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To: daved199@verizon.net
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My GREEN Cranford E-News - April 2009



Save Energy and Tax Dollars Too!

President Obama recently signed a stimulus bill which included a residential energy efficiency tax credit. Tax credits that were in effect for 2009 have been extended to 2010 and raised from 10 percent to 30 percent. The maximum credit was raised from \$500 to \$1500 for the two years (2009-2010). The credit applies to energy efficiency improvements in existing homes and towards the purchase of high-efficiency heating, cooling and water-heating equipment. There are also tax credits for geothermal heat pumps, solar water heaters, solar panels, windmills and fuel cells at 30 percent of the cost. Energy saving home improvements not only lowers your energy bill but can also save you valuable tax dollars!

[More Info](#)

Discounted Energy Audits Now Available to Homeowners

The Home Performance with ENERGY STAR Program has announced a new discounted offer that will be of interest to all New Jersey residents. For just \$125, a BPI-certified auditor will perform an energy audit of your home, and you may be eligible to receive up to \$1,000 worth of air sealing services at no cost to you. A listing of [certified contractors](#) who offer this service is available to you on njcleanenergy.com.

From the Desk of Nelson Dittmar

Welcome to Spring!

This month I would like to tell you about a couple of spring-related events. First, on Saturday, May 2, in conjunction with the Cranford Millburn Camera Club, we will be holding a Nature Photography Seminar. The program is being offered to Cranford residents who have an interest in learning how to photograph the fascinating subjects of our natural world. Techniques on photographing landscapes, flowers and wildlife will be covered. The program is free and registration is required. Visit MyGreenCranford to sign up.

On Saturday, April 18, the Cranford River Maintenance Committee invites you to join forces with your neighbors and help us to clean up one of Cranford's most valued assets, the Rahway River. Every year, dedicated citizens gather at various points on the river and work together to remove litter. From the riverbanks and in boats, volunteers collect a wide variety of trash and debris that has found its way into the river. This yearly cleanup is one of the best ways that we can all truly make a difference in the quality of the river. By spending a couple of hours, working with the "all-volunteer" River Committee, your efforts will make a positive impact by removing debris from the river.

There are five meeting points, Droescher's Mill, Riverside Drive across from # 634, Kenilworth Boulevard (at the Rahway River Bridge), Mohawk Park, and Hanson Park. The clean up begins at 9:00 and will go to 3:00. I encourage you to participate in this rewarding project.

Lastly, Cranford is a Community Partner in the New Jersey Clean Energy Program sponsored the Board of Public Utilities. With your April bill from PSE&G, you will receive an insert asking you to sign up for The CleanPower Choice Program. This is a very important campaign to get more people to choose renewable energy as an energy choice. It gives customers the choice to pay a monthly premium of about \$6 to \$14 to buy renewable energy. The program is run as an add-on to the electric bill. It is a simple way to choose clean, renewable sources of energy, such as wind and small hydro. Each household that participates in the program can reduce CO2 emissions by over 10,000 lbs. per year, which is the equivalent of planting 1.35 acres of trees! The cost of this program on a daily basis is

[Learn More](#)

Bronx Zoo Earth Expo April 4--19 & 25--26

Learn how to live "green" and help safeguard wildlife and wild places at the Bronx Zoo's Earth Expo. Meet local organizations that are working to make the Bronx a greener place, sample tasty fare that's good for the planet, too, and check out booths showcasing eco-friendly family entertainment.

[Learn More](#)

Get Ready for Your Wild Friends!

Spring is in the air! [Get ready](#) by creating a garden habitat that welcomes the wildlife in your area.

You can attract birds, butterflies, and other wildlife to your yard by gardening with native plants. Visit [American Beauties](#), NWF's native plant partner, to learn more about plants that create wildlife habitats.

quite small, less than a cup of coffee. Since our energy needs are growing three times faster than the state's population, we will need either to build more costly, difficult-to-site generators in NJ, import more electricity from outside the state, which has a negative impact on NJ's air quality, or set a course to meet this new demand through energy efficiency and the use of clean, renewable energy technologies. Buying clean energy helps develop the market for renewables, which makes them more affordable and spurs the move toward these 21st century technologies. So, I ask you to give serious consideration to joining me in this program.

Nelson Dittmar

Chair

A Better Way To Mow Your Lawn

The Environmental Protection Agency recommends battery-powered mowers and when you compare the facts, it's easy to see why:

Fact: A gas mower spews 87 lbs. of the greenhouse gas CO₂, and 54 lbs. of other pollutants into your air every year.

Fact: Over 17 million gallons of gas are spilled each year refueling lawn and garden equipment -- more petroleum than was spilled by the Exxon Valdez.

Fact: Gas-powered mowers send over 1,800 times the hydrocarbons into the atmosphere when compared to the environmentally-sound choice of battery-powered mowers.

According to the EPA, gas mowers are responsible for nearly 5% of our nation's total air pollution. Over 800 million gallons of gasoline are used mowing our nation's lawns every year. And if you operate one for more than 15 minutes, experts advise you to wear hearing protection.

Now you have another choice with the Neuton Battery Powered Mower. Only a dime's worth of electricity is needed to charge the battery. It's light weight and easy to use; just press a button. To get more information or to purchase your new mower, visit the Neuton web site at www.neutonpower.com.

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