



## POLLUTION PREVENTION VIEW

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

A Newsletter from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

SPRING 2002



## Students Push for Cleaner Power

Starting in 2000, people in Connecticut gained the ability to choose their energy supplier, which is just like selecting a long-distance phone company. Switching to a new supplier allows you to choose electricity produced from renewable, cleaner sources such as wind, water and recovered methane gas from landfills. At two colleges in the state, students led campus-wide campaigns supporting purchase of Green-e certified electricity for their schools.

The Green-e Program sets consumer protection and environmental standards for electricity, and verifies that consumers' dollars are supporting a specific amount and type of renewable power, also known as "green power". There are currently two companies that provide Green-e certified electricity in Connecticut. The Connecticut Energy Cooperative (The Co-op), which is not-for-profit and member owned, was the first company to supply green power in the state. Green Mountain Energy Company, a green power retailer, now also supplies electricity to Connecticut.

*(continued on page 3)*

## HOW YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR GREENPOWER...

**Signing up for green power is easy.** It is a simple and important way you can help support cleaner, renewable power production sources. Since CL&P and UI still bring the power to you, read your meter, bill you, maintain the wires and keep the lights on, you do not sacrifice reliability, comfort or convenience by switching your supplier.

While the cost is slightly more than the price you are paying now, the additional difference, for the average household, is about 25 to 30 cents a day. When you consider the environmental benefits and the peace of mind in knowing that you are supporting cleaner power sources, the extra cost is a small price to pay.

Currently two companies provide green power in Connecticut. To switch from your current supplier, simply call either company toll free or visit their website.

- The Connecticut Energy Co-op  
[www.EnergyForMe.com](http://www.EnergyForMe.com) or call 888-481-3955
- Green Mountain Energy Company  
[www.greenmountain.com](http://www.greenmountain.com) or call 1-866-GREEN-CT



# Go for the Green!



**Individuals, groups, schools, and businesses are taking actions to make Connecticut a cleaner place and preserve our natural resources.** These first-rate actors are

also getting recognition for their good work through the CT DEP's GreenCircle Awards Program!

GreenCircle looks to encourage innovative ways to prevent pollution and promote them as positive examples for others to follow. Since the program began, more than 500 award winners have been recognized. This year, twenty-four winners were honored for a wide variety of pollution prevention projects, ranging from ridding their facility of mercury to putting clean energy into operation.

All award winners are celebrated at a public ceremony and presented with a certificate of commendation. The Green Circle Program is on going, and self-nominations are welcome. Applications for 2002 are due by August 30, 2002. For information on how to apply and for descriptions of past projects, visit the website [www.dep.state.ct.us/pao/grncrc/greencircle.htm](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/pao/grncrc/greencircle.htm) or call Bob Hannon at (860) 424-3245. Here is a sampling of this year's winning projects.

## **Soundwaters, Inc., Stamford:**

- Opened a Community Center for Environmental Education
- Utilizes a geo-thermal heating and cooling system for climate control

## **Connecticut Northeast Organic Farming Association, Northford:**

- Developed and published, "Standards for Organic Land Care: Practices for Design and Maintenance of Ecological Landscapes" – the first-in-the-nation standards to educate land care professionals
- Produced, "The Organic Land Care Brochure" encouraging homeowners to reduce lawn chemicals

## **Pitney Bowes, Stamford:**

- Voluntarily reduced greenhouse gas emissions and monitored and reported results
- Began an innovative purchasing program that promotes buying environmentally preferable products, including 30% recycled-content paper
- Made changes to their manufacturing process that reduced the facility's waste stream
- Alleviated traffic and its associated air pollution with a shuttle bus to transport employees



*Representatives from the CT State Dental Association receive their GreenCircle award from DEP Commissioner Arthur J. Rocque, Jr.*

## **Connecticut State Dental Association, Hartford:**

- Partnered with DEP to collect mercury from dentists statewide – 412 pounds collected!
- Helped create and distribute "Environmentally Responsible Dental Office Guide"

## **Saybrook Point Inn, LLC, Old Saybrook:**

- Reduced annual energy and water usage by 15% by installing 90 energy saving programmable thermostats and a Dolphin System electro-magnetic coil (The coil produces electronic pulses causing a change in the minerals in the system water and eliminates the need for any chemical treatment.)

## **Other Green Circle Award Winners for 2001:**

Branson Ultrasonics Corp., Danbury  
Clairol, Inc., Stamford  
The Connecticut Water Company, Clinton  
EMERSON Process Management, North Stonington  
Frito-Lay, Inc., Dayville  
Fuel Cell Energy, Danbury  
Hamilton Sundstrand, Farmington  
Hamilton Sundstrand, Windsor Locks  
Pantera, Inc., Torrington  
Pfizer Global Research & Development - Groton Labs, Groton  
Pratt & Whitney, East Hartford campus  
Pratt & Whitney, Middletown campus  
Record-Journal Publishing Company, Meriden  
Science Center of Eastern Connecticut, New London  
The Siemon Company, Watertown  
Sikorsky Aircraft Corporation, Stratford  
South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority, New Haven  
United States Coast Guard Academy, New London  
VDO North America, Cheshire

## Students for cleaner power (continued from cover)

While thousands of households have signed up for green power, so have two of Connecticut's liberal arts colleges; Connecticut College in New London and Wesleyan University in Middletown. In early May 2001, Connecticut College became the first college in the United States to commit to support Green-e certified renewable electricity by joining the Co-op and signing up to purchase the Co-op's green power offering, EcoWatt™ electricity, for part of the campus.

**"Our environment is suffering severely,"** said Sarah Zisa, a sophomore and co-president of the Connecticut College Renewable Energy Club. **"The students needed to do something."** With the support of the student body, Zisa and club co-president Kassie Rohrbach raised the \$1,500 needed to join the Co-op with a series of student bake sales and circulated a petition seeking support for a \$25 fee increase to support the switch to green power. The Student Government Association overwhelmingly supported the initiative and the college's Board of Trustees unanimously approved the measure.

In addition to supporting green power purchases, Connecticut College's students also pledged to work to reduce the environmental impact of the college through reduced energy use. The Co-op will assist students, staff and faculty in developing a strategic energy management plan, audit building energy use, suggest ways to use energy more efficiently and conduct educational seminars.

In the fall of 2001, Wesleyan University followed Connecticut College and joined the Co-op and agreed to purchase 100% Green-e certified renewable electricity for the Freeman Athletic Center. At an annual usage of 2.1 million kWh or 10% of the campus's annual load, Freeman is one of the largest buildings in the United States to be purchasing renewable energy.

**"Purchasing renewable energy helps the environment. Buying from the Co-op supports the local economy and lessens our nation's dependence on foreign fossil fuel,"** Kate Carone, a student at Wesleyan said. Ten Wesleyan students initiated a campus-wide campaign and worked with staff, faculty, and fellow students to raise awareness about renewable energy. Through a series of bake sales, the students raised the Co-op's one time membership fee of \$1,500 in just three weeks. The Co-op will also work with Wesleyan to identify ways that the University can use energy more efficiently.

To learn more about green power, visit [www.Green-e.org](http://www.Green-e.org). If you want more information on energy choice in Connecticut, call the Connecticut Department of Utility Control at 1-888-922-DPUC or visit their website [www.dpuc-electric-choice.com](http://www.dpuc-electric-choice.com). ■

## WHAT'S NEW IN P2?

### P2 Website Joins 21st Century!

The CT DEP Pollution Prevention website has been updated to be much more user friendly. **You now have button access to these topic areas: What is P2?, Business/Industry, State/Local Government, Individuals/Family, Institutions (schools, hospitals, universities), P2 Programs, P2 Resources, Urban Initiatives, Mercury, and Energy Efficiency/Climate Change.**

There is even a button for the P2 View so you can read back issues as well as the latest newsletter.

Please log on to [www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2) and have a look - we are always interested in your feedback on how we are doing. You can send your comments to [kim.trella@po.state.ct.us](mailto:kim.trella@po.state.ct.us).

## First Connecticut Town to buy Green Power

**The Westport Board of Selectman voted to join the Co-op in January 2002, signing up to purchase renewable electricity for the town hall and most of the town's recreation areas.**

**"We have a responsibility to set the example", said Diane Goss Farrell, First Selectwoman. By becoming the first town in the Northeast to buy green power, Westport has hopefully set the stage for other municipalities to follow.**



# P 2 C A L E N D A R

## A S E L E C T I O N O F P 2 R E L A T E D E V E N T S

APRIL 22, 2002



### Connecticut Celebrates Earth Day!

Monday April 22, 2002 is Earth Day this year. Check out the DEP website [www.dep.state.ct.us/earthday/earthday.htm](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/earthday/earthday.htm) for ideas on how you can help Connecticut's environment and for a listing of Earth Day events throughout the state.

MAY 9-10, 2002

### Organizational Advantage through Sustainability

Learn to view environmental issues as an opportunity – instead of a cost. Sustainable Step New England interactive workshop will be given at 2 locations. For details – [www.ssne.org](http://www.ssne.org) or 781-641-1325

Thursday, May 9, 8am - 1pm  
UCONN Stamford Campus, Stamford, CT

Friday, May 10, 8 am - 1 pm  
Fleet Bank, One Corporate Center,  
20 Church St., Hartford, CT

### P2 Lecture Series

DEP sponsors a monthly lecture series on pollution prevention topics. Lectures are held from 11:00 a.m. to noon in the Phoenix Auditorium, DEP Building, 79 Elm St., Hartford. All lectures are free and open to the public.

For additional information, contact Lynn Stoddard at 860-424-3236 or visit the DEP calendar at [www.dep.state.ct.us/calendar](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/calendar)

April 22, 2002, Choosing Green Power  
May 22, 2002, Biking to work: A viable option?



From left to right: Scott Richlen, Director of Industrial Technologies for U.S. DOE, DEP Commissioner Arthur J. Rocque, Jr. and CT Lieutenant Governor M. Jodi Reil, share in congratulating Rory Montano, President of Acceleron.

### Energy Grant Awarded to Acceleron/DEP Partnership

Acceleron, Inc. of East Granby was recently honored for receiving a \$500,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to fund the demonstration of an energy-saving industrial technology. CT DEP partnered with Acceleron in obtaining the grant. Acceleron will utilize a vacuumless electron beam welding technology that was developed by Brookhaven National Laboratory. This new technology will result in direct energy savings of 80 - 90% and significantly reduce associated pollutants and expenses. For more information on how to apply for a NICE3 grant and to read more about energy saving technologies, visit the DOE website [www.oit.doe.gov/nice3/](http://www.oit.doe.gov/nice3/) or contact Lynn Stoddard, CT DEP, (860) 424-3236.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
79 Elm Street  
Hartford, CT 06106-5127  
<http://dep.state.ct.us>  
Arthur J. Rocque, Jr., Commissioner

PRSR STD  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
HARTFORD CT  
PERMIT NO. 4313

The Department of Environmental Protection is an affirmative action/equal action employer, providing programs and services in a fair and impartial manner. In conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, DEP makes every effort to provide equally effective services for persons with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities needing auxiliary aids or services, or for more information by voice or TTY/TDD, call (860) 424-3000.

For a free subscription, please contact Judy Prill at (860) 424-3694 or e-mail your request to [judith.prill@po.state.ct.us](mailto:judith.prill@po.state.ct.us). If you are already a subscriber, but would like to save paper and postage by reading the P2 View on DEP's P2 website [www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2), please contact Judy to have your name removed from the mailing list.

P2 View is published by the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Pollution Prevention. Editor: Judy Prill; Contributors: David Westcott, Nan Peckham, Kim Trella, Mary Sherwin, Lynn Stoddard and Connie Mendolia.