

# Woodbridge Township Green Programs

❖ Woodbridge Township continues to invest in renewable energy technology while introducing changes in Township services that achieve cost savings and greater energy efficiency.

## Hybrid Vehicles

Woodbridge Township is the proud owner of 13 Ford Escape Hybrids — the single largest purchase in Middlesex County. With State and County rebates, the Hybrids cost less than a normal SUV and receive twice the miles per gallon. That's stretching gas a lot of extra miles!

## Bio-Diesel Fuel

Woodbridge Township received a \$65,000 grant from the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities to buy biodiesel fuel for our Township vehicles. Biodiesel is better for the environment, is made from renewable resources and has lower emissions compared to petroleum diesel. Most importantly, biodiesel is made in the USA from renewable resources such as soybeans — decreasing our dependence on foreign oil.

## Solar Panels

The Township has received \$2.1 million in state rebate funding to install energy producing solar panels at the Community Center and other municipal facilities. The potential pilot project is geared to save long-term energy costs by putting into place self-sustaining solar energy — energy that will provide a portion of the Township's power needs for many years. The Township has also applied to the NJ Board of Public Utilities for a full energy audit of all municipal buildings.

## Light Bulb Exchange

Woodbridge initiated its first fluorescent light bulb replacement program in conjunction with our "Tooling Around the Township" program. Local merchants donated compact fluorescent light bulbs to replace standard light bulbs. This program is a very practical, cost-effective and easy way to save both money and the environment by simply changing a light bulb. The Township has also begun to replace standard light bulbs with energy-saving compact fluorescent lighting at municipal facilities.

## Tree Replacement

As part of the township's goal to preserve our urban forests, our Tree Ordinance has been revised to include a list of trees that are not host-friendly to the destructive Asian Longhorn Beetle. We have also pledged to upgrade our Pin Oak Forest preserve and replenish our tree farm, which will produce a supply of trees for our parks and municipal properties. Trees remove tons of carbon dioxide and pollutants from our atmosphere each year and reduce energy costs and rain water runoff. The Township has offered tree seedlings to residents and initiated workshops in creating rain gardens.

## More Recycling Opportunities

The Woodbridge Township Recycling Program has opened up a new "convenience center" at our Public Works facility. This makes it easier for residents to dispose of appliances, mixed metal, electronics and bulk waste — including concrete, asphalt and vegetative waste. The Township has also made its paper recycling system more "user friendly" by switching to a Mixed Paper collection stream.

## Environmental Planning & Education

The Township's Environmental Commission completed an Environmental Resource Inventory and became a Clean Community Partner in an effort to seek continued ideas and resources for energy efficiency. The Township is working to create a Green Technology Business Incubator and a Township EcoPark. The Public Works Department prints a Recycling Calendar with information about environmental topics and sponsors an annual recycling poster contest in all Township elementary schools; the annual Earth Day Fair and annual Arbor Day celebration provide up-to-date information on sustainable living.