

Resolution contributors

Karen Alence is a member of the South Burlington Energy Committee and helped to start a low-carbon-diet group in her neighborhood.

Jim Andrews is a herpetologist in Salisbury and author of the Vermont Reptile and Amphibian Atlas, <http://community.middlebury.edu/~herpatlas>.

Bridget Butler is a birder and manages the Voices for the Lake project at the ECHO Lake Aquarium.

James Ehlers of Colchester is executive director of Lake Champlain International Inc., a nonprofit group that sponsors a major fishing derby.

Clare Innes of Williston is the marketing manager at the Chittenden Solid Waste District.

Helen Labun Jordan of East Montpelier is the food-policy administrator at the Vermont Agency of Agriculture.

James Moore, clean energy advocate, Vermont Public Interest Research Group.

Tom Moreau of Burlington is general manager of the Chittenden Solid Waste District.

Rachel Nevitt of Burlington operates Full Moon Farm in Hinesburg with her husband, David Zuckerman.

Chris Ray of Burlington is director of energy services at the Burlington Electric Department.

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Li Ling Young of Burlington is part of the "Home Team" of residential energy experts at Efficiency Vermont.

HOME: Little changes, big difference

Clare Innes

■ Start a compost pile, or drop kitchen scraps off where they will be composted or fed to nearby farm animals.

■ Kick products containing toxic chemicals out of the kitchen (and therefore out of the environment, once they go down the drain) and use only green products.

Bridget Butler

birder and manager of Voices for the Lake project at the ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center.

■ Take advantage of the government. There are federal tax credits available to improve the energy efficiency in your home. The 1950s house we bought this year needs new windows and the tax credit will pay for up to 30 percent of their cost.

Tom Moreau

Burlington is general manager of the Chittenden Solid Waste District

■ I will think more about environmental impact before each purchase I make. Can the packaging material be reused or recycled? What will be the product's "end of

life?" Will the product be durable so that it lasts? Is the product or its packaging made from either recyclable or sustainable materials? This "think as you buy" mentality will lead to better systems in the future, including product stewardship and a more complete infrastructure converting waste to worth.

Chris Ray

Burlington, director of energy services at the Burlington Electric Department.

■ Consistently set back the temperature at home when you are away for most of the day.

■ Install a programmable thermostat to allow automatic temperature adjustments. Savings can amount to 5 percent to 20 percent of yearly heating costs.

■ Have gas or oil heating equipment professionally inspected this year.

■ Turn off entertainment and computer equipment when not in use to reduce phantom load. Power strips with on-off buttons work great for this.

■ Replace any incandescent light bulb that is on for more than two hours a day with a compact fluorescent energy-saving bulb. Rebates are available.

One of the best things you can do in 2010 is to involve the whole family in energy efficiency, making it fun by asking your kids to be energy detectives.

It's one thing when you learn about the importance of caulking drafty windows and weatherstripping doors to seal air leaks, but quite another when your kids strongly urge you to do so.

My house is a great example. We live in Burlington, where the first 100 kilowatt hours used during the month are the least expensive. So, to get those low rates, we purchased a whole house energy monitor to find out when — and why — our energy use spiked.

It's amazing how much energy you use when you run the dryer and the microwave at the same time. When kids look at the monitor, and then see that you left the lights on upstairs, they let you know right away!

LI LING YOUNG

Burlington, part of "Home Team" of residential energy experts at Efficiency Vermont.