

REAL and Climate Change – March 2008

REAL Programs that Mitigate or Help Us Adapt to Climate Change:

EcoEnergy Retrofit Incentive Program - delivery agent in Lanark, Leeds and Grenville counties for this program which provides financial incentives for homeowners to implement insulation, air sealing, new furnaces, solar water heaters, and other devices in their buildings. 1st audit - \$350, 2nd audit - \$150. \$150 rebate from Ontario government for audits. Up to \$5,000 rebates from federal government for retrofits and up to \$5,000 from the provincial government.

Kill-A-Watt Meter - can be borrowed from the Smiths Falls, Perth or Almonte Public Libraries to determine the amount of electricity a particular appliance uses.

Idle-Free - promotion of turning off vehicles when unnecessarily idling, at store stops, schools, lock crossings etc.

www.RideauReuses.com - REAL operated website for posting and shopping for free goods and anything less than \$99.

Public Education - have sponsored or co-sponsored many presentations: an eight workshop series in winter 2007, screenings of “An Inconvenient Truth”, a biodigester workshop for farmers, “Preparing your Household for Climate Change”, “Homes, the Environment and Renewable Energy”, and shorter sessions at Rideau Green and Elizabethtown-Kitley’s events March 2008. Tips in local media. Have formed a Climate Change Action Team to encourage community-wide actions.

REAL Programs Coming Soon:

Lanark, Leeds and Grenville Take It Back Recyclopeda - Website with specific listings of retailers that “take back” waste household materials from grocery bags to oil to batteries, etc.

REAL Deal Store and Environment Centre – REAL operated a store for the resale of used household items and building supplies from January 2006 to March 2007. REAL is currently renovating 85 William St. W in Smiths Falls location, and hope to reopen May 2008. The Environment Centre will offer a range of additional environmental services.

Printed Materials:

REAL has a wealth of booklets, flyers, pamphlets and factsheets on a wide variety of environmental topics at the REAL Office, 85 William St. W., Smiths Falls. Please call (613) 283-9500 before you come.

Some topics: Idle-Free, Tire Pressure, Backyard Garbage Burning, the EcoEnergy Retrofit, the limited-income electricity retrofit program, Kill-A-Watt meters, electricity conservation, solar, wind, natural landscaping, Native Plant Buyers Guide, pesticide reduction, water conservation, Well and Septic, Climate Change posters, Well Aware DVDs, Keeping the Heat In books, COG Farm gate list, etc. etc.

Other Programs of Local Interest:

Energy Star Retail Tax Exemption – Ontario is providing a point-of-sale provincial sales tax exemption on ENERGY STAR qualified household products until July 20, 2008.

www.LanarkCommuters.ca - a free carpool website to allow residents to post and find carpooling partners

ecoENERGY for Renewable Heat – provides up to 25% of project cost for profit and non-profit organizations . See <http://www.ecoaction.gc.ca/ecoenergy-ecoenergie/heat-chauffage/index-eng.cfm>

EcoEnergy Retrofit Incentive Program - program will eventually be available for small businesses as well.

The Great Refrigerator Roundup - Hydro One program that offers free pickup of old, inefficient full-sized refrigerators and freezers. If pickup is being made for a primary appliance, mini fridges and window air conditioners can be accepted as well.

ICI Solar Thermal Heating Grants - The Ontario government will provide 25% of the cost of installation of a solar thermal heating system up to \$80,000 for businesses, industries, schools, universities, municipalities and hospitals. Linked to the federal government's ecoENERGY Renewable Heat Program which also provides 25% up to a maximum of \$80,000. Access the federal program first. See ecoaction.gc.ca website.

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