

HOUSING The Portland Observer

New The Energy Directory Kit From Rocky Mountain Institute

Quick: Where can you buy energy-efficient windows in your town? Who sells weather-stripping? What's a compact fluorescent lamp? The answers to these simple questions could save the average homeowner hundreds of dollars a year on utilities. But they aren't found in any phone book.

That's why Rocky Mountain Institute, a nonprofit think tank based in Colorado, has brought out The Energy Directory Kit, a software package that enables communities to create their own local directory of energy-efficient products and services.

Producing a community energy directory is a desktop publishing project that puts money back in the

packets of community residents. Businesses that sell the products and services listed in the directory benefit from increased sales. All that boosts the local economy and fosters community spirit. Local energy savings also mean global benefits to the environment in the form of reduced emission from power plants and reduced reliance on the fossil and nuclear fuels that run them.

Creating an energy directory is a rewarding project for any environmental organization or civic group looking for ways to "think globally and act locally." It's a great high school involvement project, or term project for a college environmental studies class. And although it is best thought of as a nonprofit public ser-

vice, it may also generate funds that can be used for other worthy projects.

This user-friendly kit provides everything needed to create a local energy directory: a fill-in-the-blanks "template" directory on disk; an instruction manual that explains everything from funding to printing; artwork; a copy of a sample directory; and a copy of *Homemade Money*, RMI's how-to guide to home energy savings.

The Energy Directory Kit costs \$99 plus shipping & handling and is available from Rocky Mountain Institute, 1739 Snowmass Creek Road, Snowmass, CO 81654, (970) 927-3851. The software is available in a variety of word-processing applications. Other new publications from

Rock Mountain Institute include:

Homemade Money: how to Save Energy and Dollars in Your Home. A do-it-yourself manual, this book is devoted to measures that help the environment and save money at the same time. It features hundreds of tips on weatherization, insulation, heating and cooling systems, windows, water heating, appliances, lighting and solar design, plus an extensive appendix listing everything from books to mail-order services. \$14.95 plus shipping & handling.

A Primer on Sustainable Building presents a new way of thinking about architecture that's not only better for the environment, but also more cost-effective, efficient, comfortable, and healthy. AIA Archi-

tect praised the book as "the primer we've been waiting for...the most complete introduction to date on the principles of sustainable design and construction." \$16.95 plus shipping & handling.

The **Community Energy Workbook** provides a step-by-step strategy for identifying and developing project to use energy more efficiently throughout the community. \$16.95 plus shipping & handling.

Greening the Building and the Bottom Line: Increasing Productivity Through Energy-Efficient Design is a landmark study that makes a new economic case for green design in the workplace. Eight documented case studies show that while resource-

efficient design can pay for itself in reduced energy costs alone, it may also produce vastly greater benefits in higher worker productivity, lower absenteeism, fewer errors, better quality, and increased retail sales. \$12.00 plus shipping & handling.

Rocky Mountain Institute is perhaps best known for inventing the concept of "negawatts" - energy "generated" through efficiency. Seeking market-oriented solutions to resource problems, it focuses its research on energy, "green" development, transportation, water, sustainable economic development and security. For more information about RMI or to order publications, call (970) 927-3851.

From Magic Markers And A Map A Community Grows



It takes many shovels to build a foundation. On hand to help NECDC's Walnut Park townhouses get off to a good start are Brian Stewart (Washington Mutual), Scott Christensen (Key Bank), Karen Tolvstad (US Bank), Jim Taylor (Portland Trail Blazers), NECDC board member George Richards, Shiela Holden (Neighborhood Association), Bill Van Vliet (FIB), NECDC Executive Jaki Walker, and Dick Hanlin (Boys and Girls Club).

While the groundbreaking ceremony for NECDC's Walnut Park was intended to be an event for the community to celebrate, it was quickly turned into a show of appreciation for NECDC as speaker after speaker thanked the organization for helping to improve the quality of the neighborhoods in North and Northeast Portland.

Once one of the most distressed parts of the city, the Walnut Park neighborhood has been targeted for

revitalization by both the city and community groups. A new police precinct with community rooms and new retail spaces now fill what was previously a vacant building on the corner of Martin Luther King Blvd. and Killingsworth. A multi-million dollar Boys and Girls Club is being built on the adjacent property. To complete the effort to turn around a previously unsafe neighborhood, NECDC will build a total of 40 new housing units.

Neighborhood residents could not be more pleased.

"My family has lived on the same street since 1968," Delores Warner told an attentive audience. "I raised my family here. I saw this neighborhood deteriorate and was sad. I kind of lost hope. But I saw NECDC come in and ask us for ideas about how to bring it back. They were so friendly and so kind. I watched them build a house right across the street and it just seemed so unbelievable, like a

dream come true. Through their efforts, I have seen this neighborhood improve and become a really good neighborhood again. We have a new start that we can be proud of."

Portland Police Chief Charles Moose likewise praised NECDC's considerable efforts to revitalize Walnut Park, and area once known as a drug district. The neighborhood was neglected, with numerous buildings in disrepair and vacant lots, all of which contributed to the neighborhood's crime problems.

Say Moose, "It is exciting to be here. The police precinct is in place and all the pieces are coming together. As you walk around the area, it really feels good. The more home owners we can get to buy houses in this once troubled neighborhood, the more we can turn it around."

Portland Development Commission spokesperson Jan Bureson expressed her own satisfaction with development in Walnut Park. "We sat down with magic markers and a map, and now it is being realized."

The construction of 16 townhouses will begin this October.

Jokingly, Moose asked NECDC Executive Director Jaki Walker, "What are you going to do next Jaki?"

Stay tuned. You can bet there's plenty more NECDC intends to accomplish.

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Free CoHousing Orientation And Video Screening

Interested in having more community in your life? Cohousing communities are pedestrian oriented neighborhoods comprised of individual residences clustered around shared greenspaces and common facilities. Cascadia Commons, a Portland area cohousing group, will offer an introductory presentation about cohousing at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 5 at the French American School located at 1849 SW 58th. A video, *Cohousing: Neighborhoods for People*, will be featured along with an introduction to Cascadia Commons' plans to create an environmentally sustainable ecovillage in Portland.

Admission is free. Call 650-7169 for directions or more information.

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Important News for Rental Property Owners/Managers

"With Pacific Power's free energy-savings project my tenants are comfortable and save money"



Property owner/manager Teresa DeLorenzo shows off one of her new compact fluorescent lights, courtesy of Pacific Power's free Multi-Family Energy Efficiency Project.

That's not all Teresa DeLorenzo, owner and manager of the Timbercrest Apartments in Northeast Portland, has to say about the free energy-efficient products and services her property recently received.

"I believe it makes a difference when it comes to renting out available apartment units. A standard question I hear from potential renters is 'how much can I expect my utility bill to be?'"

Teresa and other owner/managers of apartments can't say enough about Pacific Power's multi-family energy efficiency project. "At Timbercrest, we received bathroom and kitchen faucet aerators, energy-efficient showerheads, extra insulation, compact fluorescent light bulbs and water heater wrap."

Qualifying properties can also receive high-efficiency thermostats and water heater and pipe insulation. All FREE, including installation.

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