

Press Release

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Mayor, Board of Aldermen Approve Nashua Green Team as Official City Committee

It's official! The Nashua Green Team has been established as an official committee in the City. The ordinance establishing the Green Team was passed by the Board of Alderman and signed by the Mayor in June and members are in the process of being appointed over the next two weeks.

As an official City committee, the Green Team will advise the mayor, Board of Aldermen, and division directors as to what methods to adopt to achieve the City's goals, including: reducing energy expenditures, increasing energy efficiency, and decreasing our air pollution. The team is comprised of residents, business leaders and representatives from departments throughout the City including: the Mayor's Office, Administrative Services, Community Health, Solid Waste, Nashua Library, Streets Department, and Planning. The Green Team will work with city departments, officials, the business community, citizens and environmental experts to develop an action plan which will provide recommendations to achieve the City's goals.

The City is the second community in New Hampshire, after Keene, to commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy efficiency. In 2001, the Mayor signed onto the Cities for Climate Protection Program (CCP), which includes nearly 200 communities in the United States and 770 communities worldwide. Involvement in the CCP program has put Nashua in the limelight nationally due to the current efforts of the Nashua Green Team and recognition of the energy projects that have been implemented to date. In March 2006, the Cities for Climate Protection Program included the City on the front page of their newsletter, which has a distribution of several thousand readers.

The City's efforts to reduce our energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions is not a new endeavor. Over the past four years, the City has been very successful at finding ways to retrofit our existing municipal buildings and resources to increase our energy efficiency and cut costs. Some of the retrofits implemented to date include:

- 2005 - Lighting retrofits at the Streets Department garage – Savings*: \$42,000
- 2005 - Installation of Premium Efficiency Motors at the Public Library – Savings: \$9,300
- 2005 - Lighting retrofits and Meeting Room motion detectors in City Hall – Savings: \$6,500
- 2004 and 2006 - New HVAC systems with computer controlled systems and high efficiency boilers in City Hall and Nashua Police Station – Savings not realized yet

- 2005 - Installation of exhaust system that removes 85% of carbon dioxide in diesel emissions
- 2006 - City Policy requiring that all paper used in copiers and printers will be at least 30% recycled – 72,147 lbs of Greenhouse gas emissions reduced
- 2004 – Present – School Energy Program including lighting retrofits, recycling, timers installed, education to teachers and admin to turn off lights/computers – Savings: \$2,230,073

These changes are just the tip of the iceberg – through the Green Team, many departments are educating their employees of the methods of decreasing our energy use and the benefits to both the City's pocketbook and our air quality and making implementing office policies to shut lights off, turning computers off at the end of the day, reporting drafty areas, turning down heaters and keeping doors and windows closed to retain heat/air conditioning.

In addition to working on developing an action plan, the Green Team is busy organizing an Anti-Idling Campaign throughout the City and hosting the First Annual Energy Fair at Greeley Park on August 12th from 12-3pm. The Energy Fair will include demonstrations of alternative energy like solar power, wind energy, and hybrid technology. The Anti-Idling campaign and Energy Fair will focus on educating kids and parents about reducing energy costs and emissions and how we can all play a part in improving our air quality.

The Green Team meets regularly on the third Thursday of every month at 3:30pm in the City Hall Auditorium. Meetings are open to the public. The Team is always looking for residents and business leaders to sit on the committee, if you are interested in being on the Nashua Green Team, please contact Angela Vincent at 589-3111.

* Annual Savings