a clean electric system for a public building. Simply go to www.ctcleanenergyoptions.com for more information and to sign up **OR** return the form below to the Town Hall and the Green Efforts Committee will facilitate your sign up. All Farmington CL&P customers that send in their sign up sheet will be entered into a raffle for a **"green energy" gift basket**. The drawing will be held on March 1, 2010. Send your sign up information to:

**Green Efforts Committee - Liz Dolphin
1 Monteith Dr.
Farmington, CT 06032**

☐ **Yes! Enroll me as a new CTCleanEnergyOptions customer!**

STERLING PLANET

Toll-free 877.457.2306
5% Small Hydro - Connecticut
15% Small Hydro - New England
30% Wind - Northeast
50% Wind - National

COMMUNITY ENERGY

Toll-free 866.WIND.123
33% Wind - Northeast
33% Wind - National
34% Small Hydro - New England

- ☐ CT Clean ChoiceTM 100% at \$0.0119 per kWh
☐ CT Clean ChoiceTM 50% at \$0.00595 per kWh

- ☐ NewWind Energy[®] 100% at \$0.013 per kWh
☐ NewWind Energy[®] 50% at \$0.0065 per kWh

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Contact Phone () _____

E-mail Address _____

Organization: _____

Signature (required) _____ Date _____

Please include account information for the utility company covering your area

CL&P Customers: CL&P Account Number (11-digit account number + "Customer Name Key" from CL&P Bill)

_____ + _____

PERFORMANCE CONTRACTING A NEW VENTURE FOR THE TOWN OF FARMINGTON

The Green Efforts Committee has been charged with examining and recommending opportunities and initiatives that may provide the Town and Board of Education cost savings. This summer the Green Efforts Committee solicited and reviewed qualifications for a consultant to assist the Town with Performance Contracting in all Town of Farmington buildings (Town and Board). Celtic Energy, Inc. was the unanimous choice of the Committee.

Performance contracting is a multiphase process. The hiring of a consultant is the first step for the Town's research into the feasibility of using an Energy Services Company (ESCO) as a key component of a long-range energy plan for the Town (or a performance contract). The first step, or Phase I, is for the consultant to assist the Town in soliciting RFP's for the possible selection of the ESCO. Eventually, the ESCO would assist the Town by financing larger capital improvement projects through energy savings and energy cost avoidance. Both the Town and Board of Education have experience with this concept, though on a much smaller scale. For example, all the lights at the Town Hall have been retrofitted this past year with no out-of-pocket expenses. This was accomplished through a CL&P program.

Phase I will conclude with the consultant making recommendations to the Green Efforts Committee on the selection of an ESCO. Phase II would be for the Town to hire the ESCO to audit town buildings. This audit is essential for the Town to be able to leverage more grant funds. Phase I is being funded through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant that the Town is slated to receive this year.

This is a very exciting process and has the potential to enable Farmington to become more energy efficient without requiring the Town to finance a variety of capital projects with tax dollars.





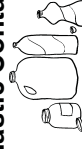





the **Farmington**
Town
Letter
Town Hall
Farmington, CT 06032-1053

PRSR STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID Farmington, CT Permit #17



FARMINGTON RECYCLING PROGRAM



RECYCLABLES ACCEPTED	DESCRIPTIONS & EXAMPLES	HOW TO PREPARE	DO NOT INCLUDE
Glass Food & Beverage Containers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All types and colors of glass bottles & jars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rinse clean Throw out lids and caps Labels are okay DO NOT BREAK 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No broken glass, mugs, windowpanes, ceramics, light bulbs, mirrors, dishes or tempered glass
Metal Food & Beverage Containers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Containers up to 3-gallons in size Aluminum-foil products Empty aerosol cans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rinse clean Labels are okay DO NOT CRUSH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No propane cylinders, pots & pans, paint cans, hardware or pipes
Plastic Containers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Containers marked #1 PET or #2 HDPE up to 3-gallons or 3-liter size 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rinse clean Throw out lids and caps Labels are okay DO NOT CRUSH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Styrofoam plastic bags No automotive fluid containers No medicine bottles
Milk and Juice Cartons 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paper milk and juice containers Juice boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rinse clean, Throw out juice box straw Throw away cap, plastic ring okay DO NOT CRUSH 	
Newspaper & Magazines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Newspaper and inserts Magazines and Catalogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place magazines and newspaper together in brown paper grocery bags Remove plastic inserts DO NOT USE PLASTIC BAGS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No phone books No soiled newspaper or magazines
Paper Board 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cereal Boxes Shoe Boxes Pasta Boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throw out liners Remove plastic windows Place in brown paper bags with magazines, catalogs and newspaper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No wax- or plastic-coated cardboard
Junk Mail & Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bills and inserts Stationery & Envelopes Coupons Home Computer Paper Shredded Office Paper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place in brown paper grocery bags with magazines, catalogs and newspaper 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Greeting Cards/Gift Wrap Books Products & Samples Plastic (Tyvek) Envelopes
Corrugated Cardboard 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corrugated cardboard has 2 layers of heavy paper with <u>ripples</u> in between 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flatten and secure boxes Cut if over 4 feet in length Do not tie or tape bundle Stack next to recycling bin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No wax coated boxes No soiled boxes No pizza boxes

Expanded Plastic Recycling Coming in Early 2010

CRRA is working on expanding plastic recycling! Starting in early 2010 residents will be able to recycle plastics numbered 3 through 7 (currently plastic recycling is limited to #1-2). Please be on the lookout for a start date to this expanded recycling program. Farmington will be able to recycle more and create even less trash! More information can be found at: <http://www.crra.org>

* Recyclables will be collected weekly at curbside on the same day as your trash collection service. Put only recyclables in your recycling bin. **DO NOT PUT RECYCLABLES IN PLASTIC BAGS.** If you have questions call (860) 675-2550 for more information.

TEN SIMPLE WAYS TO REDUCE YOUR HOME ENERGY COST

Source: <http://www.cl-p.com/home/saveenergy/goinggreen/earthhome.aspx>

1. **Stove** - Cover pots when boiling water or soup and they will heat up more quickly.
2. **Kitchen Appliance** - Slow cookers, toaster ovens, and microwaves use up to 75 percent less energy than an electric oven.
3. **Refrigerator** - Don't overload your refrigerator or freezer, air must circulate to keep foods at proper temperatures.
4. **Dishwasher** - Air dry dishes instead of using the dishwasher's drying cycle, and wash only full loads.
5. **Thermostat** - Set your thermostat at 68 degrees during winter days, and 78 degrees in summer.
6. **Fire Place** - Keep the flue closed unless you are using the fireplace. Leaving the flue open is like having a six-inch hole in your house.
7. **Hot Water Heater** - Make sure your hot water heater is insulated and set the thermostat at 120 degrees.
8. **Clothes Washer** - Switching to warm or cold water instead of hot can cut the energy use by half. Wash only full loads.
9. **Lighting** - Compact fluorescent bulbs use 75% less energy and last 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Select a wattage that is 1/3 of the incandescent wattage you previously used.
10. **Home Electronics** - Up to 75% of the electricity used to power home electronics is consumed when the devices are turned off. Plug TVs, DVD players, etc., into power strips and turn off the power strip when not in use.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AT HOME TO BE ENERGY EFFICIENT?

Here are some websites to learn more about energy efficiency at home:

www.energystar.gov: ENERGY STAR is a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy helping us all save money and protect the environment through energy efficient products and practices.

www.ctenergyinfo.com: CTEnergyInfo was developed by the Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control, Energy Conservation Management Board and Institute for Sustainable Energy to help consumers navigate the ever increasing number of energy-related resources.

www.eere.energy.gov/consumer/tips: Energy Savers provides homeowners with tips for saving energy and money at home and on the road. Learn about the latest information on energy-saving, efficient technologies as well as tips for using clean, renewable energy to power your home. Learn about driving and car maintenance tips to save you money on the road.

www.techniart.com: Learn about Energy Saving Lighting Fairs! Energy Saving Lighting Fairs are promotional sales events that educate residential customers about ENERGY STAR® CFLs and fixtures. Customers learn about the features and benefits of energy efficient lighting technologies and can purchase products at deeply dis-

counted prices. Lighting Fairs are created by TechniArt and hosted by commercial businesses, state agencies, public events, home shows, state and town fairs, and fundraisers. They are aimed at residential consumers and deliver a wide selection of quality ENERGY STAR CFLs and fixtures.

www.energyfederation.org/smartliving: Sponsored by CL&P, Smartliving provides access to residential Energy Star products for energy efficiency and saving. This on-line catalog is for purchasing energy efficient light bulbs and light fixtures. To order through this online store you must be a residential customer of Connecticut Light & Power with a delivery address in Connecticut. Eligible customers may order up to 20 light bulbs and 20 light fixtures per program year. You will need your electric utility account number to complete your order.

www.energykinetics.com: Learn how you can upgrade your existing water heater and boiler, furnace or heat pump to a single high efficiency system engineered to deliver high performance and exceptional fuel efficiency and economy.

www.hes.lbl.gov: Based on the zip code you enter, you will be able to quickly calculate your home's energy use online, and see how much energy you use in heating, cooling and your appliances.

IDEA OF THE MONTH

Composting: A Gardener's Black Gold

September is a great month to start a compost pile! With a little effort you can turn your yard waste and garbage into FREE organic fertilizer that both your garden and your wallet will love.



Composting is simply a way to speed up the natural process of decomposition. By following simple steps to control air, temperature and moisture you can turn your yard waste and garbage into rich compost in only a few months. Start your compost pile now and you can have a ready supply of compost for your garden next spring.



Food scraps and yard wastes make up 20 – 30% of the total waste stream. Composting is the ultimate recycling as it enables you to divert waste and convert it to a useful product...all without it ever leaving your property!



Compost improves your soil's ability to balance moisture, retain nutrients, improves soil fertility and stimulates root development. All without chemicals or additional cost!



How-to Video: www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?A=2718&Q=399598.

How-to Guides:

www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/rrr/greenscapes/pubs/compost-guide.pdf

www.ct.gov/dep/lib/dep/compost/compost_pdf/homecompostbrochure.pdf



Discount compost bins can be purchased locally through the Farmington River Watershed Association. 860-658-4442.

IDEA OF THE MONTH

Integrated Pest Management for Your Home!

Summer is here and so are the bugs that enjoy the warmth as much as we do! But think first before you grab that bug spray or hire an exterminator. Chances are there is a better, safer and greener way to control unwanted pests!

Integrated Pest Management or IPM emphasizes simple and inexpensive prevention practices that cause the least harm to people and the environment. Below are some simple ideas to get you started.



Deprive bugs food and shelter. Keep things clean and clutter free. Repair leaking plumbing that provides a welcoming habitat. Store foods in tightly sealed containers



Seal cracks, repair holes and repair or replace screens to prevent bugs and rodents from entering your home.



Where appropriate encourage natural predators such as spiders and ladybugs. Birds and bats can have voracious appetites for bugs.



Consider traps and sticky paper before using more toxic sprays. Go to BeyondPesticides.org for more nontoxic ideas and to learn more about pesticide alternatives.

IDEA OF THE MONTH

Expanded Recycling Beginning May 1, 2010

*Your recycling program is better and **greener** than ever!*

*ALL food and beverage containers made of plastics
No. 1 through No. 7!*

*Are now being accepted in the weekly recycling pick up!
(No black plastics, no Styrofoam or other foam plastics, please.)*

In addition to the current #1-#2 containers we can now recycle:



*Plastic Food &
Beverage Containers
#3 - #7 under 3 Gallons*

See www.farmington-ct.org for more details about what to recycle!

Single-stream recycling is EASY!

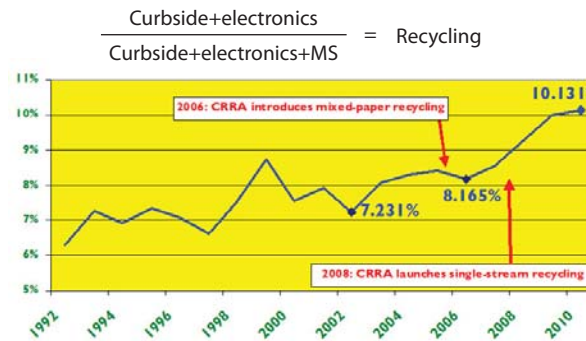


CRRA's recycling efforts:

- Public awareness
- Education
- Rebates to towns
- Single-stream technology

are INCREASING Connecticut's recycling performance!

Mid-Connecticut Project Recycling Rate FY 1992-2010



For more information about Farmington's single-stream recycling program and expanded plastics recycling, contact

Liz Dolphin

860-675-2327

DolphinL@Farmington-CT.org

or visit

<http://www.crra.org>

Single-stream RECYCLING

IS COMING TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!
NOW RECYCLE #1 THROUGH #7 PLASTICS!



Just place **ALL** your recyclable materials in your recycling bin. **NO SORTING!**





The Connecticut Resources Recovery Authority (CRRA), Connecticut's recycling leader, and the Town of Farmington are working together to help Connecticut residents improve the environment and save money through a process called **single-stream recycling**.

Hartford's regional recycling center has been retrofitted with a single-stream system that automatically separates paper, cardboard and containers.

And now, in addition to the #1 and #2 plastic items you've been recycling for years, you can recycle all plastic food, beverage, soap and shampoo containers – even plastics #3 through #7!

What does single-stream recycling mean for you?

With single-stream recycling, you and your neighbors no longer have to sort glass, plastic, paper and metal within your recycling container. Just mix all your recyclables together – they will be sorted once they're delivered to the recycling center.



Plastic bottles take 700 years to begin decomposing in landfills.

Earth911.org

What can I recycle through the new single-stream system?

- Paper (newspaper, junk mail, magazines, catalogs, envelopes) – no bundling required!
- Clean cardboard and boxboard (cracker boxes, pasta boxes, shoe boxes and other similar materials) – no bundling required!
- Paper egg cartons
- Paper bags
- Office and school papers
- Empty glass jars and bottles
- Aluminum cans and clean foil
- Empty tin and steel cans, including aerosol cans
- All plastic containers labeled #1 and #2
- **AND NOW . . .**
- All other plastic food, beverage, soap and shampoo containers labeled #3, #4, #5, #6 and #7

BE GREEN –

ALL CONTAINERS SHOULD BE
EMPTY AND CLEAN

What can NOT go into my recycling container?

- No garbage
- No plastic bags, plastic wrap or dry-cleaning bags
- No food waste
- No food-tainted items (used paper plates or boxes, paper towels or paper napkins)
- No polystyrene or styrofoam
- No motor oil bottles
- No hazardous chemical containers
- No plastic toys or sporting goods
- No electronics or batteries
- No compact discs or DVDs
- No foam egg cartons
- No ice cream cartons
- No light bulbs
- No hangers
- No yard waste or garden tools
- No pots and pans
- No phone books
- No pizza boxes
- No black plastic containers
- No wax or plastic-coated cardboard
- No plant containers
- No medicine or medication bottles
- No Tyvek or similar envelopes

How does my town benefit from single-stream recycling?

Every ton of disposables that your town recycles is a ton your town does not have to pay for to dispose as trash. In the year ended June 30, Farmington taxpayers saved almost \$160,000 just by recycling!

Single-stream is helping us recover and re-use valuable materials: Some communities have increased their recycling volumes by as much as 100 percent within a year of beginning their single-stream programs.

For more information about recycling, call your trash hauler, the Town of Farmington at 860-675-2327 or visit <http://www.crra.org>.