



Get Us Green

...the quarterly newsletter of the Get Dawson Creek Green project...

Issue # 1
December 2009

Energy Saving Tips

- ✓ Turn lights off when you leave the room
- ✓ Turn thermostat down at night
- ✓ Use electrical timers
- ✓ Fix leaky faucets
- ✓ Weatherstrip doors
- ✓ Cover drafty windows with plastic
- ✓ Use motion sensor lights outside
- ✓ Keep vehicle idling time to a minimum



Tamara Recycles!



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'Get Us Green' Helps Dawson Creek Save Energy and Money

The **Get Us Green** Energy Outreach teams have been hard at work visiting homes and businesses in Dawson Creek and are enjoying the experience greatly. There's a very positive feeling of accomplishment that comes from being able to make suggestions to help our community save energy and money.

The feedback we have received so far has been wonderful. On our visits we look at things like furnaces, taps, appliances, lighting, windows, and doors to see just how efficient they are. Then we compile a customized strategy sheet to help you improve your energy efficiency and save money. We all want a positive future for Mother Earth and everyone living here and everything we do to conserve energy, no matter how small, helps ensure that future. If you'd like to participate in a home or business Energy Efficiency Assessment there's lots of time left to book and not only is it free, you'll receive a low-flow shower head as a thank you*.

Just call 250-782-5005, e-mail info@getusgreen.org, or visit our website at www.getusgreen.org. Save money and the planet – Now that's a great way to have a Merry Green Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**while supplies last*



Heather, one of our energy consultants, ready to help you save energy and money.

Community Gardens/Composting



The **Get Us Green** gardening and composting committees are assisting the Dawson Creek Community Gardens Society (DCCGS) by:

- Preparing the gardens for spring planting
- Cleaning up the compost demonstration center (located on the walking trail)
- Applying for grants
- Providing telephone and email notification of meetings and events to all DCCGS participants
- Developing a Community Gardens web site
- Rewriting the Community Gardens Handbook

Future plans for the compost demonstration centre include building renovations, a solar power system for lights and watering, and installation of garden beds and composters. The goal being to modify the centre to meet the gardeners' needs by June, when it will become the property of the DCCGS.



Get Us Green participant, Toni Beal, helps with the Compost Centre Clean up

Marketing - Getting the Green Word Out



3 lucky people won these baskets at our Green Shopping Event on Nov 12th

The **Get Us Green** marketing team is responsible for advertising, promotion, and planning for the entire project. Our first event on Green Shopping was very successful (see our list of sponsors on the website).

Future plans include:

- March Special Event (Solar Power and Technology)
- June Special Event (Topic to be decided)
- Manning a booth at the Kiwanis Trade Show in April
- Public Speaking engagements throughout the project

Marketing also creates promotional materials like business cards, special posters, and this e-newsletter. Where other departments research information we work on how to get that information out to the public. Get

Us Green is a work experience project and the experience and skills acquired in the Marketing Department are valuable and transferable to any career that involves public relations, sales, or planning. Please contact us if you'd like to arrange a presentation for your business or organization.

Paperless Office

How many sheets of paper do you use in a day? The average office worker uses over 27. **Get Us Green** is trying to be as paperless as possible. How? We've started by:

- Recording phone messages on computer
- Filing documents on computer
- Sharing documents on a network or by e-mail.
- Sending newsletters by e-mail as much as possible
- Asking ourselves "is it really necessary to print this?"

Old habits are hard to break but they can be broken.

G r e e n O f f i c e

Eco-Office

Members of the **Get Us Green** Resource Department staff the new Eco-Office at City Hall, Monday to Friday, from 9:00 a.m. till noon.

We answer questions from the public about what can be recycled and where, and record all questions and answers in a database that will help future staff serve the public more efficiently. The database will also help determine what aspects of greener living people want more information about, so we can focus on those aspects. If you have questions about recycling in the Peace, drop in today or dial 311 and ask for the Eco Office.

Database

The Resource Department is working on three databases:

- Energy Outreach Visits (*see Energy Outreach article – page 1*)
- ECO Office (*see Eco Office – page 2*)
- Alternative Energy Businesses

For the Alternate Energy Business database, information is collected from local businesses that offer alternative energy products and services. Forms have been emailed to local businesses so they can be included in our database. This information will be available on our website by early 2010. Do you know of a business that offers alternative energy services or products? Send us an e-mail and let us know - info@getusgreen.org

Get Us Green - On Line

The **Get Us Green** Web Marketing Department created and maintains www.getusgreen.org and is working on a new site for the Dawson Creek Community Gardeners.

The biggest hurdle was learning to use the web creation software, Yahoo SiteBuilder. Skills from cutting/pasting to editing graphic files and basic html coding were learned. A site map of the website was created, detailing the different pages and the

objectives of the website were discussed.

To familiarize themselves with the process, each department member created a web page. A vote selected the website design now being used. Content was collected and the team developed the pages. With the main pages complete, the website was posted for viewing and is continuously being added to and fine tuned. Visit www.getusgreen.org and sign our guest book or visit our blog.

Tune in to the "GetDawsonCreekGreen" Channel



Visit us on *YouTube* on the *GetDawsonCreekGreen* channel

Get Us Green is on **YouTube**! We're producing videos every week about some aspect of reduce, reuse, recycle, and energy efficiency or conservation.

It's been a fun and interesting experience; making the various scripts for the videos, learning to use the camera, importing the videos into the computer, and learning how to edit and upload.

Videos are edited by adding text and pictures and experimenting with the sound, and timings. Although difficult in the beginning, everybody pooled their different experiences to make some great videos on greener living.

Our videos include: **'Homemade Cleaning Products'**, **'Paperless Office'**, **'Saving on Water**

in the Shower', **'Coffee Break'**, and **'Electricity Saving Tips'**. You can view the **Get Us Green** videos by going to our website www.getusgreen.org and clicking on the **YouTube** icon.

Under the Willow Cultural Café

Get Us Green's Featured Environmentally Responsible Business

Under the Willow is a proactive Dawson Creek business with a focus on waste management. Their environmental policy is written on the front of the till counter for all to see. Manager, Jennifer Singer, says she grew up on a farm where reduce, reuse, and recycle were a fact of life and she has used that experience to develop her environmental policies.

The biggest sources of waste for restaurants are take out containers and food. Instead of styrofoam, Under the Willow uses bio-degradable take-out ware made from bagasse (sugar cane waste). All plastic lids are recyclable and plastic storage containers and tin foil are used, and re-used, for catering. Food scraps are usually composted but lately have been sent to a local animal rescue centre to feed bear cubs. This reduces waste to as little as 1½ to 2 bags a week, which means the restaurant only needs garbage pickup every two months.

Water is managed and used wisely, with left over used to water plants. Produce is bought from farmers markets and local sources. Although buying produce this way requires more preparation time, the quality and freshness has become a major selling point of the menu. Get Us Green salutes Jennifer, and Under the Willow's, environmental responsibility. Know an environmentally responsible local business? Let us know and maybe we'll feature them in our next newsletter.



Jennifer Singer stands behind her restaurant's environmental policies. Under the Willow is located at 901 103 Ave, Dawson Creek, BC.

Coming Events

December

The "Get Dawson Creek Green" office will be closed for Christmas season from December 24th, 2009 to January 4, 2010.

March

18 - Next edition of "Get Us Green" Newsletter available.

27 - Solar Technology Event.

New technology, experts to answer questions, and more!

April

23 - 25 - Join us at the Kiwanis Trade Show

Keep up to date on all of Get Dawson Creek Green's upcoming events by visiting the Calendar page at www.getusgreen.org



Get Us Green and the NPO Resource Society

Get Dawson Creek Green is the latest of several community projects that Hill Computing has worked on over the last five years. Get Dawson Creek Green provides job skills and experience to its participants while focusing on alternative energy. Information compiled by Get DC Green staff will be transferred to our partners (NEAT) Northern Environmental Action Team for their future use.

Plans include forming the '**NPO Resource Society**', a non profit organization whose mission will include offering assistance to other Peace Region NPOs in the areas of education, resources and management. NPO Resource Society plans to be incorporated and operating by early 2010. For more information, or if you're interested in sitting on the board of this innovative new organization, please contact us.

Contact

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Our Sponsors

Sponsorship is very important for any community project and **Get Dawson Creek Green** is very grateful for the support of our generous sponsors. The project is a Job Creation Partnership funded by the **Canada-BC Labour Market Development Agreement**. This funding is vital and allows us to offer many services to the community as well as job experience and skills to our participants.

Encana has graciously donated funds to assist us with

operating expenses. The **City of Dawson Creek, Hill Computing**, and the **Northern Environmental Action Team** have supplied (in addition to funding) services, expertise, and promotional support.

We have also enjoyed the support of many local individuals and businesses for our events and promotion. We look forward to working with our existing and our future sponsors as we fulfill our mandate to **Get Dawson Creek Green!**

Get Us Green Staff

Marketing Department: Brendyn Wiebe, Brian Jackle, Toni Beal, and Darcy Kellogg

Web Marketing Department: Laine Anderson, Tamara Supernault, Stephan Lavandier, Bill Nyland

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Funded in whole or in part by the Canada-BC Labour Market Development Agreement