



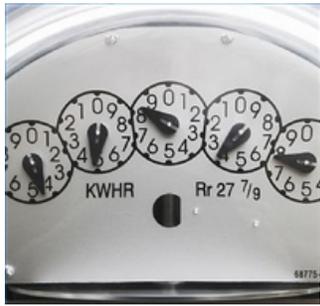
TWO RIVERS-OTTAUQUECHEE REGIONAL COMMISSION

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July 2010

TRORC Energy Program Update

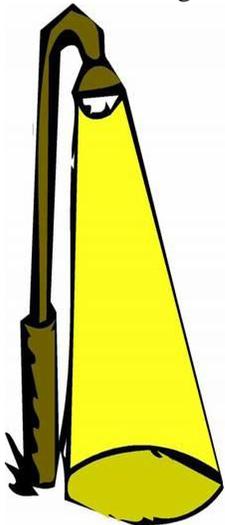
Chris Sargent, TRORC's Energy Efficiency Program Coordinator, has been working on multiple projects over the past two months. TRORC partnered with the Sustainable Energy Resource Group, Upper Valley-Lake Sunapee Regional Planning Commission and Vital Communities to host the Upper Valley Energy Committee Roundtable on May 25th. The event saw 65 people from 20 energy committees join together to talk about the valuable work that they are doing and to discuss the multitude of energy opportunities available in this region. Thanks to all those who attended! For those in our TRORC region, don't forget that Chris is willing to attend one of your regular meetings to talk about what TRORC may be able to do to help you and your committee with the work that you do.



TRORC received 11 audit nominations for municipally owned buildings. We are pleased to announce that we selected and hired Jon Haehnel of Zero By Degrees, LLC, to be the auditor for this program. Jon has previously worked with the communities of Fairlee and Bradford and comes highly recommended. His creative solutions and solid understanding of the needs of municipalities were important elements of his proposal.

In July, data release letters will be sent to Selectboards, Town Managers and Energy Committees asking towns to give their energy and fuel providers permission to release energy use information to TRORC for conducting a baseline energy inventory of the region. This information will enable TRORC to create stronger regional energy policy and find opportunities for municipalities to save money by reducing their energy use with minimal investment.

TRORC will also be conducting several streetlight inventories in 2010. This helps communities identify areas where street lighting is unnecessary or is in need of improvement. Working with the town of Hartford, TRORC determined that 42% of lights were not needed. Eliminating these lights will net an estimated \$30,000 in annual savings for Hartford. If you are interested in having a streetlight inventory conducted in your community, contact Chris at csargent@trorc.org or at ext.12.



Wellborn Ecological Literacy Project Update

TRORC has finished its first round of workshops for municipal officials on how to incorporate ecological considerations into municipal planning and development review activities. We developed comprehensive curricula in each of the following four subject areas:

- Subdivision Review Workshop in Woodstock – ecological literacy basics, development review training, and examples of review standards.
- Zoning Regulations Workshop in Bradford – ecological literacy basics, development review training, and examples of review standards.
- Open Space Planning Workshop in Chelsea – ecological literacy basics, planning and mapping open space, and incorporating open space plans into town plans and bylaws.
- Town Plans Workshop in Rochester – why town planners should care about ecological literacy, how to develop natural resource inventories, and ties between town planning and development review.



Broad Brook in Plymouth. Photo taken by Pete Fellows, 9/30/2009

Municipal officials from Bradford, Braintree, Corinth, Rochester, Stockbridge, and Strafford attended. Upper Valley Land Trust staff attended two of the workshops, and TRORC plans to offer this training program to their membership this summer. Evaluations by workshop participants offered unanimously positive feedback.

Our biggest challenge has been to secure attendance by municipal officials at these workshops. We know that town volunteers are some of the busiest people we deal with, juggling family, work and volunteer efforts that take them outside their homes at night. In the words of one attendee, "is there a way to make more people realize the importance of the quality of water, air and life?" We hope to share this message, along with the curricula, during the next set of workshops in the fall. Contact Sally Hull at shull@trorc.org or at ext.20.

