



Acorn Energy Co-op e-News

Issue No. 33

Friday, June 7, 2013

Member Owned
Renewable Energy Products and Services

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Dear ,

This is the 33rd edition of the Acorn Energy Co-op's e-Newsletter, published periodically to keep you apprised of happenings in the Co-op and informed of upcoming events.

See below for news about:

- Wood Pellet Pre-Buy
- Who should consider solar hot water
- 2013 Solar Decathlon Presentation
- New Board Member Suzy Hodgson
- Vermont Bioenergy Videos
- Partner Profile: Marbleworks Pharmacy

Finally, we encourage you to visit our website frequently at www.acornenergycoop.com to access the wealth of information about energy efficiency, renewable energy, and other money-saving strategies available there.

Please pass this e-Newsletter along to friends, neighbors and family who may not be aware of the Co-op and its activities and plans.

Thank you for your ongoing support,

The Acorn Energy Co-op Team



Like us on [Facebook!](#)

Pellet Pre-Buy until June 30 - Order now for best pricing!

We are pleased to announce that we will be offering both bagged and bulk **Vermont Wood Pellets** again this year. As in years past, there are a limited number of tons available to us. In order to allocate those tons as early as possible, we are

announcing **a pre-buy from now until June 30**. Prices will go up on July 1, and likely again in October. Vermont Renewable Fuels will deliver both bagged and bulk pellets for us this year and our coordinator, Gwen, will handle the scheduling.



Delivered prices for bagged and bulk depend on delivery quantities, and start as low as \$274 per ton for co-op members.

Click here for [BAGGED price list](#) and [BAGGED order form](#).

Click here for [BULK price list](#) and [BULK order form](#).

A local pick up option will also be available in Middlebury for \$273 per ton (\$275 if ordered after July 1) or \$5.75 per bag (10 bag minimum), both paid in advance. Details are still being finalized; we will let you know the particulars of this option as soon as they are available.

Please remember that all pellets, bagged (delivered or picked up) and bulk, must be ordered and paid for in advance, and memberships must be current to receive discount pricing.

Please contact Gwen at 385-1911 or info@acornenergycoop.com with any questions. If there is no answer, please leave a message and she will get back to you as soon as possible.

Does your boiler have to work in the summer? Solar hot water may be for you!

Does your oil- or propane-fueled boiler run all summer just to supply you with domestic hot water (for dishwashing, laundry, baths, etc.)? **Why burn fossil fuels all summer** when a Stiebel Eltron solar hot water system can provide most of the hot water you need from the sun?

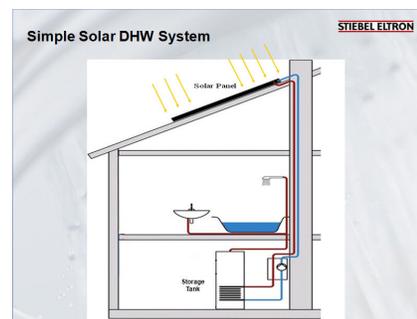
STIEBEL ELTRON
Simply the Best

Acorn Energy Co-op offers steep discounts on Stiebel Eltron Solar Hot Water (SHW) systems for your home.

Members receive a 30%

discount for all system components from this premier manufacturer of SHW systems. For most systems, this will result in about \$1,300 to 1,400 in savings. In addition to this money-saving offer, you also can take advantage of Vermont incentives and a 30% federal income tax credit, saving you even more.

Your new Stiebel Eltron SHW System and a few simple changes to your existing boiler controls will allow you to **rely mainly on solar hot water** from a new, heavily insulated solar storage tank (with 3 inches of foam insulation), with backup from your boiler when needed on cool, cloudy days or during the winter when your boiler is running anyway to heat your home.



If you need assistance with financing, we can help. Through a special arrangement with the National Bank of Middlebury,

qualified borrowers may **finance all or a part of the solar hot water system**. Loan applications are currently available at any National Bank of Middlebury office or by requesting an application by emailing loans@nbmvt.com.

For more information on how to reduce your fossil fuel consumption and receive hot water from the sun, call us for details at (802) 385-1911 or send an email inquiry to info@acornenergycoop.com.

Middlebury College Solar Decathlon Presentation at Ilesley Public Library

The Co-op will be presenting a free program on the **"Middlebury College Solar Decathlon House 2013"** as part of its Energy Education Program Series, at 7 p.m., on **Wednesday, June 19** at the Ilesley Library Community Room (rear entrance). The program will be presented by Middlebury College students and recent graduates who are members of the project team. Click [here](#) to visit their website and learn more about the project.



The Solar Decathlon is a biennial international green building competition, sponsored by the U.S.

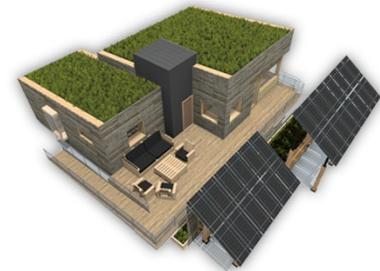
Department of Energy, for which colleges and universities from around the world submit design proposals. Once again, Middlebury College has been selected as **one of the twenty teams** to design and build an entirely solar-powered house. This year's competition will take place October 3-13, 2013 at [Orange County Great Park](#) in Irvine, California.

The 2013 Middlebury Team has called its design **"InSite."** From its form to the materials used, the home is inspired by Middlebury, VT and **Shannon Street-its future home** after the competition.

The design aims to engage the community while also offering the privacy and comforts that appeal to the 21st

Century home buyer. With the Five Points of InSiteful Design as guiding principles, **InSite is an elegant example** of the future of residential

architecture-a future that respects environmental, economic, and social sustainability.



In addition, a guided tour of the completed solar powered home is scheduled for **Saturday, August 3, 1-3 p.m.** at Middlebury College. Mark your calendars.

New Co-op Board Member and Officers

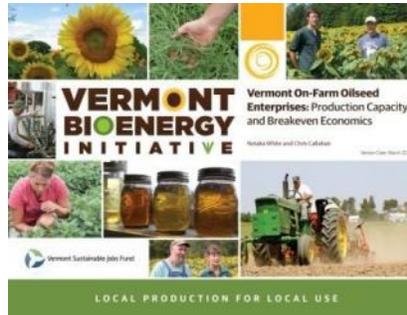
At its first meeting following the Energy Co-op's annual meeting in March, the board of directors elected its officers for 2013-2014. The board reelected Peter Carothers as our president, Tom Dunne as vice-president, Greg Pahl as

secretary, and Rich Carpenter as treasurer.

The board also unanimously voted to add **Suzy Hodgson**, from Charlotte, to the board for a one-year term. Suzy brings many years of business and community experience to the board. She is a **co-founder of Yourfarmstand.com**, a multi-farm, online marketing venture, as well as the **Chair of the Charlotte Energy Committee** and member of the Charlotte Conservation Commission. Welcome Suzy!

Vermont Bioenergy Videos

In April 2013, the Vermont Sustainable Jobs Fund produced a series of educational videos called "**Bioenergy NOW! Made**



in Vermont," featuring the work of the Vermont Bioenergy Initiative. Begun in 2005, the Initiative seeks to provide grants and technical assistance to Vermont farms, biofuel businesses, researchers, and entrepreneurs to develop Vermont's bioenergy feedstocks, fuels,

and infrastructure.

These videos highlight farmers, scientists, and others working at the forefront of the local-production-for-local-use movement who, to quote one of the videos, "are proving that local food systems and clean energy production together are economical, compatible, and essential." They **tell the compelling stories** of farmers running their equipment solely on fuel they grew for biodiesel, the possibility of growing grasses for heating fuel, and using algae for biofuels and wastewater management.

Concise and engaging, these videos showcase **how biofuels make sense for Vermont's communities, economy, and environment.** Take a few minutes to see for yourself!

Click [here](#) to access the videos on YouTube.

Partner Profile - Marbleworks Pharmacy

Looking for a hometown pharmacist who knows you and can answer your questions? Need a card, gift, and wrapping supplies? How about a flu shot or free delivery of your prescriptions? **Marbleworks**



Pharmacy in Middlebury, Bristol, and Vergennes offers these conveniences plus a 24-hour prescription refill system by phone or online. Their knowledgeable pharmacists are eager to help you understand your prescriptions and your pharmacy insurance as well.

Acorn Energy Co-op members receive a **10% discount on all non-prescription items** and a **25% discount on**

greeting cards. Use your membership card at Marbleworks today to save money and support a local business! Click [here](#) for further information about Marbleworks Pharmacy's products and services.

Upcoming Events

SolarFest 2013

July 12, 13, 14

Forget-Me-Not Farm, Tinmouth, VT

19th annual sustainable living festival featuring over 60 workshops, sustainable living marketplace, children's activities, on-site camping, and keynote speaker Ben Cohen, co-founder of Ben & Jerry's. For more information or to purchase tickets, click [here](#).

Vermontivate!

This is an online game that involves towns competing by individuals completing weekly challenges related to energy conservation, transportation, and food issues. The game runs for 6 weeks starting May 13 and ending June 21st. At the conclusion of the game the winning town wins an ice cream party for their town by Ben and Jerry's. Some of the challenges involved education around these issues, real world changes that we can all make, creativity, and community building gratitude support challenges. Last year challenges included getting a home energy audit, changing to CFL light bulbs, measuring your carbon footprint etc. As a result of playing our energy bill was dramatically impacted. For more information or to play, click [here](#).

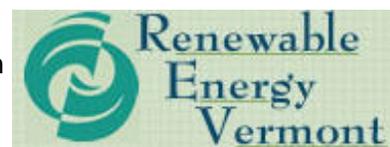
2013 Vermont Home Energy Challenge

Sign Up Today! Efficiency Vermont, in partnership with the Vermont Energy and Climate Action Network, is seeking local organizations to champion the Challenge in their communities and to sign up to participate. Under the Challenge, local organizations will foster public awareness about energy saving opportunities in the home and will set a target of weatherizing 3% of the homes in their community over the course of a year. Towns will then be able to measure their progress toward their goals along with that of other communities in their region and across the state. At the end of the year, towns will be recognized and awarded for the effectiveness of their efforts to encourage participation in their communities. Visit www.encyvermont.com/homeenergychallenge for details. For more information, contact pmarkowitz@veic.org.

Some Helpful Links to More Renewable Energy Information

RENEWABLE ENERGY VERMONT

Visit Renewable Energy Vermont's website for summaries on statewide renewable energy initiatives and incentives and professional training opportunities. REV is comprised of renewable energy companies, institutional and academic partners and concerned citizens of Vermont working to ensure the expansion of renewable energy statewide. Contact REV to locate your local renewable energy professional. REV members are available to speak to schools and civic groups on the many benefits of renewable energy.



EFFICIENCY VERMONT

Efficiency Vermont provides technical assistance and financial incentives to Vermont households and businesses, to help them reduce their energy costs with energy-efficient equipment and lighting and with energy-efficient approaches to construction and renovation.



For years it focused on improving electrical costs. Several years ago it expanded and helped Vermont launch **Button Up! Vermont** to help homeowners improve the thermal envelope of their buildings for improved heating and cooling. You can go to its website and click on "**Ask the Home Team**" for common sense answers to your building efficiency questions.

In addition, don't miss the current Efficiency Vermont supported deals in your local hardware store on all types of efficient CFL and LED lighting.

Thank you again for your continued support and enthusiasm. Our member-owned co-op continues to grow thanks to people like you. If you have specific questions about the Co-op, please e-mail us at info@acornenergycoop.com or call us at 802-385-1911.

Sincerely,

Peter Carothers, President
Acorn Energy Co-op