

ENERGY EDUCATION AT CORNELL COOPERATIVE EXTENSION/ NEW YORK CITY

Public energy education at Cornell Cooperative Extension/ NYC is central to efforts in Community & Economic Development to help New Yorkers reduce energy use, retain local capital, generate new jobs and stabilize the building stock. This outline highlights past and present Extension program experience in energy issues in New York City and its region.

PRESENT INITIATIVES

Urban Demonstrations of Renewable Energy: Extension staff works closely with commercial and residential users on renewable energy applications. Staff are surveying farmers selling at Green Markets to assess potential for converting coolers and diesel-powered cooling equipment to PV power, either truck- or site-based. Working with St. Matthews R.C. Church in Brooklyn, Extension is helping plan seminars to highlight recently installed PV array on E. Parkway

Alternative fleet and stationery equipment fuel innovation: Using solid relationships with trade unions, Extension is engaged with industrial consumers to jointly examine operating cost reductions to help keep plants and jobs in NYC, including fleet conversion opportunities. Extension is a stakeholder in NYC 'Clean Cities' coalition and a partner with Cornell's NE Sun Grant Center for Excellence to develop urban markets and new supply for biofuels and clean energy. In Fall 2004, staff will work with Milano School faculty and students at New School University to assess the supply and demand for waste-oil based biofuels in NYC.

Community-wide energy campaigns/ buying strategies: staff is working with the Brooklyn Diocese of the Catholic Church and community-based coalitions in Harlem and The Bronx to develop group purchasing programs for residents and parishioners.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL LINKAGES

Public Energy Education: With the Association of Energy Engineers/NY, Cornell co-hosts monthly seminars (Sept. through May) on topics including Green Building, Energy Management, Green Trading and Distributed Generation for up to 60 attendees at each session.

Energy Salons: Cornell and AEE, with the NY Chapter of American Planning Association and Environmental Business Assoc. of NY host monthly Energy Salons of interest to planners, policymakers and the public. The recent July session, 'Ending the Oil Age: Reducing U.S. Oil Usage' featured internationally known energy economist Charles Komanoff.

NJ Higher Education Partnership for Sustainability (NJHEPS): Staff serve on the Steering Committee and connect with NJHEPS programs, which feature innovation for facilities and curricula re sustainable energy use, purchasing policies, fleet usage and on-campus projects.

Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA): Staff has a long involvement in conference planning and presentations, moderating panels on sustainable agriculture and urban Case Studies at the recent NESEA conferences in Boston, Trenton and Newark.

PRIOR PROGRAM EXPERIENCE

Multi-family building management: For 2 decades, Extension's housing rehab and repair training included the Department of Housing, Preservation & Development (HPD) and educated tens of thousands of New Yorkers in energy and building operation practices. Programs were offered in the 5 Boroughs and with Extension programs in Westchester, Rockland and Nassau Counties.

Multi-family building energy efficiency training: 2-day programs on heating plant efficiency co-hosted by Cornell and the Apartment House Institute of NY Technical College, and a 7-part series for 'Managers of Small Buildings' included sessions on conservation, operating costs and boiler and heating system maintenance for 200+ landlords over 3 program cycles. .

Landlord Training Project: Piloted and offered to building owners served by NYC Municipal Housing Court with 1st-time heat/ hot water violations gave landlords an option of education over fines and/or jail time. This City and Court-supported program generated national interest from Boston and Cincinnati to Colorado and San Francisco.

Utility Low-Income Energy Efficiency (ULIEEP): Extension staff educated tenants in multi-family buildings undergoing State-funded Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) retrofits. Focused in Harlem, Upper Manhattan and the Bronx, sessions for 200 buildings and over 3,000 tenants covered electrical usage, appliance operation and selection, and bill management.

Energy for New American Citizens: a 2-part energy series funded by the NY State Energy Office for new immigrant building owners in Queens and Brooklyn. Using printed workshop materials in 7 languages (incl. Cambodian, Chinese, Vietnamese, French/ Creole, Spanish and Korean) and translators, Cornell staff educated new building owners with little experience with heating systems in weatherization, efficiency and utility practices and utility loan programs.

Small Business Energy Efficiency Program (SBEEP): Managing NYC's part of the Statewide contract between Cornell and SEO, staff surveyed and recommend changes and efficiency measures for small businesses. With 24% of the budget, NYC completed 44% of the surveys Statewide, covering c. 240 businesses each month for 3.5 years. Working with Con Edison's 'Enlightened Energy' program, Cornell's provided application assistance, helping hundreds of businesses gain funding to upgrade and retrofit their operations.

Pollution Prevention Education: funded by NYC Dept. of Environmental Protection, Cornell designed a confidential outreach effort for commercial tenants with 1st-time violations for fumes, noise and/or pollution emissions. Program included a walk-through protocol including energy use and operating costs and follow-up training to reduce and eliminate ongoing fines..

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