

**Hello Folks!**

**Community Energy News is a monthly email sent to members of Take Charge, a nbCC partner and a community-based campaign that is committed to making the homes of the Northern Berkshires more energy independent. It includes a short energy news item and updates on events and programs for home energy in the area.**

## **Energy-Saving Tip**

Spring is here and with it has come warm weather! This is a great opportunity to start driving less. Consider walking, biking or using public transit before you drive your car. If you do drive, try to combine errands or carpool.

*\*This energy-saving tip was brought to you with help from CET.*

*Find more @ <http://www.cetonline.org/>*

## **This Week In Clean Energy**

April 22, 2010 is Earth Day! Check out our events section to see what events will be happening near you!

Take Charge is working hard to offer new resources to the Berkshire community, don't miss our recent updates:

**Take the 5-Step Pledge!** Now you can sign up to take the pledge online! [Click here](#) to sign up now!

**Follow us on Twitter!** We have been brainstorming ideas on how to widen our reach to the local community and you can now follow Take Charge on Twitter! Receive updates about events and projects that are in progress and network with other local initiatives. Just another way to spread the word without creating any waste!

**Don't Forget!** Pick up a home Energy Audit Kit from your local or college Library to conduct an energy audit in your home or dorm room! Conducting an energy audit can help you pinpoint where the most energy is being used and lost in your home. Collect data on shower water usage, record temperature variability from room-to-room, electricity usage

data, and more! Just visit your Library and ask to check out an Energy Audit Kit. For video guides on how to use a home Energy Audit Kit, visit the take charge website and click on "Take Charge Video Guides". Winter is here, take advantage of this ongoing opportunity to make cost-effective changes to conserve energy in your home!

## Looking for more coverage about local environmental efforts/events?

*\*Click titles to read full stories\**

### ['Unplugged' drive begins](#)

By Trevor Jones, Berkshire Eagle Staff

Updated: 04/01/2010 08:48:32 AM EDT

### [Solar project clears hurdle](#)

ZBA could follow up with final OK tonight

By Dick Lindsay, Berkshire Eagle Staff

Updated: 04/07/2010 06:00:10 AM EDT

### [Walmart project comes under fire from nationally known critic](#)

By Jennifer Huberdeau

Posted: 04/07/2010 01:37:14 AM EDT

The Take Charge website is always changing with updates on local events and new features! [\*\*\*Check it out!\*\*\*](#)

## In Our Community

1. **Ongoing weekly** every Thursday at 5:30 pm MCLA will be hosting their *Green Living Seminar* which are free and open to the public. All seminars are held in Murdock Hall Rm. 218 on the MCLA campus in North Adams, MA. For more information email Elena Traister at [elena.traister@mcla.edu](mailto:elena.traister@mcla.edu)

Schedule:

- **April 8th** Community planning to protect natural resources: examples from the northeast region, with speaker Suzi Zakowski of Audubon International.
- **April 15th** Redesigning cities for the long-term health of human and natural systems, presented by Richard Register of Ecocity Builders.

2. **Ongoing monthly** 1st Wednesday of every month @ 5:15pm, Route 7 Grill, Great Barrington/  
3rd Tuesday of every month @ 5:15pm, Pittsfield Brew Works, Pittsfield. Free appetizers and cash bar open to anyone with environmental interest!

### 3. MCLA Earth Week Events:

- **Thursday, April 15th:** *Ice Ice Baby: Ice Cream and Climate Change Awareness* @ 8pm in the Hoosac Harbor.
- **Friday, April 16th:** OLLI talk, "*Impacts of Urbanization on Birds*" by Professor Daniel Shustack @ 2:00pm, Murdock 213.  
Campus Garden Workday, 2:30pm-5:00pm @ MCLA campus gardens.
- **Tuesday, April 20th:** John Frabel, *Green Entrepreneurship*. Sponsored by GT and Business Dept. @ 4:00pm, Murdock Hall.
- **Thursday, April 22nd:** MCLA Undergraduate Research Conference, featuring *Multiple Perspectives on the Natural World* Strand and presentation by Garden Students

Recycling Program by Dave and Cassie

Bike Share Program Poster

Tabling in the Marketplace 11am-2pm (Carbon Footprint, Recycling on Campus, Take Charge, and Water Bottles)

- **Friday, April 23rd:** OLLI talk: "*The Effect of Urbanization on Streams*" by Elena Traister. 2pm, Murdock 213.  
Campus Garden Workday, 2:30-5pm.  
Freshman Class Sponsored "*Plant a Seed, Plant a Memory*", 2:30pm-5pm @ the campus Garden.

4. **Ongoing weekly** every Friday from 12:00pm to 1:00pm, Williams College hosts their Environmental Studies Luncheon Speaker Series @ The Log, 78 Spring St. (\$4.00/lunch).

Schedule:

- **April 16th** *The Harvest Cloud: Who says buying local food can't be easy?* Alejandro de Onis, Director of Business Development, and Tom Haskins-Vaughan, Director of Application Development, Harvest Cloud.
- **April 23rd** *Ecosamaritan or Ecostressor? A New Dilemma in Conservation Biology.* Jim Carlton, Professor of Marine Sciences and Director, Williams-Mystic Program. Info session on Mystic to follow Log lunch.
- **April 30th** *The Mission and Land Management History of the Blooming Grove Land Preserve in Eastern Pennsylvania.* Linen Worth '73.

5. **April 17th:** Williams College hosts their *Spring into Service Day*. Sponsored by Lehman Council for Community Engagement. Student volunteers will be doing community service work in the area. Organizations interested in receiving volunteers should contact William Lee (646.662.3267)

6. **April 17/18:** *Green Fair* portion of Franklin County Home Show. Franklin County businesses will be showcasing their renewable energy products to the public. 10:00am-7:00pm (4/17) and 10:00am-4:00pm (4/18) @ Franklin County Fairgrounds.

7. **Thursday, April 22 @ 7:30pm** at the Wege Auditorium, "*The Politics of Climate: Building Trust in the New Energy Economy*" Earth Day lecture with David Moulton, Director, Climate Policy & Conservation Funding, The Wilderness Society. Co-sponsored with the Williams College Center for Environmental Studies. Made possible in part with funds from the Francis Barker Education Fund.

8. **May 1st** MCLA Community Day of Service. Running all day, students will be working in the North Adam area on various projects. Contact Lauren Moffatt @ MCLA for more information.

9. **May 16th** from 10:00am-12:30pm Greenfield's Temple Israel will sponsor a community event in at Leapingfrog Farm about principles of growing food locally and applying Jewish perspectives on the issue of sustainability and environmental awareness.

10. **June 5th:** Berkshire Area *Junior Solar Sprint* @ Reid Middle School. More information as it develops.

***Feel free to pass along any other community environmental events and good luck saving energy!***

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About these emails:

This is a bi-monthly email sent to all those interested in Take Charge through energy efficiency and green jobs opportunities in the Northern Berkshires. If you'd like to be removed or add someone else, reply to this email with your request. To read past Editions of Community Energy, [click here](#).

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Jaimie Wallace and Becky Eakins  
Spring 2010 Take Charge Interns