

WANTED:
10 – 20 HOUSEHOLDS, COMMITTED TO CUTTING THEIR
ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINT IN HALF,
WITHIN ONE YEAR.



As a true grassroots movement, energy professionals will volunteer time and expertise to work with a small number of committed households.

Goals of this effort are:

- Achieve a 50% reduction in each household's consumption of energy and other resources via no-cost/low-cost measures,
- Learn by doing: from each other, from the professionals, from hands-on projects,
- Create an educational, self-perpetuating snow-ball effect: "first-year graduates" guide/teach a group of households in year two,
- Re-invest the money saved in more energy, or water measures in year two, and cut energy/water consumption in half again.

What you get:

- Guidance in analyzing your current total energy /resource consumption (home, vehicles, embodied energy), and in comparing it to neighbors and "best in class",
- Support in prioritizing your efforts, and in calculating potential savings,
- Help in choosing the right strategies/technologies, and estimating costs and savings,
- Access to expert knowledge (e.g., LCC Energy Management Program, Permaculture and Green Building Guild, U of O School of Architecture and Climate Masters Program, etc.).

What you can give to each other:

- Significant energy, water, and food waste savings, achieved in a supportive environment,
- A comfortable place to hold small work meetings (on a rotating basis),
- A helping hand in implementing some ideas (e.g., caulking windows, "revitalizing" the bike, installing a clothes line, etc.)
- Inspiration from each other's approaches and experiences,
- Micro-loans, if willing.

over

We envision the following timeline:

Year 1

Month 1 – 3, “ORGANIZE”:

- **Get organized** (small, comfortable group size; households within short/walking distance of each other)
- **Analyze current energy/water use** (utility bills, gasoline bills or driving distance estimates, long-distance travel), and compare to neighbors
- **Discover major factors** in each household (e.g., use patterns/habits, technologies)

Month 4 – 9, “STRATEGIZE and IMPLEMENT”:

- **Identify most effective no-cost/low cost first steps** (e.g., thermostat re-programming, bus or bike commute, clothes drying rack, leave heat off at night, efficient light bulbs)
- **Acquire skills and knowledge** needed for implementing various measures via hands-on demonstrations each other's homes (e.g., replace shower head, change thermostat setting, install storm window, start compost)
- **Start cutting energy, water, and food waste**

Month 10 – 12, “IMPLEMENT and SEE THE RESULTS”

- **Full focus on implementing** and working out “hang-ups”
- **Share initial results** with group members and learn from each other
- **Analyze savings**; start envisioning next steps

Year 2

- Analyze and implement costlier, mid-term measures (e.g., new washer, rain gear for bike, sign up for CSA, install storm door/windows, establish vegetable garden, convert car to biodiesel, collect rainwater, etc.)

Year 3+

- Analyze and implement costlier, long-term measures (e.g., better insulate house, new bike, purchase solar hot water or solar electric system, move closer to work, convert heating system, etc.)



Deadline for sign-up: March 15th, 2007

Group size: Up to 20 households (max 10 per working group, on a first-come, first-serve basis)

Contacts: Mike Hatten (mikeh@solarc-ae.net)
Peter Reppe (peter_reppe@yahoo.com)