

# At Summit in Kent, Environment Is Key

## Daylong Gathering to Feature Experts and Area Legislators

By KATHRYN BOUGHTON

KENT—In 2007 Reuters reported that 13 percent of Americans had never even heard of global warming. That did not count the people who had heard of the problem and discounted its significance, or those who knew of it and simply believed there nothing they could do. That was the number of people—39,497,204 out of the estimated 303,824,640 then living in the country—who lived in blissful ignorance of a problem that threatens to alter the

future of the Earth.

A growing coterie of people in Northwest Connecticut are working to raise awareness of the way we tax and compromise our environment, and task forces have formed in several communities. Kent joined this group last year when it organized the Kent Environmental and Energy Task Force (KEETF), an umbrella group that has subsequently formed subcommit-

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# E-Summit Saturday in Kent

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tees that have worked in areas as diverse as promoting energy conservation in municipal buildings—and thus acting as a model for private citizens, to recycling—planning a green tour last fall, and working toward alternative energy options.

The group has already seen tangible results through its

collaboration with the Kent Board of Selectmen on the design of the new transfer station and in the issuance of a comprehensive report on energy-robbing air leaks in municipal buildings, but its most visible effort to date will be this weekend's daylong E-Summit at Kent Center School. The event, planned for 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., is being offered in partnership

with in partnership with Housatonic Valley Association, Kent Memorial Library and the Kent Land Trust. It will consist of panel discussions throughout the day focusing on five themes: Energy, Transportation, Waste and Recycling, Land and Water Use, and Food. There will also be an Expo Floor with green and organic vendors and exhibitors.

"This has been a real collaborative effort," said KEETF chairman Karren Garrity. "It's been incredible. I am in awe of the people who have come together for this. We currently have 50 speakers and 12 different panel discussions—and all of our local legislators are coming, with the exception of [Sen. Joseph] Lieberman."

Ms. Garrity said the KEETF has other events planned that it is rallying around, but that this is its big attempt at outreach. "We want to make the [regional] community aware of what it can do, what neighbors are doing in their day-to-day lives and what we need to encourage our town, state and country legislators to do. Some people understood this a decade or more ago, but more and more people are coming to understand it now."

Ms. Garrity said the program begins with opening comments at 9 a.m. by Dr. Michael Green, a physics and biology teacher at Kent School, and state Attorney General Richard Blumenthal. Workshop series follow from 10 to 11:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. Following the noon break, a third workshop series will be held from 2 to 3:15 p.m.

There will be a break for lunch from noon to 1:30 p.m.,

when U.S. Rep. Chris Murphy is to speak. Serving in his second term representing Connecticut's Fifth District, he is on the Energy and Commerce Committee, which focuses on energy, the environment and global warming.

Some 35 vendors and public service groups with an environmental focus will have booths on the vendors' floor.

The first series of workshops will include "What's Working and What's Coming: Wind Turbines, Micro Hydro, Solar Thermal Pools, Nuclear Power, Living Off the Grid, What We Can Do Better." Sitting on the panel will be state Sen. Andrew Roraback, who has been recognized for his leadership on environmental issues; Ian Hochstetter, vice president of Hammersmith, Inc., who promotes energy efficiency in his clients' homes by integrating off-grid residential solar electric systems; Wesley Wyrick, a Kent architect who offers energy auditing and analysis for clients, and Dr. Walter Kane, a physicist and educator.

A second workshop set for 10 a.m. is on transportation, "Curbing our Curbs, Bio Fuels, Bikes and Car Pooling." Panelists will be Joseph Berger, owner of Berger Engineering and Surveying and partner with Barbara Kendall in Kendall Stormwater Services; Dave Flatau of Scott's Landscaping and Nursery; Bob Marandola of Marandola Heating Oil, which offers BioHeat, and Sal Lillenthal, director/owner of the Bicycle Tour Company in Kent.

Also at 10 a.m. is "What's Hot and What's Not? Myths and Facts about Recycling, Solid Waste &

Waste Stream Management." Sitting on the panel will be Cheryl Reedy, director of the Housatonic Resources Recovery Authority, which provides waste management for 11 Western Connecticut municipalities; state Rep. Mary Anne Carson, a member of the Environment Committee; Tom Metzger from the state Department of Environmental Protection, and David Dunleavy, general manager of Automated Waste Disposal in Danbury.

The final workshop in the first series is "Sustainable Community Development, A Not Too Serious, But Insightful View of Current Building & Development Practices." Adding their insights will be Mark Morrison, a landscape architect; Bob Houlihan, vice president of

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*'We want to make the [regional] community aware of what it can do.'*

—Karen Garritty, KEETF chairman

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Heritage Development Group in Southbury and president of the Housatonic Valley Association, and Gary Steinman, chairman of the Roxbury Conservation Committee.

The second series of workshops will present "Building Green: Scratch or Retrofit," which will look at retrofitting and materials available for upgrading buildings. Panelists will be Matt Franjola owner of Board and Beam; Will Calhoun, founder of Green View and a builder since 1984; Al Ginouves, a partner in Holland & Chamberlain, a building restoration and remodeling company, and Lyman Whelan, partner and CFO of Washington Supply Company, who has created an information resource for sustainable building best practices and products.

Scheduled for the same hour is "Composting for School and Home," with panelists Bruce Hillier, Dave Fairty and Derek Richardson. Mr. Hillier represents New Milford Farms, founded in 1991 to compost food by-products wastes from Nestle USA and the first state-permitted composting facility in Connecticut. Mr. Fairty is co-owner of Backcountry Outfitters and an avid composter and conservationist, while Mr. Richardson is the environmental science and physics teacher at South Kent School.

Two other workshops are scheduled for the morning: "Honey, I Shrank the Lawn—New Looks, No Mowing," and "Growing Groceries for Home

Master gardener Camilla Worden, HVA's New York watershed manager Tonia Shoumatoff, and freelance garden photographer Karen Bussolini will sit on the lawn panel, while Kent Greenhouse co-owner Debbie Bennett, Kent Land Trust executive director Connie Manes, master gardener Denise Arturi, Motherhouse founder Debra Tyler and Alicia North of North Star Botanicals in West Cornwall will discuss growing groceries.

The afternoon workshops will include "Green for Your Green: Myths & Facts, Rebates, Incentives & Programs," which will look at refund, lease and assistance programs for homeowners, Clean Energy Communities, energy audits and common sense energy savings. Serving on the panel will be Justin Lindenmayer, associate program administrator for residential new construction for the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Fund; Ray Furse, an experienced integrator of solar electric systems for residential and small commercial clients; Katherine Freygang, chairman of the Cornwall Energy Task Force, and Mason Lord, president and partner of Hudson Valley Preservation of Sherman.

The final two workshops are "Land Conservation for Landowner and Communities" and "Local Food in Local Places—Why, Where and How." A five-person panel will discuss Conservation, including Bill Arnold, president of the Kent Land Trust and a director of the Weantinoge Heritage Land Trust; Cathy Setterlin, who works with individuals and organizations weighing decisions about their land; Nicholas Moore, president of the Connecticut Farmland Trust and a member of the Land Trust Alliance National Council; Tim Abbott, director of Litchfield Hills Greenprint, and State Rep. Clark Chapin of New Milford, who serves as the ranking member of the General Assembly's Environmental Committee.

Discussing "Local Food in Local Places" will be Dr. Diane D'Isadori, co-founder of Plow to Plate and a child health advocate, Kent organic farmer Megan Haney; Tom Levine, owner of Longmeadow Farm in Cornwall; Jayne Ridgway of Ridgway Farm in Cornwall; and State Rep. Roberta Willis of Salisbury, who also serves on the Environment Committee.

A pre-ordered "loca-vore" (food from local sources) lunch available for \$8. Admission is \$12 in advance; \$15 at the door. Admission and registration forms are available at [www.](http://www.)