

**Draft Minutes - SNG Environment Committee**  
**Monday, March 21, 2011 6:55 to 8:55 PM**  
**Matthews Center**

**IN ATTENDANCE: Carol Greenwood, Rick Greenwood, Angela Haeg, Carrie Anne Johnson, Amanda Lee, Michael A. Trdan**

**General Business**

**Assign minutes (Amanda) and Accept Agenda Additions (none)**

**Approve 1/23/11 minutes (Muessig) & 2/28/11 minutes (Trdan) – These minutes had not yet been provided)**

**Next Meeting - 4/18/11, Matthews Center – Room reserved through May**

**Budget: Proposals and Plans**

**Remaining Funds are as follows:**

**Education      \$ 856.22 AFTER**

\$220.00 spent for two paychecks to Amanda Lee for “Make Seward Green”

\$923.78 was spent as follows:

\$108.78 paid to Rick Greenwood for repair parts - Matthews solar computer (Should have been taken from Energy section)

\$ 15.00 - compostable bags for King’s Fair

\$800.00 - video recording two Energy Conservation Workshops (other two paid for by Challenge Grant funds. See EnvComm web page report.)

**Stewardship      \$5000.00** (Transfer of \$1000 to Education had not been approved as of 3/21/11) The committee approved a modest subsidy to the Seward Community Garden (Hub of Heaven) to assist them in holding a community composting workshop. This will depend on whether they have an interest in receiving this assistance.

**HAS BOARD APPROVED MOTION TO: Transfer \$1000** from this budget line to Education to assist with copying costs and contractor costs for “Make Seward Green”  
----Has not been approved as of 3/22/11. (See above)

**Energy      \$12,000** \$2000 of which is committed to Center for Energy, thanks to Development Committee). \$1000 of this has been given to CEE to subsidize marketing of the Community Energy Services Program. Doug Wise has not yet pinned down with CEE/CES how the second \$1000 will be spent. Carol met with Doug to discuss this. (See Below - SNG Housing Program. Energy Conservation/Efficiency.)---No update

**HAS BOARD APPROVED THIS PROPOSAL – To use \$5000** of the Energy Funds as follows:

**\$3000** to subsidize the **first 20 households** who apply (\$150.00 @) AFTER they : schedule and receive a Home Energy Visit, and follow through with one or more of the following improvements recommended by the MCEE auditors.)

**Perform complete weatherization of home** – caulk, seal, foam bypasses, install door and window gaskets and seals, as needed.

**Install storm windows in homes** lacking this feature

**Upgrade/install insulation** in homes with deficient insulation

**Replace old furnace or boiler** with new furnace or boiler

All Seward homeowners who have received a home visit would be eligible for this subsidy. (Single family, duplex, or fourplex if owner lives in building). Work would be completed between 9/10 and 12/11. The request for this grant must be made by 9/20/11, and the homeowner will be required to provide progress reports.

**\$2000 to subsidize the first 10 households** (\$200 @) to complete installation of a solar thermal domestic water heating system. Attendance at a "Make Mine Solar H2O" workshop would also be required. ---Terry Barnes expressed interest in having such a workshop and was contacted about coordinating and facilitating it but has not replied about doing so as of 3/22/11.

**Cash**           \$   15.00

Other discussion: Other ideas for education, stewardship and energy funds. If you don't provide input, decisions will be made as to expending our funds before they disappear. We have a resident in Seward who can produce video/web presentations (including You Tube type pieces), and may have an interest in working on ideas with us. Any other ideas for shifting money around are welcome until the decisions are made.

**New/Ongoing Business**

**Work Flow** - Responsibilities needing Commitment - who will do work? Always cc ALL involved on these tasks.

Minutes- Amanda (3/21)

Agendas - Carol

Contacts and Space Reservations, Speaker outreach - Carol

Communications and webpage - act as contact and communicate with others. Webpage needs update. Communicate with other SNG committees and organizations in and outside neighborhood. Send agendas, minutes, and calendar items to SNG staff for inclusion on webpage. - TBD –

**Information about the compost collection and enhanced recycling pilot projects needs to be put on the SNG website.**

**Information about Make Seward Green needs to be put on the website.**

SNG Board Delegate - communicate motions and resolutions to Board; communicate board decisions to Environment Committee members – Mike Trdan

Ideas for encouraging more neighborhood activism on behalf of our local environment?

Research alternate funding –

Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program – Improve habitat for wildlife (DNR) ([http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/grants/habitat/lessard\\_sams/2011/rfp.pdf](http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/assistance/grants/habitat/lessard_sams/2011/rfp.pdf))

Environmental Partnerships Grant (DNR) (Need to partner with larger entity)

Will there be a Climate Change Innovations Grant? Community Power, MWMO?

PCA grants? Any other ideas? Rock Tenn or other private businesses and foundations.

----SEWARD PROFILE: Peter Fleck has an online profile and community calendar. He is also adding compost information to his posterous site.

**King's Fair** - planning and what to promote – Saturday, 9/17/11 is the date. How about the theme "Celebrating Local - Food, Business, Neighborhood Resources for a Resilient Neighborhood". Any other ideas? We want info about the Composting and Enhanced Recycling programs, Make Seward

Green and our other projects to be presented at King's Fair (Signs and Learning kits available from Hennepin Co.)

We also want to do a better job this year reducing the garbage (and increasing composting/recycling) at King's Fair. We need compost captains. Maybe we can get a business to sponsor this.--- Ideally, waste reduction and toxicity reduction will be a focus, with the result of close to zero waste. Maybe businesses can have employees help with community involvement, or highschool kids.

Possible additional activities – a geo cache route that includes environmental features around Matthews, Seward School, and neighboring Green Yards of willing homeowners. Scavenger hunt requiring visits to participating exhibitors.---- Only if someone will organize and provide volunteers for exhibitions. Other possible ideas include a demonstration on how to build solar cookers (smaller-sized), and how to retrofit a refrigerator to become a root cellar or a solar water heater. It was also suggested that there be an environmentally friendly way to draw in kids using crafts or food ideas/activities (such as making solar chocolate chip cookies). Another idea was handing out native plant seeds.

A shredder truck to shred sensitive documents that neighbors bring. Carol has submitted some of these ideas (geocache and shredder truck) on the Seward E-Democracy site ---a comment was received to the effect that a shredder truck would be noisy and emit diesel.

### **Energy Conservation/Efficiency – Housing**

**Community Energy Service Workshops and Visits** - A recent workshop was held at Matthews Center to inform people about Community Energy Services Home visits. A major re-structuring of CEE data bases needs to be done before those attending workshops and/or receiving home visits are listed as being members of the Seward Energy Challenge team. (See below)

#### **Upcoming Workshops for Community Energy Services** (see below)

The Environment Committee continues to support this program. I assume, for the other \$1000 of EnvComm money dedicated to the Housing Program Energy Conservation item we would need to have Doug and Dave King discuss this. The EnvComm would like to have input on this. What are your suggestions?

Doug Wise, Housing Coordinator - doug@sng.org 612-338-6205, x102 – Doug discussed with Carol the status of marketing Home Visits and participation by Seward residents in making energy conservation improvements. (Using \$1000 from the EnvComm Energy Budget) Doug received the following from Kyle Boehm at CEE.

- 1. 99 Seward homeowners** attended workshops when CEE was promoting the program. **38 more Seward homeowners** have attend workshops since Seward signed a participation agreement to be partners in the program
- 2. 96 Seward homeowners** received home visits when CEE was promoting the program. **33 more Seward homeowners** have received or signed up for home visits since Seward has signed a participation agreement to be partners in the program
3. CES is still tabulating the upgrade numbers, but as they calculate these statistics, they will updated on the website. ----There have been 139 home visits and 139 people who have attended a workshop.

**Join your neighbors at a Community Energy Services Workshop and sign up for a home visit. After you do that, sign on to the Energy Challenge.** For upcoming workshops, go to:  
<http://www.mnenergychallenge.org/Community-Energy-Services/Upcoming-Workshops.aspx>

Workshops scheduled through April are being held primarily on the west and north sides of the city.

Doug tabled at the 2/26 South Minneapolis Housing Fair. He said attendance was lower than in previous years, possibly because of the economy or because of other events scheduled at the same time. The Housing Fair website: <http://www.housingfair.org/> remains available. You can still check out who exhibited at the event, when you are searching for contractors. Doug passed out a number of fact sheets about green building and remodeling, low input lawn care, and safer household cleaning products, and informed attendees about Seward's Housing Program.

Doug will help you with any home improvement projects and with obtaining loans for which Seward and other Minneapolis residents are eligible. Go to [www.sng.org/housing.html](http://www.sng.org/housing.html) and for Center for Energy info on this go to:

[http://mncee.org/programs\\_residential/nrp/neighborhood\\_pages/index.php?page=039](http://mncee.org/programs_residential/nrp/neighborhood_pages/index.php?page=039)

**The information about the Environmental Inspection Grant is no longer correct. Check with Doug for further clarification.**

### **Toxics Reduction/Air Quality/Water Quality Projects “Make Seward Green”**

Amanda Lee, a graduate student taking classes in the school of Public Health, has received payment for work through February. Her first two payments were taken out of the Education funding line. We suggest that \$1000 from the Stewardship budgeted funds be shifted to Education to pay for work on this project (copying, etc.) and compensate the graduate student for transportation and other out of pocket expenses. (See above) Look for Amanda's mini-bio and a brief overview of the program in the SNG Newsletter. Amanda is researching demographics and land use in Seward, as well as health effects of yard, household, and personal care chemicals, and previous research about Seward residents knowledge, values, and behavior relating to water quality.

**Pesticide/Lawn Chemical Reduction plans** – Ricky and David Weiss have proposed a comprehensive plan to educate neighbors about the health and environmental impacts of pesticides and other yard chemicals. The MWMO rejected our proposal to receive funding for this project (letter and draft budget sent). They felt we didn't have the capacity to assess resident practices.

**Movie – A Chemical Reaction – See a trailer for the movie at this URL:**

<http://blogs.creativeloafing.com/dailyloaf/2009/10/07/new-eco-documentary-a-chemical-reaction-the-story-of-a-true-green-revolution/>

We have been invited to join other groups in sponsoring a showing of this movie at Riverview Theater in June. Carmen Simonet, the Program Chair from Wild Ones, the group spearheading this event, explained the movie project.--- The decision was made to allocate \$50.00 from Stewardship to help co-sponsor the movie. Five dollars per person at the door of the theater is the recommended donation, but higher donations are welcome.

**Lawn Chemical Company Outreach** - The Regional Manager of Chemlawn needs to be held accountable on the three specifics which he agreed to:

He will warn anyone concerned about nearby chemical applications ahead of time. (Has he followed up on this?).

He sent two Materials Safety Data Sheets detailing lawn chemicals being applied up to six times a summer to neighborhood customer's lawns. Do we need more MSDS's? According to best lawn care practices, this is overkill for established lawns.

When will he meet with the Environment Committee to discuss Chemlawn's practices, including their marketing plans for more sustainable lawn care practices. (What dates do we want to propose to him?)---Julia Earl, of Preventing Harm MN, is working on pesticide and

toxicity reduction projects.

When a Seabury resident said she no longer wished to have Chemlawn apply petrochemicals on her lawn, they offered a “green alternative”. (They didn't offer it until urged by the homeowner).

What other companies provide “green lawn and yard care alternatives”?

**Great Green Yards** - We have begun the part of the project giving recognition to neighbors who incorporate sustainable practices in their yards. The first Great Green Yards award was given to neighbors at 26th St. and 35th Ave. (Ricky and David are suggesting a campaign to grant recognition to blocks/block clubs who go chemical free with their yards, including the placement of photos of yards on the SNG Environment Committee Webpage.)

Amanda Lee is trying to arrange a time when she can meet with Tim and Cindy to develop a write-up about their yard. Amanda reported that we will give out the Great Green Yard award each season, along with a \$10 gift certificate to the homeowner. Certificates will be at such businesses as Birchwood Cafe, Welna Hardware, and Mother Earth Gardens. Amanda has been contacting Tim and Cindy. No time and date set as of 3/21.

**Plans for Neighborhood Outreach** - David Weiss has developed an informational flyer about the health and environmental risks of pesticide application. They are working on other educational materials. We also have access to information on green lawn care practices from other sources. The Weisses also would like to see neighbors systematically supplied with information about the practices of other lawn care companies (both green and conventional).

**Reducing Use of Scented and Toxic Cleaning and Personal Care Products** -Another component of this program is to educate neighbors about greener and safer cleaning and personal care products that they can substitute for the more toxic ones that impact both storm sewer and sanitary sewer water and local air quality.

This topic was also discussed at the League of Women Voters Air Quality Forum, and Kathleen Schuler of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy – Healthy Legacy Project gave an excellent presentation about “The Consumer Product Connection” to Air Quality. She pointed out serious health impacts of many consumer products. Healthy Legacy has many fact sheets about this topic, and we plan to make this information available to Seward residents in various ways. Check the bulletin board (outside) at the Birchwood in the coming months for some of this information. Julie Mellum of Take Back the Air has sent a flyer to use in our educational efforts to inform neighbors about the harmful effects of scented consumer products.

We will again try to get a Watershed Grant, a Community Power Grant, or additional funding to develop neighborhood awareness of the dangers of lawn chemicals, personal care products, and cleaning and laundry chemicals and to encourage reduction in their use. Kathleen Schuler will be discussing with Amanda and/or Carol the ways her organization can work with us on this project.

David Weiss has the technical ability to develop a questionnaire to assess residents' attitudes about and use of lawn chemicals and cleaning products. We have several studies we can refer to for sample questions.

**Neighborhood Outreach** - A You-Tube type video (The Story of Cosmetics by Annie Leonard [The Story of Stuff] has been e-mailed to members of the EnvComm list who, hopefully, will send it more widely. Everyone is urged to circulate it to friends and neighbors. Go to: (<http://storyofstuff.org/cosmetics/> )

**Wood Burning** - David Weiss would like to distribute flyers to neighbors with information about health effects of woodburning, as provided by meeting attendees from Take Back the Air. Julie Mellum, of Take Back the Air, has e-mailed a document that we can use to spread the word about wood smoke's impact on air quality and health. --- Most wood burning devices for in-home heating (fireplaces and stoves) lose more heat than what they provide, thus losing the homeowner money.

The issue was also brought up at the League of Women Voters Air Quality Forum on 2/24/11 by Lisa Herschberger of the PCA and others. The PCA also has a fact sheet on wood smoke. R. T. Rybak was queried about his position on this, and he agreed that the impact of wood smoke on air quality is a problem that needs to be addressed. He favors public education as a first approach.

Please note a recent New York Times article. Mark Sulander has sent this article to interested parties, and we highly recommend reading it and sharing it with others. See:  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/01/20/garden/20fire.html?src=me&ref=general>

The Committee recommended education for the neighborhood about violations of woodfire ordinances and the deleterious health effects of woodsmoke. We also wish to advocate for more efficient woodburning devices for indoor heating, since the great majority of older fireplaces and stoves are inefficient and lose more heat out the chimney than they provide to the home. We also wish to discourage outdoor woodburning.

**Has the SNG Board voted to support this and to pass our concerns along to our councilperson (for consideration by the City)? We would suggest that a staff person from Environmental Services attend a future meeting to discuss this with attendees.** We are also using Click-Fix to communicate with city staff about this.

<http://www.seclickfix.com/search?q=woodsmoke&at=Minneapolis%2C+MN>

----No update

### **Waste Reduction - Seward Neighborhood Enhanced Recycling and Curbside Compost Collections Project Updates - Mike Trdan**

If you are not yet participating in the Compost Collection Pilot Study, contact Minneapolis Solid Waste and Recycling to sign up (**Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling Customer Service (612) 673-2917**)

A map of the Enhanced Recycling Pilot Area and information about the notification letter and reminder campaign (this weekend) have been sent to everyone on the Environment Committee list. What other questions remain as to the marketing, start dates, and SNG funding/responsibilities for this program? Evidently the plan is to send letters to residents in the "Enhanced Recycling area on March 15 and to start the program some time around the end of March.

Mike presented figures on the results of the waste sort. Questions still remain on this project: Has the baseline been established? Are some funds being allocated to Seward to support our part in encouraging our neighbors to participate? We strongly advocate for more feedback to the neighborhood on the answers to these questions. We were concerned that:

1. The dollar amount coming to Seward directly or indirectly for the pilot program cover the neighborhood's costs for outreach efforts. The program should be effectively marketed, so that it will accurately demonstrate the significant waste reduction that occurs with enhanced recycling and composting. This can, we believe, postpone any need to expand garbage burning at HERC (see below).
2. The number of Green Corp graduate student hours that will be allocated for work on the Seward pilot program be sufficient to require no added staff expense or volunteer time from SNG and Seward residents.

3. Mike is communicating with a student interested in assisting with this project and who attended the 1/23/11 meeting. Any more information about this?--- Please check your mail (check the map to see if you are in the Enhanced Pilot Recycling Program area) for an invitation to participate in the Seward Longfellow pilot. Make a container selection (most people prefer the 2-cart set) and send in the mail-back card indicating you will participate.

Composting Pilot – Check out the special green bins in alleys north of 26th St. and west of 33rd Ave. Almost all the households on 38th and 37th Avenues are composting. Way to go!!

Wormbox composting - Seward neighbors Chester Wilson and Rick & Carol Greenwood gave a presentation about wormbox composting at the last Green Drinks event at Trotter's Cafe. Hundreds of pounds of coffee grounds are consumed by the hungry little critters at the University of St. Thomas community garden that provides food for local food shelves. Chester supervises research and instructs students in the biology program at St. Thomas.

R. T. Rybak is encouraging neighborhood composting programs, in case you don't have the resources in your yard or household. The Hub of Heaven Community Garden is looking into hosting a composting workshop, and we have proposed assisting them with the costs. (see above)

## **Renewable Energy**

**Matthews Center Solar Installation** - Rick Greenwood - Updates? ---Currently the solar computer must be left in Administrative Mode to collect and display data. Rick would like it be able to display the data in non-administrative mode as well. This is a problem that Rick will need to work on and contact Heliotronics about. Unfortunately, the operator can't view the data in any other than the administrative mode. The computer **should not** be left in administrative mode because it can't be password protected from unauthorized access to the system files.

DISCUSS - Recommendations for expenditures. All the new equipment has been installed: replacement hard drive and new memory card. The operating system (Windows XP Home) and Heliotronics sunserver has been installed. Large amounts of “bloatware” has been removed from the computer, and other software fixes were put in to improve data storage and transfer.

Possible addition of panels to Matthews - lease from Solar Flow, with new and improved graphics? Check out their website to get an idea of what they can do. This (hopefully) is the data from Jeff Sommers place on E. 25th St: (<http://enlighten.enphaseenergy.com/public/systems/FnfF4451>) Erik Rehm, MPS, says that the installation at Kroening Nature Center was delayed by the early snow. He will check out the previous engineering study done at Matthews to see if the structure can support another 1 kWh array of PV panels. [Not discussed due to time limitations.]

**Make Mine Solar H2O Program** (bulk buying program for solar hot water heating) - Dustin Dennison is a contact person for this. - The obligation of SNG to partner with this program is merely to distribute informational material electronically using our regular channels. The “Make Mine Solar H2O” staff will prepare and send it to us. They would also like opportunities to provide information at community events. We have approved providing NRP Environment/Energy funds to incentivize homeowners to participate in this program, but need a go-ahead from the SNG Board. (See above discussion in Budget section) Contact Dustin Dennison if you have questions. ([dustin@AppliedEnergyInnovations.org](mailto:dustin@AppliedEnergyInnovations.org)).

Note that a similar program was carried out in Southeast Como through their NRP program. Report at: <http://www.greeninstitute.org/pdf/Solar%20Pioneers.pdf> Other neighborhoods are signing on to Make Mine Solar H2O.

We need a volunteer to arrange a solar H2O workshop, which would include information about

solar domestic hot water heating and space heating. Terry Barnes indicated an interest in doing this. We need a date and venue, and contacts to circulate information about the workshop. Terry Barnes was not at the meeting, so no update.

**Solar at Seward Montessori (and three other Minneapolis schools)** - On 1/14/11 Carol talked to Clyde Kane (668-0274 - Minneapolis school board Facilities) about this. The panels were installed last fall, and MPS planned a ribbon cutting with a rep of the funder, Walmart Foundation, but the early snow discouraged them from carrying through. They had workshops in November to train teachers in using the data from the panels. (Check [solarschools.org/Walmart-Foundation](http://solarschools.org/Walmart-Foundation)) Joe Alfano, MPS, is in charge of curriculum development. Green Circuit is the contractor. Formerly out of Minneapolis, they are now working in Chicago and plan to office in LosVegas. You can contact Emily Lowther in MSP communications for more information. [Not discussed due to time limitations.]

**Solar in the Parks** - Solar projects are planned for parks in Minneapolis, to be installed this spring. See above.

Carrie: We need residents to decrease usage brownouts, blackouts, transformer explosions, etc.

### **Updates for ongoing projects**

**Hiawatha Power Line Plans** -- Carrie Anne Johnson offered to provide additional information about community meetings and opportunities for citizen input on the Certificate of Need process. She plans on getting the certificate of need document from recent hearings about this issue and keeping it at Phillips Park Center in order to act as a guide to help people understand the certificate. She also wants to hold meetings about this issue to explain how organizations can also file for the certificate.

- The SNG Board officially objects to powerlines on the Greenway. An open house was held several times on 3/16 to give citizen access to Xcel plans for the Certificate of Need (CON) they are required to provide to the public.

- Tim Springer provides this update: “The CON process is separate from the route decision, for which a recommendation has been made to go underground. The CON process is about whether Xcel can even do the transmission project at all....in Xcel's CON application they ruled out alternatives to the lines by assessing them individually rather than assessing a bundle of alternatives that could, when added together, potentially address the electricity needs in the area. Xcel has a responsibility by state law to assess alternatives and it is unacceptable that they have made a meaningless attempt to do so. The CON application can be called up from the PUC's web site at:  
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=30489>
- For example, various strategies that may, when added together, serve local electricity needs include aggressive approaches to residential conservation, commercial conservation, residential and commercial solar, residential or commercial or utility-run off-peak storage, commercial co-generation (producing heat and power together on-site), other forms of on-site power generation, and smart grid to stimulate this and tie it all together.

“These are all preferable to increasing transmission capacity and necessitating increases down the road in electricity generation elsewhere through fossil fuels, nukes, big hydro, etc. The state and PUC should hold Xcel responsible. If there are concerns about improving the power supply ASAP, there are ways to do that in the interim to serve the local residential and business communities, while an appropriate long term solution is implemented (we don't want our local business community to suffer, but rather be engaged in the solutions as a way to benefit their

bottom line ;...they are already engaging in this discussion).

“Finally, COUNT YOUR OWN KILOWATT HOURS. This can be fun and interesting. If we are all to be a part of the solution we must each take responsibility to decrease our electricity consumption. Knowing what you use is the starting point. At my house we use about 125 kilowatt hours in low-use months and about 350 kilowatt hours in high-use months. Challenge yourselves, challenge me, and challenge Xcel and the State of Minnesota.

“The link to the State of Minnesota's announcement for the public meetings tomorrow (also tells how you can comment in writing up until April 6, 2011 on the scope of the Environmental Report the state will write):

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/documents/30489/FINAL%20Notice%20to%20interested%20persons%20ER%20Scoping%20Meeting.pdf>

**None of the following topics EXCEPT FOR TRANSITION TOWNS were discussed due to time limitations.**

**HERC expansion** – Representatives from a number of neighborhoods that would be affected by increased burning at the incinerator were videotaped at the South East Como Improvement Association Offices for a History Channel Production, Operation Infrastructure. The HERC expansion was also discussed at the Air Quality Forum (see above). R. T. Rybak was queried on this also. He agreed that with more aggressive recycling and composting, thus eliminating the need for expansion of HERC. The SNG Board is on record opposing this expansion.

**Power pole issues** – Any updates? The SNG Board is on record encouraging further discussion of this issue with Xcel by the EnvComm.

**Problems with City Inspection approaches to yard and garden regulation** - We need a recommendation to send to the SNG Board to pass on to our city council in regard to aspects of these problems. We strongly recommend that someone from Inspections be requested to attend an Environment Committee Meeting to lay out the various code “violations” they ticket relating to yards, gardens, and household exteriors, and ways for residents to receive assistance by the deadline. We secondly recommend that the ticketed resident be given three weeks from the postmark of the notice (All Notices should be Mailed) to comply.

**Windsorce** Xcel has proposed to the PUC that the Windsorce charge be upped to \$5.00 per 100/kWh. We think this is highly unreasonable. What can we do to object to this? Note that Windsorce was cheap for August and September--\$ .62 per 100 kWh in August and \$ .97 per 100 kWh in September instead of the nominal \$3.53 per 100 kWh. Charges for October were \$1.27 per kWh—still much less than \$3.53. The January charge was \$ .91 per kWh. February was \$1.10 per additional kWh. Forty eight Seward residents signed on to Windsorce as part of their Energy Challenge. How about all you other Windsorce users? Sign up with our team for the Energy Challenge. We have Windsorce window clings for your house or car. Contact Carol if you would like one.

Did you get your coupon booklet from Windsorce? Look for “Something Good Is In the Air”, a coupon booklet sent from Xcel to participating Windsorce subscribers to thank them for their support of green power and explaining some of the environmental benefits of wind power.

**Energy Challenge** - Seward is in 4th place on the Energy Challenge – But we've added 5 more team members. Good Job, neighbors. We now have 153 members, saving \$93,989 and preventing 1,066,083 lbs of CO2. Go to our team page to see what we're doing. See above for an update on our

CES Workshop numbers. Go to:

[http://www.mnenergychallenge.org/Teams/Neighborhoods/Seward\\_Mpls.aspx](http://www.mnenergychallenge.org/Teams/Neighborhoods/Seward_Mpls.aspx)  
to see how we're doing.

We need a techy guru to help Mike Rollin install an Energy Challenge Widget on the Environment page. <http://www.sng.org/env.html> Check out our links and reports.

**Energy Challenge Signs: Please do not throw away, if you still have one.** They are reusable. If you have a sign, please post it when the snow is gone (if you can find it under our retreating glaciers). If you are NOT going to post your sign, please contact Carol who will try and get it picked up. If you want a sign, contact Carol. We have 2 left. [carolwood@comcast.net](mailto:carolwood@comcast.net) The heavy snowplow mountains have been very hard on the signs. Also, some people have reported them stolen. Who knows, they may be considered a collectors item.

**Green Space/Local Food** - Any updates re Community Garden (Hub of Heaven), Peace Garden, Growing Lots Urban Farm (see: <http://growinglots.blogspot.com/>) Great video tour on the Profile site. Any parkland or commercial greenspace updates? Plans for spring at these projects? Mayor Rybak would like to see community composting sites in each neighborhood. We need the good soil that comes from compost to reinvigorate our local food gardens.

**Growing Lots Urban Farm:** Update from Urban farmer Stephan? Stephan plans to operate the farm again this coming growing season. Local Compost/Anaerobic digestion project? Katya Pilling, ReDesign, says they have put their plans for this on the back burner. Although Linden Hills Power and Light applied for funding for an anaerobic digestion project, it got turned down in January by the LCCCMR 2010 grant rounds.. LHP&L indicate they have a site selected and permitted.

**CSA Fair at Seward Coop** – On Saturday, April 16. <http://www.seward.coop/2011-csa-fair> Everybody is welcome.

**Homegrown Minneapolis** – Any updates? We link to this on the Environment Page.

**Transition Towns - Sustainability – Peak Everything** [Websites for Transition Phillips needed]

**Alliance for Sustainability** is sponsoring an event on April 8 & 9 to focus on Sustainability, Transition, and Resilience at the local level. Neighbor Kevin Barnes is working on the planning committee for this.

**Local Government Sustainability Workshop 12:00 to 5:00 4/8/11**

**Annual Neighborhood Sustainability Conference – 8:30 to 4:30 4/9/11**

Keynotes by Rob Hopkins, Krista Leraas

preregister for one, the other, or both at:

[www.nonprofitoffice.com/2011ConferenceRegistration](http://www.nonprofitoffice.com/2011ConferenceRegistration)

Both events at: Central Lutheran Church, 333 12th St. S. Mpls. (next to convention center)

The Environment Committee was a co-sponsor of the Neighborhood Sustainability Networking Fair - “Building Resilient Communities: Preparing Together for a Changed World--Transition Towns & Neighborhood Sustainability Networking Fair” on 11/13/10. In addition to publicizing the event, we hosted a table with information about SNG and Environment Committee projects. Carol led a discussion about our projects and opportunities for neighbors to become more active and contribute to neighborhood sustainability. Many Seward residents attended to hear the speaker, and about 8 stayed to participate in the discussion. The Transition Town concept includes increasing local economic and social self reliance, reduced need for food, transportation, energy, and other resources and more sharing of skills and equipment. John Harkness started a resource list and e-mailed it out to participants. Did

anyone else follow up?

Corinne Bruning sent this message. She lives and participates in the Phillips Transition Town Group. They had an event on 2/26 from 11:00 to 1:00. They planned to swap plants and talk about energy issues and events in the community. They have working groups focusing on FOOD, COMMUNITY ARTS, ENERGY, and COMMUNITY BUILDING

**Meeting Adjourns**

**Check the SNG website at [www.sng.org](http://www.sng.org),  
for further information contact Carol at [carolgwood@comcast.net](mailto:carolgwood@comcast.net)**