



Building a Sustainable Community

Town of Coupeville's Porch Light Campaign

Join us in a New Years Resolution to Trim Your Home Energy Usage.

Volunteers from across our community will be going door to door to deliver a complementary CFL (Compact Fluorescent Light) to every residence in Coupeville during the month of January.



You Can Help!

1. Replace your porch light (or another light you keep on more than 2 hours a day) with the energy-efficient CFL delivered by the volunteer.
2. Purchase another four CFLs and swap out the bulbs you use most often.
3. Buy Local! The Prairie Center Red Apple Market is offering CFLs at a discount, provided by Puget Sound Energy, to make it easier to switch.

Help the Town of Coupeville achieve the goal of 1200 CFL bulbs installed before the end of February. This will make a big impact in trimming our town's energy usage and carbon emissions.

1200 CLF bulbs will provide energy savings of 48790 kilowatt/year.

This is enough energy for approximately 5 or more homes and a reduction of 53668 lbs of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) emitted into the atmosphere.

Please recycle your CFL bulbs for free at Island County Solid Waste Complex, 20062 SR 20, Coupeville.

For more information contact Cathy d'Almeida, Sustainable Community Coordinator at cathydalmeida@wsu.edu

Dates to Remember

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| <i>December 11</i> | <i>Movie & Discussion, "Kilowatt Ours"</i> |
| <i>January 22</i> | <i>Movie & Discussion, "The Power of Community, How Cuba Survived Peak Oil"</i> |

Sustainable Living Film Series at Coupeville Wharf

Join us for a lively evening at the movies followed by open discussion. Second in a series of Sustainable Living Monthly Movies and discussion, will be the film, "Kilowatt Ours". This film is an inside look at America's dependence on coal-powered electricity and the inspiring practical solutions that families, schools, and businesses are using to reduce their energy use and save money.

The program will be held on Thursday, December 11th at 7 PM, in the Center Hall of Coupeville Wharf. It is free and open to the public. We will provide free popcorn; you bring yourself and a friend! In addition, Local Grown will be open serving coffee and cookies.

Thanks to those of you who joined us on November 13th for the film, "Suzuki Speaks". It was a great evening of learning, socializing and moon-gazing over Penn Cove Harbor.

Two more films will follow on January 22nd ("The Power of Community"), and February 12th ("King Corn"). This series is sponsored jointly by the Town of Coupeville and WSU Extension Beachwatchers.

Bring Your Own Mug; Save Money and CO₂



Miriam's Espresso, Heidi's Coffee House and Locally Grown are all participating in an effort to reduce carbon emissions by promoting the use of reusable mugs. Each establishment offers a 10 cent discount on your drink if you bring in your own mug.

Miriam's has been offering this discount for some time now and has reduced the number of disposable coffee cups used by 1900 from January '08 to September '08! **This represents a reduction of approximately 475 lbs of CO₂ emissions.**

Next time you visit one of our local coffee establishments, thank them for their sustainability efforts and bring in your own mug!

Greening the Town of Coupeville with LED Christmas Lights

The Town of Coupeville is taking this year's Greening event one step further by using energy efficient LED Christmas lights. LED Christmas lights have several benefits over traditional incandescent lights:

- Energy efficient: Up to 90% more energy efficient
- Last longer: In a Consumer Reports study, the LED Christmas lights outlasted the traditional lights by more than 2X.
- Safety: The epoxy plastic that encapsulates the LED bulbs is cool to the touch and less likely to break.

The downside of LED lights in the past has been purchase price, brightness and variety. These are all changing and if you compare the mini lights today you will find a very similar cost and brightness.

Puget Sound Energy is supplying the town with 25 strings of LED lights. In addition, the Town of Coupeville will buy LED Christmas lights on an as needed replacement basis. We will report energy savings at the end of January.

Consider this for your home this year, too!



Taking Energy Efficiency to Heart, in our Home

When I accepted this position with the Town of Coupeville, the first thing I did was complete my own carbon footprint analysis. I was surprised to learn that our family's carbon footprint was above the average in our area.

Of course I wasn't proud so I set out right away to improve this situation. The first thing I did was pull out my handy dandy Energy Saving Checklist.

I started by changing 10 of our most used lights to Compact Fluorescent bulbs. I was happy to see they have CFL bulbs for canned lights now. I also bought 4 LED night lights to help us safely navigate the house at night. We already had all our electronics on power strips but now I shut them all down at night. I then vacuumed out the coils under the fridge (that was fun!). And last but not least we try to turn our lights on less often.

With all of those changes we reduced our electricity bill by 40% compared to last year's numbers!

Our hot water and heat are run off LPG. We had our boiler and hot water heater serviced. I hope to see some energy savings from this but won't know for another few months. Stay tuned for an update!

You can find carbon footprint calculators and a energy saving checklist at <http://www.town.coupeville.wa.us/sustainability.htm> or email me at cathydalmeida@wsu.edu

Energy Efficiency Tax Credits and Rebates

If you are planning any energy efficiency upgrades in your home don't forget about the possible financial incentives available to you.

Puget Sound Energy offers many energy efficiency rebates. Check out their website at www.pse.com or call them at 1-888-225-5773.

In addition, the Federal Tax Credits for energy efficiency upgrades have been extended in the "Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008". This bill extended tax credits for energy efficient home improvements (windows, doors, roofs, insulation, HVAC, and non-solar water heaters). Tax credits for these residential products, which had expired at the end of 2007, will now be available for improvements made during 2009. However, improvements made during 2008 are not eligible for a tax credit.

The bill also extended tax credits for solar energy systems and fuel cells to 2016. New tax credits were established for small wind energy systems and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. Tax credits for builders of new energy efficient homes and tax deductions for owners and designers of energy efficient commercial buildings were also extended.

Read more at http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=products.pr_txt_credits#chart and consult a tax advisor before getting started.

Looking for More Information

Visit our sustainability website:

<http://www.town.coupeville.wa.us/sustainability.htm>

or email cathydalmeida@wsu.edu

Let me know what future topics you would like to see covered in future newsletters and on the website.
