

Topic: Renewable Energy

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Participants

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Main Points:

- How to make Boone more energy self sufficient
- How to use models from other places (Germany, Israel) here?
- How to create Renewable Energy jobs in this area so well trained professionals can stay local and make a living
- AIRE – Community organization partnering individuals/small businesses/etc. with financial institutions with goal of 1 megawatt of community owned Renewable Energy in the County in 2012
- Energy Audit resources
- * Sacramento model of the community lottery where winner gets a neutron lawn mower – or some Renewable Energy item
- Reduce

Action Steps:

- Develop a Renewable Energy “Trail” like barn quilt trail where people could see where others have implemented types of Renewable Energy
- Make a list if energy auditors for interested individuals
- Local entrepreneurs build solar powered lawn mowers – Mary Gray has a prototype they could use – mulching mower
- Town of Boone encourage more water conservation – give out rain barrels
- AIRE make a presentation to the Town Council - Renewable Energy: more projects possible
- Information on individual sized systems that is readily accessible for wind, solar, micro-hydro
- Put an educational display (small wind mill) on the top of Howard’s Knob to commemorate old site...put a wind mill financed by ASU/citizens/ county/AIRE/etc.
- RESOURCES: Info on Tax Credits..NC Solar Center – www.DSIRE.usa.org,
- Have a way for home owner – current home or potential building projects – to get energy audits/site assessments at reasonable cost
- Mary Gray has magazine “Beyond Pesticides”
- Dept. of Defense has just been given mandate to get 50% of its energy from renewable by 2025

- Resuscitate ARISE based on interest shown here
- Town/County/Region needs to hire a Energy Coordinator – Like Lisa as recycling coordinator
- Ways new home owners can incorporate more energy efficiency systems including co-ops for shared energy
- Boone become THE Renewable Energy capital of the South
- In Wales in 1970's an old slate mine became #1 Renewable Energy site in Europe (Mary Gray has slide)
- Create a family friendly energy park at landfill with energy efficiency, composting, playground where families could come to fun and learn
 - Heated green houses
 - Have human-powered equipment for fun and demonstration
 - Could be joint venture – ASU Appropriate Tech & Sustainable Development Depts.
 - Bee friendly gardens
 - Restaurant with all vegetables grown on site
 - Example – Center for Alternative Technology - Located in place in Wales that was severely economically depressedes & farming was having problems
- Do a number or series of programs on MTN Television Network – “sustainability Showcase” or something like that to showcase – Sue Counts had worked on something like that
- Do Renewable Energy Tour regularly in summer of area like winery tour in Alamance County – Could stop at Renewable Energy Park (see landfill idea above)
- Brochure/Booklet to be distributed at motels ..Renewable Energy/Sustainability things to do/sites in area
- Approach hotels/tourism sites to incorporate conservation/renewables to promote more eco-tourism/