

Newton's Grassroots Energy Efforts

Prepared for Building Energy '08
Conference

March 13, 2008

Newton's Energy Committees (or “something for everyone”)

- City-based:
 - Energy Commission
 - Renewable Resources Committee
- Activist Initiated:
 - Green Decade Coalition energy committee
 - High Performance Building Committee
 - Kyoto Project committee

Thing in common: mostly volunteers

Green Decade Energy Committee Efforts

- Solar baseline -1999/2000
- Solar Shares – 2000-2003
- Solar homes tours -- annual
- Kyoto Project -- ongoing
- Small Commercial outreach -- annual
- School outreach/lightbulb sales -- ongoing

Solar Shares

- Raised \$20K -- tax deductible “shares”
- Installed 2 kw awning-mounted PV system on community building
- Host start of annual solar homes tour there
- Educational kiosk out front

Solar Shares



Kyoto Project



- Started out “piggy-backing” onto existing utility residential energy audit program
- 56 household climate action plans done
- 9 “insulate your historic home” workshops done
- Ongoing work with contractors, etc.
- 12 case studies so far
- Given feedback to regulators

Insulation workshop



School Outreach

- Climate change assemblies in schools -- getting pretty popular
- Schools follow up with lightbulb (CFL) fundraiser --\$ goes to PTO
- Also have “energy module” – which teaches 5th graders about making electricity – uses bike that generates power and CFLs vs. regular bulbs

For more information:

- www.greendecade.org