

NEGEF Small Grant Application for Solar Up North Renewable Energy Initiative
Bethlehem, NH
February, 2011

Founding Members of Solar Up North Renewable Energy Initiative

David Van Houten has lived in Bethlehem, NH since 1972. He worked as a bookseller at the Village Book Store in Littleton, NH for 20 years. In 2008 he entered the energy policy field, advocating for community benefits of energy projects in Northern New Hampshire. He is currently employed by Coos Community Energy of Colebrook and Bethlehem.

Ken Begg is an expert woodworker and carpenter. He is building an extremely energy efficient house in New Hampshire. He is a founding member of the Bethlehem Energy Committee and was integral in starting the Bethlehem Community Garden in 2010. He is passionate about solar energy and volunteers at SolarFest during the summers.

Aaron Cockrell is a native of Tennessee and has lived in New Hampshire since 1992. While growing up he lived in a “off-grid” house that produced electricity through micro-hydro. He has been a commercial plumber for over 10 years, and started Plumb Perfect Plumbing, Inc. in 2007. He has experience with plumbing and heating systems that do not rely on fossil fuels, and hopes to run his company vehicles on biodiesel in the near future.

Melissa Elander lives with her husband Aaron and a small pack of animals in Bethlehem, NH. She holds masters degrees in Natural Resources and Sustainable Development and International Affairs from American University. She is passionate about the potential that communities hold to enact meaningful change, and finds inspiration in effective community-based organizations. She is currently searching for a job that will allow her to use her experience and education to make a tangible difference in the world.