

30 December 2007

(Lights Out article for Argus Champion)

Lights Out!

When the New London Energy Committee says, “Lights Out”, they’re not referring to an Ali-to-Foreman Rumble in the Jungle punch. Instead, they want you, New London Area residents and businesses, to deliver a sucker punch to Global Warming. Amid Committee ruminations and mutterings about energy audits, idling policies and wind turbines, they are issuing a challenge to reduce carbon emissions for one 90-minute period by 50%. The goals are simple and lofty – save our towns, save our planet. Atmospheric carbon beware! You and your molecular friends are in for some body blows on February 21st.

But wait, you say, there’s a total lunar eclipse on February 21st. Ahhh, what better reason than that to turn off your lights and get outside and enjoy the night sky? And while you’re at it, why not turn off the TV, turn down the thermostat and let the only emissions be those coming from your own mouth as you enjoy the company of your family and neighbors.

“We’re asking our citizens and businesses to take the Lights Out pledge,” says Committee Chairperson Chet Reynolds, “and join us in the struggle against Global Warming. This is partly a symbolic effort but we hope that it will set us on the path to reduced consumption of fossil fuels and reduced carbon emissions.”

In the 2007 Town Meeting, citizens voted to create an Energy Committee with a charter to help the Town and residents save energy and reduce emissions. The Lights Out program is modeled after similar events in Australia and San Francisco. The Committee hopes to encourage citizens to join in a fun and meaningful event to raise awareness and to make a difference. Darkened skies, silent televisions, lunar eclipses, Earth sounds, bedtime stories, who knows what we may discover?

Lights Out pledge cards are available at the Town Offices, Transfer Station, Tracy Library and Colonial Place. For more information, contact Energy Committee members Mark Vernon (mtvernon@tds.net, 526-9243) or Hardy Hasenfuss (hardy@nlmcoach.com, 763-9770)

We’re in this together. Take the Pledge!