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NORTH-CENTRAL CONNECTICUT'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

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## Council adopts resolution to go green in energy purchasing

By:Laura F. Alix , Journal Inquirer

**COVENTRY - The Town Council has adopted a resolution whereby the town would get 20 percent of its energy from renewable sources by 2010.**

The resolution would meet the 20 percent by 2010 goal set by the statewide clean energy campaign.

By joining the clean energy campaign, towns pledge to buy energy whose generation doesn't emit greenhouse gases, such as energy from solar or wind power.

At a recent council meeting Linda Campbell, a computer applications teacher at Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School, was joined by two high school students, Hannah Kyer and Valerie Stickles, to implore council members to adopt the resolution.

Kyer told the council that 92 homes in town had already signed up to become clean energy homes, and if eight more signed up, the town would officially be a clean energy community and can receive a free solar panel worth \$10,000.

Campbell said one solar panel would be able to power the Town Hall Annex.

Campbell also leads the ecology group at Capt. Nathan Hale Middle School.

The group's primary focus has been on educating their fellow students and the residents of Coventry about sustainability and energy conservation.

Kyer, a freshman at Coventry High School who has been involved with the ecology group since seventh grade, said public response has generally been positive. But, unfortunately, people sometimes just forget to sign up for clean energy alternatives.

"A lot of people are really interested in it, but they're so busy that when they go home they forget about it," Kyer said.

To become a clean energy home, Campbell said, homeowners can watch for an insert in their CL&P bills and choose an electricity provider who uses renewable sources, or they can sign up online.

This would entail paying a few more dollars per month, she said.

"It really does depend on your lifestyle and how conservative you are," Campbell said, noting that she only paid about \$6 more per month. However, the subject did raise some debate among council members.

"The technology for replacing fossil fuel in this country is not there yet," council member Patrick Sullivan said.

Sullivan also said he did not think it was fair to expect homeowners to pay extra for clean energy with the nation about to face a recession.

"We all have to do what we can and start somewhere," council member William Zenko said, speaking in favor of the resolution.

Stickles said she was excited that the council had signed onto the campaign.

"I hope that with them signing on, more people will become aware of it," she said.

"We have to think about what's going to happen when fossil fuels run out," she added. "We have to think about more than just tomorrow."

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