

Center for Ecological Technology (CET)

Services to Cities and Towns

Technical Assistance – Educational Information and Materials – Renewable Energy Workshops – Infrastructure Development – Public Education Campaigns



Your Green Community Resource

CET works with municipalities to find solutions that save money, use resources wisely, and create a healthier environment and a more sustainable future.

GREENER TOWN BUILDINGS FOR LONG TERM SAVINGS

CET helps towns navigate options and approaches to obtain municipal building audits and then assists with implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy projects that benefit the town.

REDUCE... REUSE... RECYCLE

Responsible Waste Management Services

CET helps towns establish recycling and waste reduction programs, and divert materials (such as fluorescent lamps and used building materials) from the waste stream.

- CET worked in close partnership with Boards of Health in 8 towns to increase recycling of fluorescent lamps by area businesses. Over 550 businesses recycled more than 200,000 linear feet of lamps, removing 6,500 grams of mercury from the waste stream.
- CET worked with Amherst and Northampton to develop and enhance systems for the storage and collection of organic waste generated by restaurants.
- CET set up composting programs in Granby and Northampton public schools. Within days, more than 50% of the Northampton schools' cafeteria waste was composted.
- CET provides waste management services for schools including assessments, comprehensive waste audits, presentations, and recommendations to establish paper, container and organic waste (compost) recycling programs, as well as waste reduction and reuse options. CET will also provide equipment assistance, trouble-shooting, evaluation and follow-up.
- CET helps schools teach recycling, providing curriculum development, teacher training and educational materials.

- CET's Deconstruction Services, through the ReStore Home Improvement Center, helps dismantle structures so the material can be salvaged and reused instead of going to a landfill. Our projects have recovered hundreds of tons of materials from single family homes up to a 70-house neighborhood at a military base.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE (HHW) AND TOXICS REDUCTION

- CET provides technical assistance and education to residents, towns, schools and businesses throughout western Massachusetts to decrease the volume and toxicity of the waste stream.
- CET assists more than a dozen communities in local hazardous waste collection of materials like motor oil, oil-based paint, computers, cell phones, televisions, ink jet cartridges, mercury thermometers, and compact fluorescent lamps. In 2007, more than 440 residents participated and 4,700 gallons of hazardous waste were collected.
- CET provides information and training in maintaining lawns and gardens with less toxic products, alternative practices and hardy groundcovers.

TOWARD A CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

- CET has helped more than 20 towns earn over \$350,000 in matching funds and grants for local clean energy projects, like solar panels for schools, town halls or libraries. (www.cleanenergychoice.org). Towns receive funding when residents or small businesses choose to support clean energy products such as New England GreenStart and the New England Wind Fund. These are tax-deductible clean energy products offered by CET in partnership with Mass Energy Consumers Alliance, a non-profit organization in Boston.
- CET works collaboratively with task forces comprised of community leaders, scientists, educators, and environmentalists in the Berkshires and Pioneer Valley. CET has helped develop action plans for increased energy efficiency and responsible use of renewable energy in western Massachusetts.
- CET serves as a resource to towns and citizen groups working to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, providing guest speakers, workshops and public education.

The Center for Ecological Technology (CETsm) is a non-profit environmental organization based in western Massachusetts for three decades. CET has directly served thousands of western Massachusetts residents and has worked closely with local and state government, non-profit organizations, social service agencies, businesses, and farms to carry out their activities with less environmental impact. The ReStore Home Improvement Center in Springfield, an enterprise of CET, provides affordable home renovation goods to moderate and low-income households and diverts quality building materials from the waste stream. CET is funded through grants, contracts and fee-for-service activities.

For more information, contact Peggy MacLeod at 413-586-7350 ext. 26 or peggym@cetonline.org. Please visit www.cetonline.org.

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