



Porch Light Campaign Success

On Saturday, January 12 over 60 volunteers from across our community participated in handing out Compact Fluorescent Light (CFL) bulbs and informational flyers to all residences in the Town of Coupeville.

The goal of the porch light campaign is to educate the community on the benefits of using CFL light bulbs as a way to save energy. The volunteers also handed out another flyer on the top ways you can save energy at home and rebates available through Puget Sound Energy.

We had volunteers from the Coupeville Lions Club, the Central Whidbey Lions Club, Beach Watchers and Climate Stewards, Scout Troop 4058, Scout Troop 4053 and the Coupeville Honor Society.

It was an amazing group of volunteers who did an outstanding job! Thanks to everyone who participated.

Please note that if you did not receive your CFL bulb please stop by Town Hall to pick one up.

Composting Class in Coupeville

Yes, you can compost without rodent problems!

March 18 from 7:00-8:30PM

Coupeville Rec Hall

Janet Hall, WSU Extension Waste Wise Coordinator
will be presenting

Raffle will be held for a free, rodent-proof, food composting system.

Composting Reduces Carbon Footprint

If you use an in-sink garbage disposal, composting can help you save water and electricity. If you throw your “green” stuff away, composting can further reduce your carbon footprint by keeping your yard and food waste out of our waste system. Come learn the dos and don’ts of composting food and yard waste in a fun and informative class. Beginners and experienced composters will learn the best ways to compost.

And if reducing your carbon footprint isn’t enough, remember that the end product of composting is beautiful nutrients to feed back into your own garden!

Visit our sustainability website:
[http://www.town.coupeville.wa.us/
sustainability.htm](http://www.town.coupeville.wa.us/sustainability.htm)
or email cathydalmeida@wsu.edu

Sustainable Living Film Series and Discussion at Coupeville Wharf

February 12 - 7 pm

“King Corn - You Are What You Eat”

This funny and intelligent documentary tells the story of 2 college friends, one acre of corn, and the crop that drives America’s fast-food nation.

Colleen Fox, A Teacher Who is Making a Difference

Has your 9th grade student been auditing your home’s energy usage, asking to view your PSE bill on-line and talking about ways to conserve energy? Has he/she been talking about how hydrogen fuel cells work to power a car and the “race” in the classroom? If so, your student must be in Ms. Colleen Fox’s 9th grade science class.

Colleen brings together her love for teaching science with her passion for building a “greener” future. She finds creative ways to expose students to exciting new technologies being developed in the world today. Colleen received a grant in December 2008 from The Community Foundation for Coupeville Public Schools to purchase solar powered hydrogen fuel cell car kits. They are a hands-on tool for numerous experiments that fit in well to the 9th grade curriculum, which focuses on electricity and connections between science, technology, and society. The students have been working on testing variables that could increase the efficiency of the hydrogen fuel cell. They put their conclusions to work by participating in a culminating “race.”

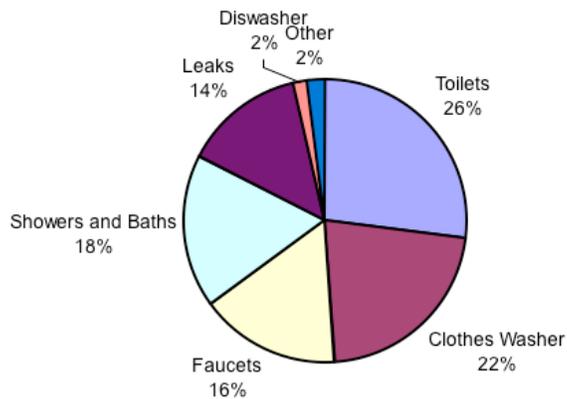
Colleen is also working closely with Terry Welch (8th grade science teacher) and Alexia Hemphill (a senior student) on a project called the Cool School Challenge. The objective of this project is to reduce the school’s carbon footprint classroom by classroom. In addition, this same group is working together with Cathy d’Almeida to procure a grant for solar panels at the high school.

If you would like to hear more about the energy efficiency and sustainability projects and programs underway in Colleen’s classroom and at the Coupeville schools you can hear about them at Sound Waters on Feb 7. Look for a presentation called Solar 4R Schools.

Conserving Water Saves Energy and Money Too!

The Town of Coupeville's single largest electrical expense is to pump and treat the water we use every day. Residential water use averages 75 gallons per person per day, while the average person uses about 20 gallons of hot water every day. Also, water heating accounts for about 21% of the average home's total energy use. **It pays to conserve water both inside and outside the home!**

Where Your Indoor Water Dollars Go
Source: US Environmental Protection Agency



TOP Actions to Save Water Inside Your Home

- **Use showerheads that flow at 2.5 gallons per minute (gpm) or less.** This can result in up to 20% reduction of water and energy. Puget Sound Energy is giving away free Low Flow Shower Heads together with a faucet aerator to promote conservation. Simply email cathydalmeida@wsu.edu the following information: family name, address, phone number and what type of water heating you have. *Note that there is a limit of one shower head per family.*
- **Stop those leaks!** Research shows that up to 14% percent of home water is wasted through leaks. Leaking toilets cause more water waste than any other fixture in the home. Even a silent toilet leak (that's one you normally can't hear) will waste from 30 to 500 gallons of water per day! The ones you can hear will waste much, much more.
- **Replace your old toilet, the largest water user inside your home.** If your home was built before 1992 and the toilet has never been replaced, then it is very likely that you do not have a water efficient 1.6 gallon per flush toilet. You can check the date stamp inside the toilet by lifting the lid and looking at the back of the toilet at the manufacturer's imprint of the make, model and date of manufacture.



- **Upgrade to water- and energy-efficient clothes washers.** You'll save thousands of gallons of water a year. Plus, WashWise machines are gentler on clothes, reduce drying time, and require less detergent. Puget Sound Energy offers its residential electric customers three levels of rebates (**\$50, \$75, \$100**) for premium-efficiency clothes washers using the WashWise program's energy- and water-efficiency standards.
- **Take shorter showers.** If you are looking for further water savings in the shower, consider taking shorter showers. If your showerhead uses 2.5 gpm, then you can save 2.5 gallons of water for every minute you reduce your showering. Consider placing a bucket or plastic basin in the shower with you to collect excess water. This water can then be used to water plants outdoors.

For additional information on how to save water in the home and water conservation outside the home, please visit <http://www.town.coupeville.wa.us/sustainability/waterconservation.htm>



Take a Pledge to Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

An online pledge has been created to help Washington residents take individual actions against climate change.

In a fun, easy-to-use format, "Shrink Your Carbon Footprint" online pledge:

- Helps people identify actions they're already taking that reduce their individual "carbon footprint" (their contribution to climate-changing greenhouse gas pollution).
- Helps people identify what more they can do to further reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

Anyone can take the carbon footprint pledge, accessible from the Washington State Climate Change web portal:
http://www.ecy.wa.gov/forms/carbonfootprint_pledge.html

Sustainable Seminars Sponsored by the City of Oak Harbor

at Oak Harbor City Hall, Tuesdays, 7 - 8 pm

**February 10 - Green Building:
A Hot Market in a Cold Economy**
LEED Architect, Terry LeDesky
Green Built Builder, Scott Yonkman

**March 10 - Don't Lose It, Reuse It!
Deconstruction and Preservation**
Dave Bennink, Re-Use Consulting
Harrison Goodall, Conservation