

NEW HAMPSHIRE'S SEACOAST BECOMES "GREEN" COAST

Residents and Businesses Lead the Way in Addressing Environmental Issues

Portsmouth, NH May, 2008... Portsmouth, NH and surrounding communities are pulling together to do their part in tackling environmental issues. With rising energy costs and immense concern about global warming, Seacoast residents and business owners have made several positive changes and continue to drive efforts that give New Hampshire's Seacoast the name – "Green Coast."

Seacoast residents are altering their behaviors in a variety of ways including buying local organic food, turning off lights, using biodegradable products, turning off electric appliances, and volunteering their time to promote environmental awareness. Residents who are bike riders should check out the non-motorized route called the NH Seacoast Greenway that is underway and expected to run from the Massachusetts border to Maine. New Hampshire is the first state to have a fully commissioned trail through the entire state. The route in New Hampshire is on-road, but plans are in the works for the off-road Rail-Trail. Eventually the trail will be a leg of the East Coast Greenway, a 3000 mile trail from Key West, FL to Calais, ME. For more information visit: <http://www.nhseacoastgreenway.org/index.html>

Many local companies have been making small to very large changes as well, ranging from recycling, limiting energy consumption, employee hybrid car programs, to reconstructing buildings for energy efficiency. Following is a synopsis of what some of the local area businesses are doing to positively impact our environment and Mother Earth:

- **Fa La Lo** (which stands for fair labor and/or local) sells locally produced goods and/or products from trade organizations--and many of the products they sell are created from recycled materials. Shopping locally or through fair trade organizations ensures that the dollars either help the local economy or help people in other countries develop better living conditions.
- **The Seacoast Science Center** (SSC) has always practiced environmental stewardship, however SSC has launched a more aggressive effort to energy conservation in various areas. SSC has recently received funding from the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation to conduct a formal study of energy savings possibilities, from increased insulation to on-site alternative energy possibilities. Also, the governor's Energy Efficiency Steering Committee awarded SSC \$4,886.76 for energy upgrades. For more information about SSC and its Green Initiative, visit: www.seacoastsciencecenter.org
- **The Port Inn** is a member of *1% For The Planet*, an alliance of businesses that donate 1% of annual sales to environmental organizations worldwide. By leveraging its combined resources, members of this environmentally progressive organization can affect real change. In 2007, The Port Inn's donations included buying carbon credits with Native Energy, a new touch tank for the Blue Ocean Society at the Isle of Shoals, and restoring wetlands on Hodgson Brook. For more information visit The Port Inn's Go Green page at: www.theportinn.com

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- **The Lollipop Tree** is a family-owned specialty food manufacturer. Its all natural, trans fat free, no preservatives and now organic products can be found in more than 3,000 stores across the United States. The Lollipop Tree's specialty baking mixes will contain a minimum of 70% organic ingredients and will be Certified Organic by Quality Assurance international (QAI) which adheres to strict organic standards. Soon, The Lollipop Tree will also be introducing 100% organic items. For more information visit: www.lollipoptree.com
- Farmer's Markets enable residents to buy local. **The Seacoast Growers' Association** is a NH-registered non-profit organization providing six New Hampshire farmers' markets in the Seacoast region. For over 31 years, SGA farmers' markets have featured 100% locally grown fruits, vegetables, meats, and other agricultural products, prepared foods, and juried fine arts and crafts. Certified organic foods are available. Seacoast Growers' Association growers and producers come from Rockingham, Strafford, and York Counties. For more information visit: <http://www.seacoastgrowers.org>

Local Green Events:

- **On May 27th, The Music Hall** ran a documentary called *The Next Industrial Revolution*, narrated by Susan Sarandon, tells the story of the movement led by legendary green architect Bill McDonough and German chemist Michael Braungart to bring together ecology and human design, and explore how businesses are transforming themselves to work with nature and enhance profitability. See trailer at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YQgR0ilhb2A> For more information about The Music Hall and its schedule of events visit: www.themusic hall.org
- **The Lollipop Tree** will introduce two 100% **ORGANIC** product lines—**Organic Classic Baking Mixes** and **Organic Artisan Bread Mixes**—at the NASFT Summer Fancy Food Show in New York, **June 29 – July 1, 2008**. Flavors include Organic Popover Mix, Organic Buttermilk Biscuit Mix, Organic Cornbread Mix, Organic Asiago Tomato Bread Mix, Organic Cracked Wheat Bread Mix, Organic Rosemary Garlic Bread Mix and Organic Cinnamon Raisin Swirl Bread Mix.
- **November 1 & 2, 2008 - New Hampshire's Going Green Expo** will take place in Manchester, NH. For more information visit: <http://www.goinggreenexpos.com>

Selection of "Green" Resources:

- **City of Portsmouth Sustainability** at www.cityofportsmouth.com/sustainability – First implemented in the City's 2005 Master Plan, sustainable policies such as reducing dependence on fossil fuels and synthetic chemicals, as well as protecting natural resources and open space, continue to be identified and promoted." Through the organization of a formal Committee on Sustainable Practices, the City has initiated a Sustainability Fair and other educational events, training workshops, participation in Climate Protection programs, LEED certification of its fire stations, and LEED design for a future drinking water treatment plant.

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- **Clean Air-Cool Planet** at www.cleanair-coolplanet.org – CA-CP engages a wide variety of organizations (corporations, campuses, communities, museums and science centers) to introduce them to a vast array of implementable energy-saving solutions that make a difference.
- **N.H. Department of Environmental Services (DES)** at <http://www.des.state.nh.us/sw/greenyards/> - The N.H. Green Yards Program provides information and training to New Hampshire's motor vehicle recyclers, shows them environmentally-friendly ways to recycle motor vehicles and teaches them how to comply with environmental regulations.
- **New Hampshire Sustainable Energy Association** at <http://www.nhsea.org/> - The NH Sustainable Energy Assoc. provides New Hampshire residents with an effective resource to help people through the process of incorporating renewable energy and sustainable technologies into their lives.
- **BuildingGreen.com** at <http://www.buildinggreen.com/> - Includes GreenSpec Directory, LEED Credits, project case studies, and Environmental Building News.
- **New Hampshire Office of Energy and Planning** at www.nh.gov/oep - NH OEP undertakes a number of programs and activities related to energy resources and concerns.
- **Home Power Magazine** at <http://www.homepower.com/home/> - *Home Power* is an editorial venue for homeowners, business owners, and renewable energy professionals to exchange equipment, design, installation, and system performance experiences.

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For additional information about historic venues, culture, education and sites in the New Hampshire Seacoast area contact the Greater Portsmouth Chamber of Commerce www.portsmouthchamber.org, 603-610-5510.

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