

For immediate release:
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Local Energy Alternatives Festival Offers Answers for High Energy Prices

BRADFORD – Main Street and the Bradford Academy Building will buzz with energy on Saturday, October 4, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. as the Bradford Conservation Commission hosts its first annual Local Energy Alternatives Festival, known as LEAF. Admission is free, and the event will happen rain or shine.

Organizers hope participants will learn to reduce their use of petroleum and increase their consumption of locally made products and food. “We are all becoming alarmed about the high costs of heating oil and gasoline prices, affecting both our pocket books and our environment,” said Bradford Energy Committee co-chair Sandy Price. “We know there are alternatives to petroleum out there, and interest is definitely building in our community to find other ways to meet our energy needs, in our homes, our businesses and in all areas of our daily lives,” she said.

Keynote speaker Debra Sachs—executive director of the Burlington-based Alliance for Climate Change, past director of the Vermont Planners Association and past director of the Alliance for Climate Action—will speak at 10 a.m. on the Bradford Academy stage. Sachs co-authored the 2006 Energy and Climate Action Guide and gives regular addresses around New England about energy issues and the environment.

Scheduled workshops include:

- efficient wood heating
- home-heating safety
- sustainable living
- basics of solar hot water and electricity
- building a greenhouse for heat and year-round food
- preparing and preserving natural foods

Other events include a farmers’ market in Denny Park and solar tours of local homes and businesses that use alternative energy for electricity and hot water. Tour participants can sign up to take a morning or afternoon bus to the sites. A 15-minute animated film called *The Story of Stuff*, which explains why we can’t buy our way out of environmental problems, will be shown several times in the Old Church Theater. The complete event schedule will be available at the festival, and most area households will receive a large-format event flyer direct mailed a week before the event.

Local vendors will display goods and services at event booths, and organizers will encourage visitors to enjoy the festival, then stroll down the street to do their shopping and dining in downtown Bradford.

Bicyclists are encouraged! The first 50 arrivals by bike will receive a tote bag donated by Hills 5 & 10 of Bradford. Valet bicycle parking is sponsored by the Bradford Parks & Recreation Commission in conjunction with the Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition.

LEAF is funded by the Bradford Conservation Commission with support from the Byrne Foundation and the Corinth Conservation Commission. Any energy vendor, artisan or sustainability-related organization interested in an event booth should contact co-chair Ed Wendell at 802-222-4657.

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