

Easton urges residents to 'go green'

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Article Last Updated: 03/11/2008 12:02:07 AM EDT

EASTON — The town is urging residents to go green — not for St. Patrick's Day but for the environment.

If fewer than a dozen people make a commitment to get electricity through alternative sources, the town will be eligible to receive a 2-kilowatt solar panel from the Connecticut Clean Energy Fund, said Cathy Alfrandre, chairwoman of the Easton Clean Energy Task Force.

Alfrandre said eight more signatures are needed to reach the 100-participant level required under the program to receive a free solar panel worth \$20,000.

Alfrandre said the town joined the clean energy program more than a year ago and set aside \$1,500 to obtain a portion of its electricity from clean rather than conventional sources.

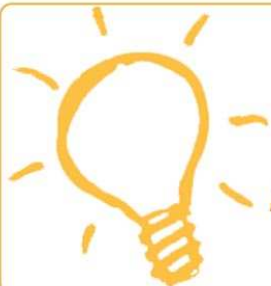
The Board of Selectmen recently recommended the Board of Finance approve an additional \$3,575 to boost the town's level of participation in clean energy to 20 percent of its electricity needs.

However, the task force chairman said the town will receive back a \$20 credit from the fund for each homeowner who signs up for the program, which will compensate for its investment.

"Every time a town reaches 100 participants, it gets a solar panel," Alfrandre said. "If we can reach 200,

we can get a second panel. Fairfield has four already. The panels can be used on a town building or school." Under the program, residents who make a commitment to support clean energy will pay 1.1 cent more per kilowatt hour for electricity, she said, which amounts to about \$7 a month for the average household. For an application to sign up for the clean energy program, call the First Selectman's Office at 268-6291 or contact the task force at eastoncetf@yahoo.com.

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