



# Sustainable Delaware NEWSLETTER

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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Solar Panels	1
Bike Racks	1
SNC: Climate Change	2
Solar Panels—cont'd	2
Watershed Coordinator	3
Green-Wise Fair	3
Farmer's Markets	4
Calendar	4

## Is Your Home Ready for Solar?

*This is an excerpt from the complete article, you can see the full article on the web at: <http://www.sustainabledelawareohio.org/articles/Solar%20Panels%20in%20Practice.pdf>*

**Mulling.** For years the idea of adding solar panels to our all electric home intrigued us. We aren't engineers but we knew that solar panels are a proven technology. As members of Simply Living, we were well aware that the transition to renewable energy sources is critical if we are to create a sustainable culture for future generations. The tag line for Simply Living asked us to follow Gandhi's dictum to "become the change we seek for the world." We had taken many baby steps toward a greener household, but the price tag for solar panels felt like a huge leap of faith. We're already grandparents to a dozen grandchildren – so if not now, when? If not us, who? We decided to stop mulling, make that leap and start walking our talk.

**Prepping.** No, we weren't prepping for the apocalypse, but we heeded the advice of solar



Solar panels on the roof of the home of Chuck Lynd and Sheila Fox.

business folks and alternative energy enthusiasts we knew through Simply Living. There are several stages of preparation that served us well:

1) We went on Green Energy Ohio's annual solar tours and talked to people who had installed various solar applications. Highly recommended!

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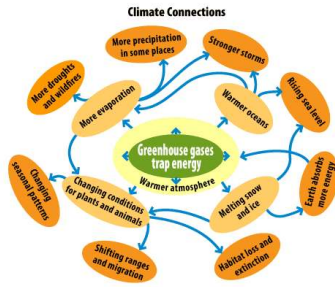
## New Bike Racks for Downtown

Thanks to the sustained efforts of Bill Kizer of Sustainable Delaware, the City of Delaware now has three more bike racks for the cyclists to use downtown. This makes a total of six bike racks that have been purchased by Sustainable Delaware and installed in the last year. The new bike racks are located on Williams St. in front of Something Sweet, one on S. Sandusky in front of Amato's and the other on the east side of Sandusky St south of Winter St..

Sustainable Delaware would also like to thank the City of Delaware for installing the bicycle racks in particular the Public Works Department: Allen Rothermel, Charles Dukes, Keith Blankenship and their crews, as well as city manager Tom Homan and city planner Dave Efland.

Sustainable Delaware is continuing to raise money to purchase additional bicycle racks for Delaware, if you are interested in helping out with a donations or suggestions, please contact us at [info@sustainabledelawareohio.org](mailto:info@sustainabledelawareohio.org).

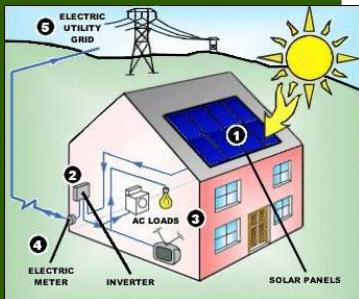
# 2013 SNC: Climate Change



Climate change connections chart.

*"Plans to protect air and water, wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect man."*

- Stewart Udall



Ohio Wesleyan's fall 2013 Sagan National Colloquium will focus on the theme of climate change. Through a series of presentations and discussions led by nationally and internationally recognized scholars and activists, students and the local community will engage in a semester-long exploration of interdisciplinary impacts of climate change.

The September events include Caleb Cain Marcus' photographic exhibit on glaciers on display at the Ross Art Museum (on S. Sandusky Street) from August 22 through October 6, a talk by photographer Caleb Cain Marcus ("A Portrait of Ice," 9/12

7pm), a presentation by scientist David Schimel on "Climate Change and the Biosphere" (9/17 7pm), and a discussion led by Michael Dorsey on "Climate and Environmental Justice" (9/26 7pm).

Many additional lectures and seminars will take place in October and November. All events are free and open to the public. Most activities will take place in the Benes Rooms of the Hamilton Williams Campus Center (on Spring Street), but check the local newspapers and/or SNC's website for details (<http://snc.owu.edu/>). There is no charge for campus parking.

## Is Your Home Ready for Solar? - cont'd

2) We contacted AEP and arranged an energy audit. You want to be as energy efficient as possible before installing any renewable energy system. Their recommendations are useful, save money, and sometimes surprising – e.g., learning that doors and windows are not the primary source of energy leaks –hint, it's in the walls.

3) We added insulation, especially in the garage ceiling with two bedrooms above.

We wrapped the water heater and pipes, changed to low energy CFL and LED light bulbs and installed low flow shower heads.

4) We contacted two companies (Ecohouse and Third Sun) to give us estimates based on remote sensing technology, then followed up with on-site inspections. Our roof is largely south facing, but we needed to remove a tree in the front yard to ensure full-on sunlight.

5) Make sure your roof is relatively new because the solar panels will be on there for 25 or more years. Luckily, ours was. No one wants to put on a new roof underneath the panels!

**Incentives.** The best incentive is the 30% Federal tax credit that is taken straight off the cost of the installation. This one has

been in place for several years and Congress has extended this incentive through 2016. We installed a 7.2 kw system with 40 panels that cost \$38,000, so getting \$12,000 back on our taxes made for an exciting day that quickly reduced our loan to \$26,000. Don't panic, we have a large system and this rebate applies to any system greater than 2 kw systems.

Ohio once offered a rebate of \$3.00 per DC Watt of installed capacity, up to a maximum of \$25,000 but the program was so popular it was discontinued in 2011, presumably to save tax dollars. We were in the queue for that program when it ended, but more on that later. Ohio does offer a subsidized loan program through the Treasurer's office called Eco-Link. This program will reduce the interest on any 5 – 7 year bank loan for renewable energy by 3 percent. This can definitely speed up the payback on your system. We used our Credit Union but we are considering moving the loan to a bank to take advantage of this incentive. Ohio also provides a sales tax exemption on the price of solar equipment.

See SDO's website for the rest of the article.

# Meet the New Watershed Coordinator



**Kristin Piper giving a rain barrel workshop.**

Kristin Piper, Delaware's new coordinator for the Upper Olentangy Watershed, has been on the job only since April of this year, but she has already accomplished much during her short tenure. Kristin grew up along the Scioto River and is a graduate from Buckeye Valley High School. She has a B.S. in Biology and an M.A. in Secondary Education, both from Mount Vernon Nazarene University. The synergy created by this combination of science and education has helped her in her new role. She knows how to bridge the gap between theory and practice and to translate ideas into action. As Watershed Coordinator, her primary mission is to ensure that best-management practices are used and that the water quality meets EPA standards.

Rain barrels, for instance, help reduce storm-water runoff. So, she displayed several rain barrels all around the city and has planned a series of rain barrel workshops, the first one was attended by 44 people, 41 of whom purchased a rain barrel. Dozens of residents are pre-registered for the river clean-up on August 17. In addition, Kristin has lead a team of five people to attach 165 colorful markers next to storm drains all around Delaware, reminding people not to dump hazardous substances into the storm-water system. And an educational coloring contest for children focuses on ways to help improve the watershed.

Kristin has also produced various informational materials. These flyers and pamphlets have been widely distributed and include information on several Delaware wetland areas, suggestions on how storm-water problems can be mitigated and why Hidden Valley Golf Course is allowing tall grasses to grow in areas of the course near the Delaware Run. These Vegetation buffer zones help to prevent or reduce erosion and filter out pollutants and sediment thus helping to keep the surface water clean.

For 2014, Kristin has applied for a grant from the Ohio EPA to organize a local Watershed Festival. If funded, the many anticipated activities would include presentations, games, and hands-on demos involving wetlands, rain barrels, rain gardens, water filtration, sediment control, buffer zones, lowhead dams, aquatic life, and more. Other plans for the future include the use of permeable surfaces in city parks, educational markers at bioswales and buffer zones, the removal of the remaining low-head dams in the Olentangy, tree-staking in badly eroded areas around Delaware Lake, and the planting of cover crops near tributaries of the Upper Olentangy. All these projects require funding, of course, and Kristin is actively pursuing several grant opportunities. But perhaps as important and critical are volunteers. Ultimately, her work can only be successful if she enjoys the full support of private citizens and public officials. Kristin's outreach to the stakeholders has been exemplary, and in turn the community has quickly embraced her.

If you wish to volunteer for any of the above-described activities, or if you want to learn more about the Olentangy watershed, contact Kristin Piper, Upper Olentangy Watershed Coordinator, e-mail:

[kpiper@delawareohio.net](mailto:kpiper@delawareohio.net), phone: 740-203-1905.

**Stickers that were placed on storm drains in Delaware**



## Green-Wise Fair 2013

The fifth annual Green-Wise Fair is a great time to connect with people who are working on sustainable practices right here in Delaware. The fair highlights many local businesses and people who are reducing, reusing, recycling and renewing our local community. Additionally, there will be workshops, children's craft and nature activities, recycle old electronics, raffle, and more!

The fair will be held at Deer Haven Preserve, 4183 Liberty Rd., on August 25 from 11am to 4pm. For more information see the website at: <http://www.preservationparks.com/programs/greenwise-fair/>

Come on out and bring the family, we hope to see you there!



**Our Mission:** *Sustainable Delaware is a group of citizens focused on promoting environmental, social and economic sustainability for the Delaware community*

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Have a comment, idea or article for the newsletter? We would love to hear from you, please email us at:

[info@sustainabledelawareohio.org](mailto:info@sustainabledelawareohio.org)

Visit us on the web at [www.sustainabledelawareohio.org](http://www.sustainabledelawareohio.org) and our Facebook group: Sustainable Delaware Ohio



## Farmer's Markets

**The Original Delaware Farmers' Market** - May 18 through October 19 : Delaware County Fairgrounds  
Saturdays 9 am - 12pm

**Downtown Delaware Farmers' Market** - May 25 through October 26 : Historic Downtown Delaware  
Wednesdays 3 - 6 pm and Saturdays 9:30 am - 12:30 pm

**Powell Farmers' Market** - May 11 through October 12: Parking Lot of 50 S. Liberty St., Powell  
Saturdays 9 am - 12pm

**Sunbury Farmers' Market** - May 25 through October 19: Sunbury Town Square  
Saturdays 9 am - 12pm

**The Delaware County Community Market** - Open year round: 222 East William St., Delaware  
Mon.-Fri. 10 am - 6 pm; Sat. 10 am - 4 pm; Sun. 12pm - 4 pm (summer)  
Sun. 12 pm – 3 pm: Eastside Farmer's Market

**Edible Saturdays Farmers Market** - May 18- October 12, 2013: lot of NorthPointe Hotel & Conference Center, 100 Green Meadows Drive, Lewis Center  
Saturdays 9 am-12 pm

## Upcoming Events

For more upcoming events and details see the SDO calendar on the website at <http://www.sustainabledelawareohio.org/Events.html>

8/7/13	6:30p -8p	Sustainable Delaware Board Meeting; Delaware County Library, Main Branch
8/10/13	9:30a -11a	Sustainable Delaware Meeting; Delaware County Library, Main Branch
8/17/13	10a—12p	In a Pickle!; Gallant Farm Preserve
8/17/13	10a—12p	Olentangy River Cleanup Day; parking lot of Eagles Lodge
8/25/13	11a—4p	GreenWise Fair; Deer Haven Preserve, Delaware
8/30/13	6p	Ca\$hMob; Meet at the Main Street Delaware office
9/6/13	6p—9p	First Friday: Pet Parade; Downtown Historic Delaware
9/11/13	6:30p -8p	Sustainable Delaware Board Meeting; Delaware County Library, Main Branch
9/14/13	9:30a -11a	Sustainable Delaware Meeting; Delaware County Library, Main Branch
9/14/13	1p—4p	Household Hazardous Waste Collection; Knox County Fairgrounds. Mt. Vernon
9/21/13	1p—3p	Farm To Fork; Stratford Ecological Center
9/24/13	6p – 8p	Beekeeping Apprenticeship; Stratford Ecological Center
9/27/13	6p	Ca\$hMob; Meet at the Main Street Delaware office
9/28/13		Harvest Fair; Stratford Ecological Center