

2012 Moretown Town Energy Group Report

The year 2012 was fairly quiet for the Moretown Energy Group. We had only a few meetings as it seemed that Irene recovery took precedence for most people and it was difficult to get people together. However we expect 2013 will be far more active for the Energy Group.

Efficiency Vermont launched the Vermont Home Energy Challenge this January, a year-long effort to increase the number of homes completing comprehensive energy improvements in Vermont. As of the date of this writing (January) there are 60 towns that have joined in the challenge. Moretown is one of the towns that have signed up and will be working with Waitsfield, Warren and Duxbury to share resources and program initiatives. To be clear the VT Home Energy Challenge requires no financial commitment from the town.

In 2010 Vermonters paid more than \$600 million to import and use fossil-based heating fuels. According to the Public Service Department's Thermal Energy Report, the average Vermont home uses half the heating fuel it did in the 1970s. Nonetheless, Vermonters fuel bills are nearly twice as much today as they were a decade ago. Saving energy saves dollars for Vermonters.

Here is how the VT Home Energy Challenge works. Town energy committees and other local partners will compete with other municipalities to weatherize 3 percent of the entire housing stock in their community by the end of the year. The goal is to achieve the statewide objective of 25% energy savings in 80,000 homes by the year 2020. As well homeowners are encouraged to "take the pledge" to save energy in their homes. A pledge might be to install low flow shower heads in your home, weather strip doors and windows or schedule an energy audit with a certified contractor. In Moretown, Efficiency Vermont states that meeting the 3 percent goal would mean weatherizing 20 living units (for instance, single family home, apartment or duplex) or garnering 68 pledges to save energy in a home. Do you know someone who is renovating or building or looking to reduce energy bills? Those projects count!

Watch for information on incentives to make improvements, energy performance certified contractors, do it yourself projects and rebate forms for work done. We hope to use the newspapers, Frontporch Forum, the Moretown website and on-going community events to let people know what are the opportunities and potential savings.

Your energy group is always looking for volunteers and we will need your help this year to get the word out and to help reaching Moretown's goal. You may contact energy coordinator, Karen Horn at kebhorn@gmail.com to be added to our email list and to help out.