

# Bordentown City Environmental Commission NEWSLETTER

Issue #8, Winter 2006

## BCEC Contact Information



BCEC meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month and are open to the public.

Meetings are held at the Carlslake Community Center at 7:00pm.

Mail may be sent to BCEC at:  
Bordentown City Environmental Commission,  
City Hall,  
324 Farnsworth Ave.,  
Bordentown, NJ 08505

**Email:**  
bcec@mail.com

**Web:**  
www.bcec.us

## WINTER CONSERVATION TIPS

The price of home heating oil and natural gas has risen precipitously in the last few months, due to a combination of factors, including hurricane damage to infrastructure and decreased supply worldwide. In the last 6 months, PSE&G has raised its rates for natural gas by 26%, with average customer costs expected to rise by approximately \$40 per month in the winter, or \$248 per year. Home heating oil prices have also risen, up 21% from 2004. As these natural resources become increasingly scarce, prices will inevitably continue to rise, and residents can expect steadily increasing prices for energy in the future. Below are some easy to challenging tips for lowering your energy bills, reducing our dependence on foreign energy supplies, and helping the environment.

**Easy:** Add weatherstripping to windows and doors. Caulk cracks and crevices on the outside of the house. Get a furnace tune-up. Change your furnace filter monthly. Wrap your hot water heater. Install a low-flow shower head. Lower the water heater thermostat to 115 degrees. Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent bulbs. Open drapes and blinds during the day, close at night. Close damper on fireplace when not in use. Seal hot air ducts, and shut off vents in rooms not in use. Wrap hot water pipes with insulation. Wash clothes in cold or warm water. Turn down the thermostat at night and when you are at work. Put extra blankets on the bed. Wear a sweater!

**Moderate:** Request an energy audit from PSE&G. Install a programmable thermostat. Replace your hot water heater with a tankless hot water heater. Install new insulation in walls, floor, attic, and crawl spaces.

**Advanced:** Install a geo-thermal heat pump. Install high-efficiency furnace. Replace windows with more energy efficient double-pane models. Install solar panels (free energy from the sun! see [www.njcleanenergy.com/residential.html](http://www.njcleanenergy.com/residential.html) for rebate info).

Check out <http://www.eere.energy.gov/buildings/info/homes/> for more info.

### Save the Dates!

#### Annual Earth Day Cleanup, April 22

Join BCEC for a cleanup of Thorntown Creek on **Saturday, April 22 at 9am**. We will continue our efforts to preserve and enhance the natural beauty of this urban stream corridor in Bordentown City. Invite your friends to come help clean up the City and learn about the local environment!

#### Arbor Day Tree Planting, April 29

The Shade Tree Committee needs volunteers to help plant shade trees in the City.

See details in the Spring BCEC Newsletter...



Fall colors in Thorntown Creek woods

## LOCAL ECO-NEWS

### Environmental Resource Inventory

The Environmental Resource Inventory was officially adopted after a public hearing at the January 2006 Planning Board meeting. The ERI will become the basis for the Conservation Element of the Master Plan. Since the ERI was produced at no cost to the City, it will save considerable municipal tax dollars on the Conservation Element as well. Future elements of the Master Plan will include Transportation, Historic Preservation, and Recycling.

### Bicycle & Pedestrian Circulation Plan

The Bordentown City Bicycle & Pedestrian Circulation Plan study is nearly complete. This initiative will promote bike/ped circulation within the City and outline access to key destinations, trails, and facilities that connect to and pass through the City. The Plan will describe the existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and outline findings and recommendations for improving bike/ped circulation. Recommendations will include traffic calming measures, crosswalk improvements, sidewalk connections, gateway designs, and wayfinding signage. A public meeting is scheduled for the regular monthly Planning Board meeting on March 1.

### Open Space

The Delaware & Raritan Greenway recently closed on the 3.6 acre property at the end of Oliver Street, which previously had been slated for a residential subdivision of 8 single-family houses. This property will serve as a much-needed passive recreation area in the southwest portion of the City. It will also serve as a trailhead connection to the proposed Blacks Creek Greenway, a joint City/Township planning process that will



*Green Acres boundary marker, Oliver Street* provide several miles of walking trails in the area. Planning efforts for this new park will begin in 2006. Volunteers will be invited to help plant trees, install bird boxes, create trails and provide suggestions for the development of the property.

### Thorntown Creek Restoration Grant

The Delaware Riverkeeper, with the support of the BCEC, has applied for a NJ Fish & Wildlife-Landowner Incentive Program grant, which provides funds for restoring habitat for threatened and endangered species. The grant proposal seeks to restore the landscape along the lower reach of Thorntown Creek, which is home to the rare Star Chickweed plant and provides foraging habitat for the Bald Eagle. BCEC will be recruiting volunteers for this effort, which will involve invasive plant species removal, stream bank restoration, and public outreach.

### BCEC Initiatives for Spring 2006

- Volunteers will be needed to help install "No Dumping, Drains to Creek" on City storm drain inlets.
- Look for the *Special Places of Bordentown City* brochure/map at City Hall, Bordentown Library and local businesses.

### NJ BPU CLEAN ENERGY PROGRAM

The New Jersey CleanPower Choice Program is a renewable energy initiative that offers consumers in New Jersey a choice in the type of power they buy. Regulated and managed by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities' Office of Clean Energy, CleanPower Choice is a simple, easy way for you to support electricity that's generated by cleaner, renewable energy resources like wind and solar.

To learn more, check out [www.njcleanpower.com](http://www.njcleanpower.com)

## Environmental Calendar

Wednesday, January 11

*Bordentown City Environmental Commission Meeting*

Carlslake Comm. Center, 7pm

Saturday, January 21

*Winter Walk in the Trenton-Hamilton-Bordentown Marsh*

Meet at Spring Lake - Roebling Park (end of Sewell Ave., Hamilton). Contact/information: 609-895-5420. 9:30-11:30am. (Co-sponsored by Friends of the Marsh and Washington Crossing Audubon)

Wednesday, February 1

*Bordentown City Planning Board Meeting*

City Hall, 7pm

Wednesday, February 8

*Bordentown City Environmental Commission Meeting*

Carlslake Comm. Center, 7pm

Wednesday, March 1

*Bordentown City Planning Board Meeting*

City Hall, 7pm

Agenda includes a public hearing on the Bordentown City Bicycle & Pedestrian Circulation Plan.

Wednesday, March 8

*Bordentown City Environmental Commission Meeting*

Carlslake Comm. Center, 7pm

To receive the BCEC Newsletter by email, send a request to [bcec@mail.com](mailto:bcec@mail.com)