

# SOLUTIONS

NEWSLETTER OF  
MONMOUTH COUNTY FRIENDS OF CLEARWATER  
WINTER 05 • Vol 21 No 1

## CLOSE TO VICTORY, BUT WE NEED A LITTLE MORE HELP.

by Jack Charlton

It has been more than 30 months since we started writing articles in SOLUTIONS detailing the hazards from mercury released into the environment from junked automobiles and pushing for legislation which would mandate the removal of mercury components before vehicles are crushed or melted. We are close to victory in this fight, but "close" isn't good enough and time is important. Every day that passes means a little more mercury in our environment and ultimately in our children. Identical bill for mercury removal were introduced in both the New Jersey Assembly and Senate in March of 2004. The bills require the automobile manufacturers, who caused the problem in the first place, to contribute to the cost of removal and proper disposal of mercury added components. These bills were generally widely applauded by the environmental community but opposed by the auto industry.

The assembly bill was soon approved, but the senate equivalent, S1292, was held up in the Senate Environmental Committee. In October MCFC sent copies of our petition with 381 signatures calling for prompt approval of S1292 to all members of the Environment Committee plus other key legislators and leaders. (We received many strongly supportive responses to these and other letters.) On November 15th the legislation was finally approved by the committee and forwarded to Budget and Appropriations. To date, Budget and Appropriations has not scheduled any hearings or action. S1292 is self financing and should have negligible impact on Budget and

Appropriations; hence approval there should not be controversial. However, it would be foolish to underestimate the ability of the auto lobby to block this legislation. The automobile manufacturers vigorously opposed similar legislation in the state of Maine and, after it was signed into law, mounted an unsuccessful court challenge. Several other states are considering similar legislation, hence industry has a lot riding on the outcome.

In an effort to overcome any possible industry pressure, MCFC has sent letters and petitions to all member of the Senate Budget and Appropriations Committee. We do not anticipate a problem in getting this bill approved by the full Senate when and if it is brought up for a vote. But ultimately this will be controlled by the Senate President, Richard Codey. As acting governor he also will have to sign the bill in order to enact it into law. So we are calling on ALL CLEARWATER MEMBERS to call or write to:

Senator Richard J. Codey  
449 Mount Pleasant Avenue  
West Orange, NJ 07052  
(973) 731-6770

Tell him that you are concerned about the affect of environmental mercury on our children and strongly support S1292. Ask him, as Senate President, to promptly schedule this important legislation for a vote, and as Acting Governor to sign it into law. A phone call only takes a few moments and could make a world of difference.

## THE TEN DUMBEST PRODUCTS

by Jack Charlton

The Sierra Club recently listed their choice for the ten dumbest products. Some waste exorbitant amounts of energy, others turn precious natural resources into trivial junk, and most waste your money. We would like you to look at the Sierra Club selection, and let us know what other items you would nominate to add to the list.

Talk 'n Toss cell phones. Their inventor was inspired by wanting to toss her regular cell phone out her car window. Now she can!

Leaf blower. Using a leaf blower for half an hour is equivalent to driving a car 110 miles.

Disposable DVDs. Disney and Flexplay are marketing DVDs that become unplayable 48 hours after the seal is broken. Whoopie!

Lunchables. Processed meat, fatty cheese, and crackers wrapped in lots of plastic. Kids deserve better.

Disposable toilet cleaners. Instead of a brush that lasts for years, you can now spend a lot of money for flushable toilet scrubbers.


Imported bottled water. Tiny bottles shipped half way around the globe? What a waste of resources and of American jobs.

AOL CDs. 400 million unsolicited discs a year! Trash they are and to trash they shall return.

Swiffers. "You can just throw away the dust with the cloth!" says the web site for these rags on a stick. This is progress?

Disposable underwear. An idea that should have been disposed of before it saw the light of day.

The Hummer. A special lifetime achievement award!

 It is the aim of Monmouth County Friends of Clearwater, that each member in his or her own way touch the people in our community and by word or deed convey the importance of conservation and reparation of the earth. ~

**Kari Jermansen and Cindy Zipf will be presenting the topic of Clean Ocean Zone legislation at our February General Meeting.**

# MEMBERSHIP DUES

## FEE SCHEDULE

September is the new anniversary month for ALL members. If you happen to join throughout the year please use the chart for your payment

	Individual	Family	LI/SC/S
Sept	\$25.00	\$35.00	\$10.00
Oct	\$22.90	\$32.08	\$9.16
Nov	\$20.80	\$29.16	\$8.32
Dec	\$18.70	\$26.24	\$7.48
Jan	\$16.60	\$23.32	\$6.64
Feb	\$14.50	\$20.40	\$5.80
Mar	\$12.40	\$17.48	\$4.96
Apr	\$10.30	\$14.56	\$4.12
May	\$8.20	\$11.64	\$3.28
Jun	\$6.10	\$8.72	\$2.44
Jul	\$4.00	\$5.80	\$1.60
Aug	\$2.10	\$2.92	\$.84

Follow the chart to the right to figure out your membership dues amount. Find the month you are paying your membership and this is the pro-rated membership fee that will then renew in September.

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

**"We don't know how smart our children could be if we didn't poison them."**

**Dr. Herbert Needleman, U. of Pittsburg pediatrician and psychiatrist commenting on a study linking workplace exposure of pregnant women to industrial chemicals with reduced IQ of their offspring.**

## GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

**UUCM MEETING HOUSE ~ 1475 West Front St, Lincroft**

**Sundays - February 6, 2005 and March 6, 2005**

**2:00 p.m.**

*Bring a covered dish for our potluck before & after the meeting.*

### DIRECTIONS TO MEETING:

Directions to Unitarian Church, 1475 West Front Street, Lincroft, N.J.:

From center of Red Bank - Take West Front Street west 4.9 miles to Unitarian Church on your left.

From GS Parkway north or south - Parkway to exit 109. Follow signs for Lincroft or Route 520 west, Continue 1.3 miles to the center of the village of Lincroft then turn right on Middletown-Lincroft Rd.

Proceed 1.4 miles then left at the light at West Front Street. The Unitarian Church is 0.6 miles on your left.

For information call (732) 872-9644.

## TRIP TO MANASQUAN RESERVOIR ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

We are planning a "just for fun" trip to the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center, and, weather permitting, we will probably combine it with a brief hike on the trail along the edge of the reservoir. It is a beautiful spot and the environmental center is only a couple of years old, so it should be a pleasant experience. Following the visit and hike, those who desire can join us at a local establishment for lunch. Plans are tentatively set for 10:00 AM on Saturday, February 19th. This is subject to change, so, if interested, look for further info at our February meeting or call (732) 870-2232.

## MCFC MEMBER ELECTED TO SEA BRIGHT COUNCIL.

Congratulations are due to Clearwater member Brian Kelly who was recently elected to serve on the Sea Bright Borough Council. We are certain that both Sea Bright and the environment will benefit from his energy and good judgement. Brian took the oath of office in early January with his lovely new wife Regina assisting in the ceremony. Brian also deserves congratulations for successfully starting and running his own alternate energy company, Sea Bright Solar. Good luck to you, Brian in both of these endeavors.

## DON'T FORGET TO RECYCLE YOUR OLD ELECTRONICS.

Most electronic systems, including particularly computers and monitors, contain a lot of toxic materials as well as a number of items that can be successfully recycled. They definitely do not belong in our landfill, so forget about putting your old electronics out in the trash. The best thing to do? Find someone else who can use them. Failing that, most electronics, except very large items such as console TVs, can be taken to the Monmouth County electronics collection for proper disposal. No reservation is required for this free service which is located on Shafto Road in Tinton Falls about 500 yard south west of Asbury Avenue. It is open from 7:30 AM until 3:00 PM on Thursdays and Fridays, and 7:30 'till 2:00 on Saturdays. Team up with your neighbor to accomplish more with less driving. Call the Recycling Hotline at 732 577-8400 for details of the program.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### F E B R U A R Y

Membership Mtg. . . . . Sun 6th 2:00 pm . . . . . UUCM Meeting House, Lincroft  
 Manasquan Env Ctr Visit . . . . . Sat 19th 10:00 am . . . . . Manasquan Reservoir Env. Ctr.  
 Environmental Committee Mtg . . . . . Sun. 20th, 8:30 AM . . . . . TBA  
 Board Mtg. . . . . Wed 23th 7:30 pm. . . . . UUCM Meeting House, Lincroft

### M A R C H

Membership Mtg. . . . . Sun 6th 2:00 pm . . . . . UUCM Meeting House, Lincroft  
 Environmental Committee Mtg . . . . . Sun. 20th, 8:30 AM . . . . . TBA  
 Board Mtg. . . . . Wed 30th 7:30 pm. . . . . UUCM Meeting House, Lincroft

# Offshore windmills: Readers back clean energy resource

*Published in the Asbury Park Press 12/15/04*

Wind farms a fact of energy life in European countries, Australia

I've read with great interest stories in the Press about wind turbine farms off the coast of New Jersey. Until Dec. 9, the general tenor of your articles and editorials have heavily favored the ban of windmills.

Many of the quotes, photos and allusions have been fear mongering or less than fully in-formed. A prime example is the file photo that uses a telephoto lens to compress the land-based wind farms (of what seems like Palm Springs) to show a density of turbines.

Although it occurs only three brief times during the slow revolution, the maximum height of the wind turbine that you continually quote as "400 feet or 40 stories tall" works out to be a maximum apparent height of less than half an inch at arm's length in front of your face. Of course, it will appear smaller the farther out they're placed. In other words, it's smaller than a typical sailboat's mast at a good distance from shore. That impact on tourism withers in the face of good math.

Many of your articles said there were no off-coast examples of windmills in the United States and the information received from my colleagues tends to say that there is no precedent for what is being proposed. Those are not the facts. Finally on Dec. 9, you quote someone, Eric Stiles of the New Jersey Audubon Society, who brings the Danish experience into the equation, but without elaboration.

Throughout the world, especially in Europe and Australia, wind turbine farms are a fact of life. Europe has a migratory bird situation comparable to our East Coast situation. Birds travel up the west coast of Europe from areas as far south as Africa past England, Netherlands, Denmark, Germany, Norway and points north. These countries are miles ahead of the United States in environmental protection.

Each of these countries has extensive wind turbine farms that generate a substantial percentage of the electricity. Each, especially the Danes and Dutch, has a wealth of data and lessons learned and strict regulations to protect the public and the environment. To make it seem like we are treading on untrammelled territory is false.

I've lived in the Netherlands and spent much time in Scandinavia, where the graceful windmills are not a blight. These are countries that have less beach front than we have.

The Danes and others have extensive public/private Web sites that address every concern addressed in your articles. They show that the migratory birds "learn" to avoid the wind farms that emit sub-hypersonic frequencies; that the rate of birds that do get injured is less than would do so flying into buildings, bridges and other abutments; that technology exists where radar-enabled farms can feather the fans to accommodate incoming flocks.

The navigation issue has been managed. The short-term impact of their construction has turned into new breeding grounds for the sea life akin to artificial reefs. The maintenance issues also are exaggerated. An article in the New York Times last year heralded Europe's windmill maintenance, which is monitored from shore using laptops and, because of the simplicity of the turbines' design, reduces "mean time between failure" to a very reasonable time span.

The return-on-investment costs typically are satisfied within two years, so fears of long-term tax credits and subsidies are exaggerated unless we succumb to industry's need for a free ride.

I welcome acting Gov. Codey's moratorium as a chance to put into place sensible regulations before making any decision. Any study should include the lessons learned and regulations from all over the world.

I'm on the Clean Ocean Zone Committee and am a member of wind farm study teams (including almost all stakeholders) that called for regulations two years ago. Those regulations must address safety, environmental impact, commerce, fishermen rights and, most importantly, the economic and business impact as it relates to taxpayers.

The closed-door sessions with the state Board of Public Utilities smack of collusion, much like we've seen with unrelenting rate increases granted by the BPU. I'm all for assuring the public that harm won't be done to the environment or that the taxpayers won't be the fall guys for big business. But I don't want to allow NIMBY or non-objective criteria to be legislated.

With the Press coming out against renewal of the Oyster Creek nuclear power plant permit and against air and water pollution from Midwest fossil-fueled electric generation plants, we must seek alternative energy -- of which wind power is the most effective -- that is realistic. We must make judgments based on objective criteria and cost/benefit analyses, rather than emotional and subjective viewpoints.

Edward J. Dlugosz

PRESIDENT - MONMOUTH COUNTY FRIENDS OF CLEARWATER

# THE US NEEDS A REAL ENERGY BILL

by Jack Charlton

Since the election, George Bush has picked up additional support in congress, and he has let it be known that he intends to use his "mandate" to vigorously push his domestic agenda. Apparently high on his list is the energy bill written in secrecy by the fossil fuel industry under the direction of oil man Dick Cheney. For the past four years Congress has been deadlocked on this issue as the administration pushed this polluting, budget busting program which would lock in our dependence on fossil fuel while giving only a passing nod to alternate energy and efficiency.

One of the more visible aspects of the administrations program is the proposal to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. Even if the most optimistic projections of the administration are correct - that drilling can be accomplished without a gross impact on wildlife - this approach amounts at best to "deplete America first".

It appears obvious that the future does not belong to the country which can best squeeze out their last drops of domestic crude or is most successful in bullying the oil producing states of the Middle East. Rather, the future will belong to the countries which can produce cost effective sources of renewable energy and can maximize their efficiency to yield greater productivity and standard of living per unit of energy. There will be a tremendous world market for developments in both of these areas. Unfortunately US industry is among the least energy efficient among the industrialized nations and our status among the leaders in renewable energy is continually slipping.

We need to build support for a new energy plan that delivers clean air, affordable and reliable electricity, and freedom from reliance on foreign oil. Please call or write your US Senators and ask them to oppose the Cheney bill and chart a path to a cleaner, safer, and more energy efficient program which will help the US reestablish a technological lead in this route to the future.

Senator Jon S. Corzine  
One Gateway Center, 11th Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102  
(973) 645-3030  
E-mail can be sent at <http://corzine.senate.gov/contact.cfm>

Senator Frank Lautenberg  
One Gateway Center, 23rd Floor  
Newark, NJ 07102  
(973) 639-8700  
E-mail can be sent at <http://lautenberg.senate.gov/contact.html>

**Sign Up NOW For our Member Sail on the Clearwater  
Saturday, October 16 - 9:30 am - Alpine Boat Basin  
Off of Palisades Interstate Hwy - Exit 2 - Alpine NJ  
CALL THE HOTLINE NOW TO RESERVE A SPOT!!**

Now you can find us on the WEB: [www.clearwaterMC.org](http://www.clearwaterMC.org)

**CLEARWATER HOTLINE 872-9644**

For the Latest Clearwater News:

**DATED MATERIAL**

*Monmouth County Friends of  
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**We include a membership application to our "mother" organization: Hudson River Sloop Clearwater (on the right). We welcome readers of "Solutions" to not only join Monmouth County Friends of Clearwater (below) - but to also sign-up to be a member of Hudson River Sloop Clearwater!**

**Yes, I want to help Clearwater in its efforts to reclaim and protect the Hudson River.**

I am joining Clearwater  I am renewing

<input type="checkbox"/> INDIVIDUAL	\$35	<input type="checkbox"/> MARINER	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> FAMILY	\$50	<input type="checkbox"/> SAILING MASTER	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> CONTRIBUTOR	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> BENEFACTOR	\$5,000
<input type="checkbox"/> SPONSOR	\$200	<input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT/LIMITED INCOME	\$15

I am enclosing a check or money order payable to Clearwater.

Please charge my Visa, MC, Discover, or Amex.

Please charge my credit card at \$\_\_\_\_\_ for 12 months for a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Acct. # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

*All membership contributions re tax-deductible with the exception of \$3.00 for a year's subscription to the Clearwater Navigator.*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

**Send me more information about:**

- Volunteering  Revival 2000  
 Member Sails  Education Programs  
 Advocacy  Sloop Clubs

**Send the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater Application (ABOVE) to:  
HRSC, 112 Little Market Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601**

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please accept my membership application, so that I can help Clearwater in its efforts to clean up our environment and spread the important message of environmental health and protection.

- Individual \$25  Family \$35  Low Income/Senior Citizen/Student \$10  
 Lifetime-Family \$400  Sponsor \$100  
 Lifetime-Individual \$250  Contributing \$50  
 I am not yet a member, but would like to contribute to this worthy cause.

My tax-deductible donation is \$ .....

Please tell us your areas of interest/expertise and why you are joining: .....

..... your e-mail address .....

Name ..... Phone ..... Date .....

Address ..... City ..... State ..... Zip .....

## Monmouth County Friends of Clearwater

**Check items you would like to get involved with:**

- Environment  Grant writing  
 Boats  Publicity  
 Field Trips  Membership  
 Festival  Newsletter  
 Finance  other \_\_\_\_\_  
 Computers  
 Fund-raisers

