

December Announcements – Knoxville Energy & Sustainability Initiative

December 10th, 2008

Greetings,

There are two big events going on this weekend in Knoxville that I hope you might have time to attend.

1) We are hosting the City's first "**Solar 101**" **workshop** on Saturday, December 13th from 10am - 12pm at Ijams Nature Center at 2915 Island Home Avenue in South Knoxville. Sponsored by the City of Knoxville's Solar America Cities Program, this workshop will teach the basics of solar technologies that are available for home installation such as solar electric, solar hot water, solar lighting, solar heating, and passive solar design. It will also provide an introduction to the step-by-step process of "going solar" with your home. The workshop will review basic incentives and financing options, as well as best practices for hiring qualified installers. Differences in the process for older homes and options for new home construction will be covered. Although the workshop is not designed to offer technical or financial guidance to a specific project, it should help homeowners better understand the options and process for pursuing solar technologies. To RSVP for the workshop call Gil Melear-Hough at (865) 789-5482 or email gil@cleanenergy.org. For directions to Ijams, see <http://www.ijams.org/about/directions.html>.

2) Also on Saturday, December 13th from 11:30am-2:00pm, there will be a ribbon cutting and open house for Knox Housing Partnership's seven new **LEED Gold Certified affordable homes** in the Five Points neighborhood of East Knoxville, 714-732 S. Chestnut Street. Aside from Al Gore's house in Nashville, these are the first LEED-certified homes in Tennessee! Please join us to help celebrate this huge achievement. Mayor Bill Haslam and Director of Community Development Madeline Rogero will join representatives from Knox Housing Partnership, USGBC, and CAC and others for a ribbon cutting at 12:00. All of the homes are currently for sale, and while anybody can buy them, there are special incentives available for low-moderate income buyers.

There are two flyers attached - one for each event. Hope to see you there!

Madeleine R. Weil
Deputy Director, Policy & Communications
City of Knoxville
(865) 215-2680

December 19, 2008

Happy Holidays! There are a few pieces of news to share from this week:

1) The City will enter into a partnership with **The Climate Group and the American Beverage Association** to assess the feasibility of introducing a city-wide curbside recycling program. City Council unanimously approved the resolution authorizing the partnership on Tuesday night. Knoxville will become the second city (after Hartford, CT) to participate in the ABA's "Model Cities" program, which is aimed at helping cities substantially increase residential recycling rates. As a first step, the City will work with staff from UT's Institute for a Secure and Sustainable Environment (ISSE) and the Social Science Research Institute (SSRI) to survey city residents about current recycling practices and attitudes. The work plan also includes conducting a comprehensive audit of the city's current waste stream, developing a financial analysis of existing and potential solid waste disposal practices, and developing a database to accurately monitor waste disposal/diversion rates. Click http://www.cityofknoxville.org/Press_Releases/Content/2008/1218e.asp to read the full press release.

2) Congratulations to **KUB for earning U.S. EPA's ENERGY STAR** certification for their headquarters building in downtown Knoxville! The Energy Star review of the Miller's Building found that it is about 27 percent more efficient than the typical office building of its size. Features and efforts that contributed to the rating include a high efficiency closed loop water source heat pump, energy efficient lighting and plentiful daylighting, LED exit signs, Energy Star computers, and employee outreach and education, including a successful campaign to remove portable desk heaters. Read the full press release at http://www.cityofknoxville.org/Press_Releases/Content/2008/1218d.asp.

3) Last weekend's events - the **Solar 101 Workshop and the Open House for Knox Housing Partnership's LEED-gold homes in Five Points** - were both great successes. Thanks to those of you who attended. Gil's presentation from the Solar 101 workshop will soon be posted on our Solar America Cities website at www.cityofknoxville.org/policy/solar/. WBIR ran a neat story about the Five Points homes, see <http://www.wbir.com/news/green/story.aspx?storyid=72060&catid=137>.

4) Finally, a plug for the next workshop in the Solar America Cities Workshop Series: Thursday, February 12th: **Solar for your Business**
8:30-10:00am, Knoxville Chamber Market House, 17 Market Square
Solar power can help your business save energy costs and go green! Local business owners and facility managers interested in the science and benefits of solar technology are invited to a special workshop at the Knoxville Chamber Market House. The workshop will address opportunities to integrate solar technology into your facility and the financial incentives available that make it affordable.

Madeleine R. Weil
Deputy Director, Policy & Communications
City of Knoxville
(865) 215-2680