

## Notes from May 8, 2009 Energy & Empowerment Gathering

1. **Welcome from Craig Williams**—The challenge is to spend as much time on solutions as you do opposing what's wrong. Advocate vigorously for solutions!
2. **Updates from organizations working on energy issues:**
  - a. Madison County Home Energy Improvement Program (Gina Chamberlain)-MCHEIP was formed to complement existing services for weatherization, not compete. They are planning to do a Repair Affair and are currently looking at other models (such as Louisville's Project Warm).
  - b. Kentucky Environmental Foundation (Elizabeth Crowe) <http://kyenvironmentalfoundation.org/> -KEF is working with KFTC and the Sierra Club to stop a new coal-fired power plant in Clark County. They sold CFLs door to door and people who had enough bulbs already purchased bulbs to donate to Bereans United for Utility and Rent Relief (BUURR).
  - c. Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (Beth Bissmeyer) <http://www.kftc.org/> -Madison County KFTC has an energy work team that is open to the public. Last summer, Beth conducted a survey about the impacts of rising energy costs on Madison County residents and handed out CFL bulbs. That project was funded by the E&E Community-Based Research grants.
  - d. Madison County Greenways and Trails (Paul Schrader) <http://madisonkytrails.org/> - Paul shared a trail map of the current and future trails in the Berea area. The City of Berea has scheduled a public hearing on the portion of Indian Fort Shared Use Trail from Harrison Rd to Short Line Pike. Some controversy has developed as to whether the trail should be built and public input is being asked for. Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 28th at 5:30 pm in the Council Chamber in the Municipal and Police Bldg located at 304 Chestnut Street.
  - e. Sustainable Berea (Richard Olson) <http://sustainableberea.org/> -Sustainable Berea's mission is to increase the resilience of Berea, KY. Their current focus is the Transition Town Project, which features a year of re-skilling workshops. Check their website for the latest information and news about upcoming events
  - f. Appalachia-Science in the Public Interest (Casey Sterr) <http://www.a-spi.org/> - A-SPI has a solar pv trailer with battery backup that has been used at various venues across the state. They continue to offer solar water heater installation training. They are training citizen water monitors as a part of the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team.
  - g. Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED): Energy Efficient Enterprises (E3) (Josh Bills) <http://www.maced.org/E3/index.html> -Since the beginning of the E3 program, they have assessed 15 facilities. They have 55 facilities awaiting assessment.
  - h. EKU's Center for Renewable and Alternative Fuel Technologies (Bruce Pratt) <http://www.prm.eku.edu/Update/?issue=120&department=0&article=1420> – The CRAFT initiative is researching alternative fuels at Eastern Kentucky University.

- i. Madison County Home Energy Expo- (Megan Naseman) Between 500 and 600 people attended the first annual Madison County Home Energy Expo. Next year, there will be a lunch for exhibitors to network with one another.

### 3. Issue Focused Break-Out Groups:

- a. **Energy Efficiency**—
  - i. Three Common Goals:
    - 1. Affordability
      - a. Financing construction
      - b. Materials
      - c. Innovation (hot water on demand, solar hot water)
      - d. Lower utility costs
    - 2. Education
      - a. Energy sources
      - b. Life style choices
    - 3. Environmental protection
  - ii. Collaborative opportunities
    - 1. Regional educational/workforce training-connect with KY Clean Energy Corps
    - 2. Stream lining housing financing application process
    - 3. Local energy clearing house
  - iii. Service-Learning and other support from BC
    - 1. Computer and website skills
    - 2. Needs research
    - 3. Recruit volunteers/interns/labor students (also, identify ways to increase faculty participation)
- b. **Local Foods**—Present: Timi Reedy (MERJ), Tammy Clemons (MERJ, LFI, E&E), Micah Perkins (BC student interested in LFI), Cheyenne Olson (Sustainable Berea), Paul Smithson (SENS, LFI), Ike Adams (Habitat for Humanity)
  - i. Common Goals:
    - 1. Sustainable Berea trying to measure number of people growing food (quantify increase to 50% by 2025)
    - 2. Secure shelter for Farmer's Market Building (24/7) With certified kitchen
    - 3. Increase local economic development/marketing
    - 4. Processing food essential for off-season consumption
    - 5. CFS kitchen on campus for community use? (Also Dining service)
    - 6. Change college shed to close in winter, open in summer
    - 7. Short Term class "Farm to Table: focused on food preservation in winter (January)
    - 8. Food Co-op (*real* Co-op owned and operated facility/market for bulk)
    - 9. Examples of contract crops (similar to CSA) with upfront investment in key staples produced

10. Practical skills/education but also awareness of food production/transportation (need for different practices & economics)
- ii. Collaboration opportunities
  1. Educate students about the why and how
  2. Ensuring access and education for low-income families (not just “preaching to the choir”)
  3. Tap into local knowledge/practice in region (link to older generations)
  4. Value-added resources/opportunities for production (supporting small farmers)
  5. Community gardens at local churches
  6. Link to Habitat efforts and service area
  7. 2-acre community space in Hope Estates
  8. Edible landscaping in Habitat houses (using volunteer efforts with donations from the potting shed)
  9. Extension agents to consult and lead workshops/projects
  10. Student internships as expertise/leadership
  11. Community garden plots (BC gardens, market to local community)
  12. Raised beds, small manageable intro. (also, “square-foot” gardening books)
- iii. Service-Learning/Other BC support
  1. Internships
  2. BC facilities for community use (kitchens, expand comm. garden space)
  3. Summer labor opportunities
  4. Edible landscaping *on campus*
  5. Use tree trunks as raised beds and existing landscape beds for food production
  6. Edible tree crops (Tree Campus USA)
  7. CELTS/faculty/community partnership database coming soon! (link for potential projects)
  8. Compton internship opportunities through SENS (underutilized recently)
- c. **Renewable Energy**-- Present: Martin Richards (Facilitator), KFTC; Richard Olson, Sustainable Berea; Bruce Poff, ECU; Casey Sterr, ASPI; Charlie Wilton, Berea Friends Meeting.
  - i. Three Common Goals Discussion
    1. RO. 50 x 25 Plan for the city of Berea. Where Berea gets 50% of its energy by 2025 from renewable energy and 50% from energy efficiency. Focus is on *local* renewable energy sources.
    2. BP. Working on biomass. Focusing on increasing capacity to produce – with the focus on local farmers producing the materials and the production plant being located in Winchester. Look at having 6 production facilities in the State with each one using biomass that is able to be produced in that local area so as to work with that area’s specific capabilities for plant growth.
    3. CW. Improve the energy efficiency of the Friends Meeting House and work on establishing collaboration within the local community with organizations

(churches, etc) that desire to decrease their carbon footprint. Want to focus on energy conservation. Interested in exploring low-head hydro generation and geothermal.

4. CS. Focus on reducing the barriers to integrating solar energy. Focus on the policy (local and state levels) issues and economics of solar. Also want to explore development of large-scale solar and distributed solar generation.

ii. Current Collaborative Opportunities

1. RO. The Solar Tour on October 3. Goal would be to have more sites participate than in the past. And to expand the tour offerings at sites to include workshops on how to adopt solar.
2. BP. Work with other colleges and research groups on the research and development of biomass technology and opportunity. Collaborate with local farmers in the identified areas on biomass production. There will be byproducts as well the from local biomass production process – these byproducts will have economic value. Looking for large-scale commercial production of biomass. Is currently working with a biomass production group in Estill County, KY.
3. MR. Focus on working with local community and organizations to develop an understanding of the issues and support for any new initiatives and/or opportunities. The importance of this is so that community support is achieved before any initiatives are implemented and considered. Focus on local job generation. Need to consider the fuel vs. food debate when it comes to biomass production.
4. CW. Working with other faith communities and organizations to collaborate on energy efficiency. Want to establish quantifiable goals so that group can substantiate the claims on reduction. This will require baseline data and tracking the required information on energy use practices. To increase participation in the energy reduction effort as well as define what the relevant information to capture is.
5. CS. Utilizing the organizing base of some groups to foster and promote change at the local and state policy levels.
6. General discussion. In tracking energy reduction and changes, need to have baseline data so that reductions can be identified and noted with accuracy. Can use the TED device for this – cost is approximately \$200 and Josh Bills with MACED uses them in his work. With this tracking effort, need to make sure that all energy uses are tracked.

Changing policy at the local and state levels is key to renewable energy efforts – part of the reason is that the cost of renewables is high for most people. Discovering and implementing financing options to reduce this hurdle needs to be part of the policy considerations. This starts at the grassroots level. Change is helped by listening to

experts as well as engaging community organizations that have connections with people that can lend their voice and effort.

Have the groups gathered today foster a relationship with the Berea Utility Advisory Group. The reason for this is to lend support and be able to make recommendations to BUAG.

iii. Service-Learning Support: We did not get to this point of the agenda.

d. **Transportation**—Present: Brad Christensen, Peter Hille, Howard Carlberg, Mark Nigro, Cecile Schubert

i. Common Goals

1. Reduce carbon footprint (save money and benefit the environment)
2. Increase health
3. Berea → "Demonstration Community"
4. Increase tourism
5. Practical transportation

ii. Collaborative opportunities

1. 5/28 Hearing, 2<sup>nd</sup> phase (The City of Berea has scheduled a public hearing on the portion of Indian Fort Shared Use Trail from Harrison Rd to Short Line Pike. Some controversy has developed as to whether the trail should be built and public input is being asked for. Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 28th at 5:30 pm in the Council Chamber in the Municipal and Police Bldg located at 304 Chestnut Street.)
  - a. Talk to other communities who have addressed safety issues and residential value issues
  - b. Reframe the trail as a "Linear Park" adds value to nearby homes and involves the parks
  - c. City personnel role—clarify and explain the issue
  - d. Citizens-research Bloomington Ill, and Ft. C.
  - e. BC Coursework- Down the road (pun intended) maybe hybrid and small alternative vehicles could use the shared-use paths.
2. Converting asphalt into a "Linear Park"
  - a. Service-Learning-create benches, sculptures, exercise equipment, disabled transportation opportunities
  - b. Class research using CBR grants

e. **Waste/Recycling**

Benefits/link to energy issues: saves resources, reduction in consumption-promoting reuseables, reducing ghg emissions. Framing "zero waste" : includes basic recycling, pick up, enforcement against trash burning, policy change such as bottle bills

i. Goals

1. Basic education:

- a. Problems with trash burning
    - b. Defining benefits of recycling/zero waste (which includes municipal, food/"green" waste)
    - c. Info on electronics/CFL recycling
  - 2. Improving waste reduction/ZW/recycling infrastructure in Berea/Madison County
    - a. 2011 in Berea
- ii. Collaboration
  - 1. KEF-educational video contest
  - 2. Tracking how "renewable energy" is defined
  - 3. MADE (Make a Difference Environmentally, in Jason Coomes SENS 100 courses) project ideas: bottle bill research, intern opportunities
  - 4. Questions/Bike rack: cost impacts of recycling/waste on industry and consumers
  - 5. Service-Learning class on mathematical modeling to focus on recycling/waste opps
  - 6. Supporting local food-reuse of containers
  - 7. School collaboration? Teachers, students, and parents
  - 8. Electronics/CFL recycling with the City of Berea
  - 9. LWV white paper depot
  - 10. Industrial (and residential) food composting through Sustainable Berea
- iii. College partnership
  - 1. Food composting
  - 2. Service-Learning class in Fall 09

#### 4. Strategy-Focused Break-Out Groups

- a. **Business**—Present: Mary Eipert (Construction contractor and house rater) , David Cooke (EPG Director, Appalachian Fund Director, EE in Hyndman with Berea Students, Market awareness of initiatives, Boone County Commodity base initiative), Martin Richards (KFTC-High Roads Initiative), Cheyenne Olson (Sustainable Berea, Creating a resilient Local economy with small businesses)
  - i. What businesses are out there than can help with energy efficiency and renewable energy?
  - ii. We don't have to invent the energy efficiency technology, we need to educate and communicate (ie-monitoring the rebate/incentives)
  - iii. Develop education structure and curriculum
  - iv. Berea utilities advisory board can create an education package with professionals/businesses
  - v. Create equity in the economic spectrum
- b. **Education**: Advancing energy in the education sector.
  - i. Resources: Group members could not recall any resources that would present dispassionate and integrated views, information, and curriculum about energy-related issues. Typically, polarized and opposing sides create well framed positions

to advance their perspective and cause. The people in this group hadn't seen curricula that integrates or reconciles the views of "entrenched energy" on the one side, and "environmentalists" on the other, in a way that involves collaborative problem solving between the two. It would be beneficial to strategize educational opportunities that involve true dialogue and creative "third way" solutions to involve both sides moving forward together.

ii. Challenges:

1. The old paradigms of convenient habits
2. "Extra time needed" to make changes
3. Lack of understanding about energy
4. Cost
5. It's a complex issue, but change requires simple messages, so it is often oversimplified. It requires dialogue.

c. Faith

i. Resources

1. MACED Assessment (E3)
2. Environmental Justice Festival
3. Interfaith Power and Light (National and Kentucky)
4. Websites: <http://www.theregenerationproject.org/>  
<http://www.quakerearthcare.org/>  
<http://www.uumistryforearth.org/cgi/news.cgi>  
<http://www.nccecojustice.org/>
5. Restoring Eden
6. Matthew and Nancy Sleeth- Serve God Save the Planet (written by Matthew, both Matthew and Nancy speak)

ii. Challenges

1. Status quo
2. Inertia and misinformation
3. Theological barriers
4. Budget issues

iii. Resources to connect better:

1. Joint meeting of churches working on this
2. Joint activities: film showings, sharing DVD's, etc
3. Sustainable Berea willing to offer 2 raised beds (installed and planted) to produce food "Gardens of Eatin'" at up to 5 Churches.
4. Working with the Ministerial Association: Megan Naseman and Betty Hibler will approach the Ministerial Association about forming a local Interfaith Power & Light, Sustainable Berea's raised beds offer, and to ask what projects they know of right now
5. Outreach pilot repair affair, working together through volunteer opportunities (emphasize rent relief and utilities)

6. Bring a speaker to the M. A.
7. Tour of green churches

#### d. Policy

##### i. Resources

1. ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability. City of Berea is a member. Large opportunity, resources available.
2. Transition Town
3. KY Clean Energy Corps.
  - a. Local involvement: Martin Richards (KFTC), Jason Bailey (MACED), Gina Chamberlain (MCHEIP), Jim King
  - b. Decision-making on resource allotment

##### ii. Possible Next Steps

1. Check-in with other groups about interest in collaborating
2. Local groups share state & federal policy energy info with each other
3. Meeting with City of Berea about ICLEI

- e. **Service**—Present: Timi Reedy (MERJ), Mike Hannon (KEF), Tammy Clemons (LFI, MERJ, E&E), Ashely Cochrane (CELTS, E&E), Casey Sterr (A-SPI), Ike Adams (Habitat), Howard Carlberg (Solar)

##### i. Resources:

1. BC Networking Lunches (what's available in area, monthly presentation)
2. VISTA volunteers (resources and training required, then access to paid volunteer)
3. AmeriCorps (similar to VISTA)
4. Media! (local, regional, national ex-KEF & USA Today)
5. Public Meetings (grassroots & government)
6. Churches and civic groups (captive audiences, volunteers, funding, etc)
7. Emails list-serves (E&E, MERJ, Networking lunches, Chamber of commerce, etc.)
8. Websites (info & connection to other orgs)

##### ii. Audience & Challenges

1. Differ depending on context/issue
2. Emphasis on interconnection (i.e. low-income families, access to all...)
3. How to convene people & issues (forum like Energy Forum)
4. Clearinghouse of info. on multi-issues (point people in direction of connections and resources)
5. Education/resources on connected issues for Habitat families/neighborhoods
6. Empowering peer education and support--Constituents into advocates (awareness, enthusiasm to get others on board)

##### iii. Needed resources/communication

1. Refer to e.i. point for existing resources
2. Technological resources (equip., tech. support)



3. CELTS database (coming soon!)
4. Energy Expo (networking, workshops)
5. Newsletters (sometimes more accessible than web). Leave in Churches!
6. Consolidate printing efforts, for example Habitat letting FAHE include a page (cheaper by volume)
7. Fill gaps—lead people to other resources
8. Mad. Monday Mornings-consolidate info

#### 5. Next Steps Conversation

- a. New planning committee members: Cheyenne and Casey
- b. Notes will go out on the listserv with summary. Contact information will go out to all who participated in the May 8 gathering
- c. Send information directly to the listserv, rather than moderators.
- d. Organizations should appoint “delegates” to go to other groups’ meetings
- e. Energy expo could be a way to increase all of our visibility
- f. The “we” of E&E is broader than who is able to come to the E&E gatherings

#### 6. Evaluation

- a. People liked:
  - i. that there was a lot of information
  - ii. that people could respectfully disagree
  - iii. good cross-section of participation
  - iv. good networking opportunity
  - v. amount of time was right
  - vi. helped facilitate the use of the listserv
- b. Next time people would like:
  - i. More clear expectations
  - ii. To find out what structure enables “committee” communication