

# POLLUTION PREVENTION VIEW

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

A Newsletter from the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection

SUMMER 2002

# Taking P2 on Vacation



Ah, it's summer. Pack your bags, kiss that pile of work (temporarily) goodbye, you're going on vacation! But taking a well-deserved break from your hectic life doesn't mean taking a vacation from pollution prevention (P2).

"Geotourism" is travel that concerns both cultural and environmental impacts of travel as well as effects on the local culture, communities and economies. A study on geotourism done by the Travel Institute Association of America and National Geographic Traveler found that American travelers are becoming more aware of the impact they have on the environment. In fact, 43 million US travelers describe themselves as "ecologically concerned."

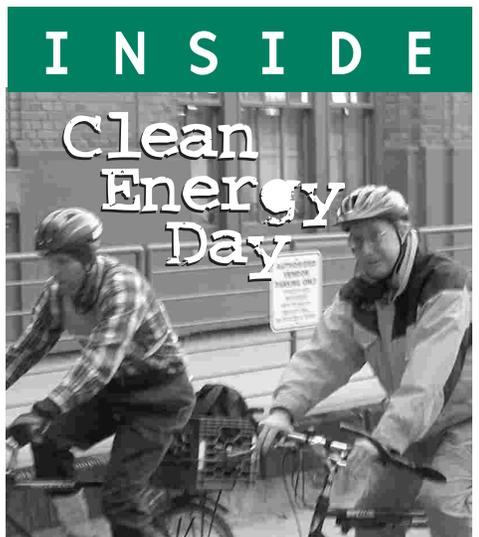
If your "get-away from it all" plans take you fishing at your favorite lake or exploring the Grand Canyon, you can have a wonderful time and protect the environment at the same time. **Here are some tips on how to take P2 on vacation:**

- Stay in a "green hotel" - a hotel that keeps your comfort and the environment in mind.
- Leave those little bottles of hotel amenities unopened. Don't have sheets and towels changed daily; **conserve the hotel's water and electricity** just as you would at home.
- Purchase only those special items or new clothes for your trip **that you really need**. Pack toiletries in small, unbreakable containers you already have instead of buying trial size products.
- Rent an "environmental vehicle" (EV), take transportation provided by the hotel, or better yet, walk or ride a bike. You'll see much more and get some exercise.
- Give your vacation dollars to airlines with an environmental agenda; **use electronic ticketing**.
- When visiting a site, **take only the maps and brochures you really can use** and return them to the stand when finished.
- Reduce the amount of fast food that you consume, **reduce the take-out waste** and recycle when you can.
- Take pictures with a regular camera, **not a disposable one**.
- **Respect the place you are visiting**. Don'ts - littering, buying products made from endangered species, disturbing wildlife or plants, or taking "souvenirs" from natural or historic areas.
- **Use good boating practices** - be careful with gasoline and use pump-out stations.
- Play on golf courses that are **environmentally friendly**; replace divots.
- **Practice low-impact camping**: camp 200 feet or more away from water sources; carry out trash, stay on the trail and use a camping stove. ■

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON:

- **Green hotels and more green travel tips**, contact the "Green Hotels Association" at 713-789-8889 or visit [www.greenhotels.com/grntrav.htm](http://www.greenhotels.com/grntrav.htm)
- **Renting hybrid, natural gas and electric vehicles**, contact Budget EV Rental Cars at 877-387-3682 or visit [www.evrental.com](http://www.evrental.com)
- **Golf and the environment**, visit Earth Share [www.earthshare.org/tips/golftips.html](http://www.earthshare.org/tips/golftips.html)
- **Low impact camping and hiking**, visit Backcountry at [www.backpacking.net/ethics.html](http://www.backpacking.net/ethics.html)
- **Ecotourism study**, visit [www.tia.org/Pubs/GeotourismPhaseFinal.PDF](http://www.tia.org/Pubs/GeotourismPhaseFinal.PDF)

*The above listing of websites is provided to you as a public service and does not constitute an endorsement by DEP.*



# DEP Employees Make Earth Day a Clean Energy Day



**On April 22, 2002, employees worked to “Make Earth Day a Clean Energy Day at DEP” with tons of commitment - and tons of reduced air emissions.**



Recognizing that driving a car is probably the single most polluting activity that we do, many employees left single-occupancy vehicles at home in exchange for a less polluting commute. Several arrived in Hartford in the cleanest way possible, by bike or foot – creating zero emissions and using no fossil fuels! Others did the next best thing and boarded buses or joined vanpools and carpools, also reducing emissions of carbon dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and hydrocarbons. In preparation for Earth Day, the Rideshare Company, CT Transit, and the Capitol Region Bike to Work Group set up booths in the DEP lobby in early April to help employees identify clean commuting options for Earth Day and every day. In addition, the DEP began to collect data for an internal commuter registry to help match co-workers for long-term carpooling, vanpooling, or biking to work together.

DEP employees made an even bigger dent in their “environmental footprint” by buying renewable energy to power their headquarters building for Earth Day.

Although existing contracts make it difficult for state agencies to enter into renewable power purchase agreements, over 50 employees showed their commitment to cleaner energy production by making voluntary donations to buy “green certificates.” These Green Certificates, purchased from the CT Energy Co-operative, offset more than the 8,250 kWh of electricity used to power the office building for one day. The certificates embody the environmental attributes of the Co-op’s renewable power from small-scale hydroelectric power, landfill gas, and wind energy.

In addition, the DEP sponsored a lecture for employees and the public on “Renewable Energy: What is it? How to Get it.” Representatives from Connecticut’s two renewable energy suppliers, the CT Energy Co-operative and Green Mountain Energy, discussed the availability and benefits of renewable power in the state. They provided information on how residents can switch from Connecticut’s conventional fossil/nuclear power sources to cleaner renewable power.

**Why not sponsor a CLEAN ENERGY DAY at your workplace or school?**

**Here are some contacts to help you get started:**

**The Rideshare Company:**  
[www.rideshare.com](http://www.rideshare.com), **1-800-972-EASY**

**CT Transit**  
[www.cttransit.com](http://www.cttransit.com)  
**860-522-8101**

**Capitol Region Ride to Work Initiative, c/o Capitol Region Council of Governments, [sfry@crkog.org](mailto:sfry@crkog.org)**  
**860-522-2217**

**The Connecticut Energy Co-operative**  
[www.EnergyForMe.com](http://www.EnergyForMe.com)  
**860-481-3955**

**Green Mountain Energy Company**  
[www.greenmountain.com](http://www.greenmountain.com)  
**1-866-GREEN-CT**

**CT DEP Office of Pollution Prevention**  
[www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2/index.htm](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2/index.htm)  
**860-424-3297**

## And what a difference a day makes!

Through clean commuting and the Green Certificate purchase, DEP employees eliminated approximately:

51 Pounds of Sulfur Dioxides (SO<sub>x</sub>)  
13 Pounds of Nitrogen Oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>)  
7,126 Pounds of Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>)  
40 Gallons of gasoline

(These numbers are best estimates, based on average annual emissions and fuel consumption for passenger cars and light trucks - EPA Emission Fact, EPA420-00-013, April 2000, and electricity emission information provided by the CT Energy Cooperative.)

(Photo) The CT Energy Co-op presents a certificate to DEP for its green power purchase.



## Tea, Anyone?



**A box of Red Rose® decaffeinated tea looks a little different these days.**

Connecticut-based Redco Foods has replaced the enveloped tea bags with string and tags. Without the envelopes, the box is smaller, as are the cardboard shipping cartons, even though they hold the same number of tea bags. This modification has reduced packaging material content by more than 40%, saving the company money and having less environmental impact. The change has also resulted in fuel savings when shipping the product, since more cartons can now fit on a truck.

The idea for the modification came from one of Redco Foods' regular product development meetings. Gerry Dautre, President and CEO, admitted that the brainstorming sessions at these employee meetings sometimes result in crazy ideas. But they also have had many successes such as this recent modification, which saves approximately 75,000 pounds of packaging per year.

Redco Foods let their customers know about the change by printing a letter on the inside of the box top, which encouraged any comments. The company was overwhelmed by letters, with the vast majority being favorable. However, some people voiced concerns that the tea bags would not travel well without the envelopes. These customers said they bring tea bags in their purses and pockets to places that do not have decaffeinated tea available. Because of this feedback, for a limited time the company is including a reusable pouch in every box. ■

## WHAT'S NEW IN P2?

### NICE Grants for pollution prevention technologies!

NICE<sup>3</sup> (National Industrial Competitiveness through Energy, Environment, and Economics) is a U.S. Department of Energy grant program that provides funding to state and industry partnerships (large and small business) for projects that develop and demonstrate advances in energy efficiency and clean production technologies.

**Grants of up to \$500,000  
per project will be awarded.**

The solicitation is now open and closes June 28, 2002. For more info: visit [www.oit.doe.gov/nice3/](http://www.oit.doe.gov/nice3/) or contact Lynn Stoddard, at the DEP Office of Pollution Prevention, 860 424-3236.



# P 2 C A L E N D A R

## A S E L E C T I O N O F P 2 R E L A T E D E V E N T S

JUNE – AUGUST



### P2 Lecture Series

DEP sponsors a monthly lecture series on pollution prevention topics. Lectures are held from 11:00 a.m. to noon in the Phoenix Auditorium, DEP Building, 79 Elm St., Hartford. All lectures are free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Lynn Stoddard at 860-424-3236.

JUNE 6, 2002

### CT Green Building Council Summer Event

4:00 – 6:00 PM

**Tour of the Mohegan Sun Environmental Center.**  
Learn about the ways the Mohegan Nation has combined green practices with their daily operations.

See a fuel cell in operation and a holistic recycling system designed to minimize waste. For more information contact Kim Trella at 860-424-3234 or by e-mail [kim.trella@po.state.ct.us](mailto:kim.trella@po.state.ct.us).

JUNE 11, 2002

### Fuel Cell Workshop

8:30 AM – 2:30 PM

**Fuel Cells: Investigating the Economic and Engineering Issues in the Decision to Install**

**University of CT, Stamford**  
Workshop is sponsored by CT DEP and CT Clean Energy Fund. Call the Clean Energy Group at 802-223-2554 for information and to register.

**REMINDER —**  
**what you throw in the trash or down**  
**the drain can pollute the environment,**  
**affecting everyone's health!**

**Bring your household hazardous waste to a scheduled collection instead.**

Common items include oil-based paints, thinners, pool chemicals, pesticides, mercury fever thermometers, and gasoline.

For a list of collection day for your community, visit [www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/recycle/hhwsched.htm) or call the DEP Pollution Prevention Office at 860-424-3297.



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For a free subscription, please contact Judy Prill at (860) 424-3694 or e-mail your request to [judith.prill@po.state.ct.us](mailto:judith.prill@po.state.ct.us). If you are already a subscriber, but would like to save paper and postage by reading the P2 View on DEP's P2 website [www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2](http://www.dep.state.ct.us/wst/p2), please contact Judy to have your name removed from the mailing list.

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