

**ASSUMPTION:**

The interconnected relationship between the environmental and economic implications of excessive energy consumption have raised concerns about what can be done to protect New Castle's future interests.

**OBJECTIVE:**

Promote energy conservation, energy efficiency, and explore other ways to reduce environmental pollutants among the town's residents, businesses, and municipal operations, thus reducing energy expenditures for residents and taxpayers, while improving the quality of living in our community.

**ENERGY**

The Selectmen made a commitment to the goal of improving energy efficiency and conservation efforts in December of 2007 with the formation the New Castle Energy Committee. This group is charged with the task of coordinating all of the town's energy related activities. More specifically, the New Castle Energy Committee is responsible for providing recommendations designed to reduce energy consumption across all sectors, thus reducing energy costs and environmental pollutants. Energy efficiency and conservation strategies should target all municipal and private facilities as well as infrastructure and systems that use energy such as buildings, homes, transportation, lighting, water, sewer, emergency services, public spaces and recreation. The Selectmen stipulated that every Energy Committee initiative must generate financial returns that exceed the cost of the recommendation.

The specific goals of the New Castle Energy Committee include:

1. Coordinate energy conservation activities among federal, State and local officials, town departments, zoning and planning boards, elementary school, businesses, residents and other community groups;
2. Develop a comprehensive energy plan or strategy for the town;
3. Identify the economic benefits for any energy related projects as well as potential sources of funding including regional, state and federal grants;
4. Advise various town Boards and committees on regulatory and planning strategies relating to energy efficiency and conservation
5. Coordinate outreach and awareness activities in the community

In June of 2009 The New Castle Energy Committee, with the assistance of the Rockingham Planning Commission, published the "2008 Baseline Report" which documents energy usage, costs and greenhouse gas emissions for all municipal buildings and facilities in New Castle. These findings and recommendations will be used to ultimately develop a long term energy plan for the Town.