

# Truro Tidelines

Truro's Energy & Recycling Committees' Newsletter | Fall 2008

## Truro Residents Get Mobilized

by Rebecca Bruyn

*For years, I thought I was doing my part for the environment by recycling as much as I could, but when I was bitten by the 'go green' bug in the spring of 2007, it felt like I was bopped on the head and woke up to a new way of thinking. Suddenly, my own activities of daily living were scrutinized by a new mindset. The actions I was taking, though small, became both challenging and powerful. I remember thinking that small changes can have a larger effect but how do I make this happen? That question became a turning point for me and on January 8, 2008 the first Truro 'green eco-team' was born when 7 households showed up. It is for this reason I write this article, to give the team a chance to talk about their experiences so far.*

Ron and Martha Hyams had always been interested in conservation and the environment but wanted to do more. When Martha heard about this group she thought it was great idea, to get together and learn from one another. Ron said it made sense "because **if one person is doing something that you may not have thought about, they can talk about it in the group.**" Susan Kurtzman thought it was a great idea for people to share information and learn how to save energy. "**I'm now more informed about my electricity and gas use** and make every attempt to reduce usage like using the dryer and dishwasher less, and hanging clothes on the line outside." She notes, "I'm more aware of doing the simple things, like turning out lights when leaving a room or turning down the heat a few extra degrees at night during the winter." Robin Robertson had been involved in building green buildings in the past, but until the green eco team got underway, she was embarrassed to admit that she didn't really worry too much about what she could do at home. "That has certainly changed." she added. This year she and her husband Serge Kappler built a garden bed and a clothes line in their yard. Joe and Jerry Rood had always been sensitive to the environment but thought a group would be a way to share ideas. "We bought a smaller car, we purchased re-usable shopping bags which we use

### Did you know?

Did you know you can have a free home energy audit? It's the best way to get started in learning about your home's energy use and what you can do to improve it. Now is the time to call! Call 1-800-797-6699.

### Last Call!

Over 200 people have sent in their responses. And most everyone who has completed the survey has learned something about how they can reduce their energy usage.

If you haven't sent yours in, just send a short email to [TruroEnergy@aol.com](mailto:TruroEnergy@aol.com) and we'll email you a copy. Then spend a few minutes to complete it and drop it off at the Town Hall.

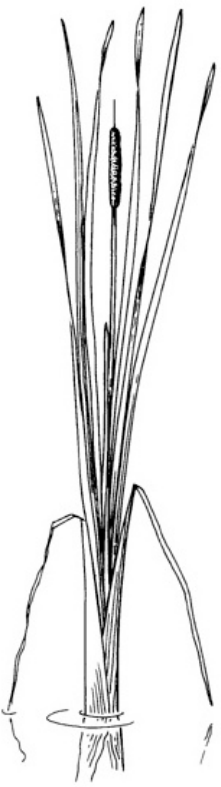
It's not too late to have your survey counted!

religiously and we've curbed our use of energy." Cindy Rosenbaum felt it was a great idea, "If you're taking small steps as one person, it makes them bigger because we're all doing them. **It feels very hopeful to be part of a group.**" she adds. Jennifer Shannon and Janie Lea add that, "being on **the eco team has been a great help in raising our consciousness about going green.** We have learned much about things we can do both big and small to reduce our carbon foot print. Having support and encouragement of the group has helped us to follow through with changes. **It is exciting to be part of a community effort to move forward.**"

The eco team has met 7 times since January in member's homes. One meeting took place at Jeff Roger's house in Truro, a certified energy efficient home. "**I never would have known about Jeff's house nor would have seen it if I hadn't become involved in the team,**" Martha Hyams added, "I learned a lot about how a house works and things you can do to use less energy." In addition to touring Jeff's house, Bill Worthington, our Cape Light Compact representative, came to a meeting to teach us how to read our electric bill.

The list of changes to make is long but the group is committed to continuing to tackle many of them for example undertaking a free home energy audit, creating a compost bin, finding a cost effective way to install a wind turbine, putting up a clothesline, etc. "We're learning from one another and having a lot of fun doing it!" Robin added. "**It's always easier when you have a goal that others encourage you to meet. If everyone does his/her bit, change will happen.**"

If interested in learning more about starting a green eco team, contact Rebecca Bruyn at [rebcin@comcast.net](mailto:rebcin@comcast.net).



### Energy Committee

Bill Worthington, Chair  
Bob Holt  
Sally Brotman  
Rebecca Bruyn  
Paul Endich  
Brian Boyle, Alternate

### Recycling Committee

Bob Holt, Chair  
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Sarah Morrison  
Betty Bingham, Alternate



## Recycle more! Save \$ & CO2

Recycling presents a great opportunity to put on the brakes on increasing our local taxes. The more waste we recycle, the less money we'll have to spend to haul our annual 1685 tons of trash to SEMASS, a municipal waste combustion facility in Rochester, MA, which produces electricity (and byproducts, namely ash and pollution). In 1985, Truro locked in a rate of \$37.51 per ton to dispose of municipal waste; the contract will expire in 2015. According to Town Administrator Pam Nolan, the next contract with SEMASS is likely to cost the town \$70 to \$90 a ton for waste disposal. That is a whopping increase. The challenge is clear; increase recycling and reduce trash. It will save us money now, and save us a lot more in the future.

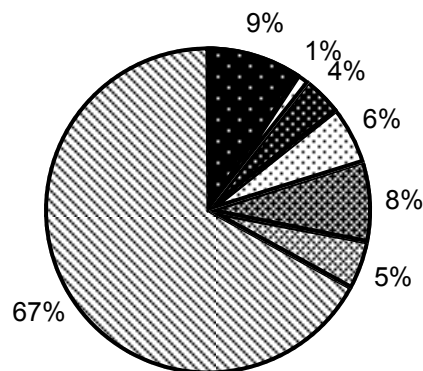
Truro's recycling rate ---between 30 and 40 %--- is about average for the state. How much more could we recycle? One Massachusetts town boasts a 60 to 70 % recycling rate. But we could do even better than that. San Francisco's rate is 67% and has set a goal of 75% by 2010.

Recycling will not only save us money; it will prevent pollution, in two ways. Recycling trash instead of burning it will reduce SEMASS's CO2 emissions. And by providing materials to be re-manufactured out of recycled materials, that means that less fossil fuel will be needed for mining and refining ores for metals and for making paper, glass, and plastics from virgin resources.

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How Much Trash is Recycled in Truro?



(2007 Totals: Measured in Tons)

- 9% Paper & Cardboard
- 1% Plastic & Cans
- 4% Glass
- 6% Metal Pile
- 8% Compost (approximation)
- 5% Swap Shop & Salvation Army (approximations)
- 67% SEMASS Waste NOT RECYCLED

### Events

Beginning Oct. 1, the Energy and Recycling Committees present a series of public meetings on the climate change crisis and what we can do about it at the Truro Library, Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM. Michael Morrison, a scientist trained by Al Gore, will present *Climate and Prosperity: our present predicament; the effects of using fossil fuels on our security, economy, and quality of life; and the road map to a better future.* Check the Energy Committee page at [www.truro-ma.gov](http://www.truro-ma.gov) for subsequent programs.

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