Looking Ahead

We are in the midst of planning our activities for the coming year. Look for our schedule of events in our February newsletter. Be assured that we will abide by the safest covid protocols possible.

We are excited to announce that we will be introducing our energy efficiency assessment program in Lackawanna County during the summer of 2022, thanks to a grant from the Robert H. Spitz Foundation. Residents of Lackawanna County may contact us if interested in having a home assessment at info@seedsgroup.net. We will also continue to offer assessments to residents of Wayne and Pike Counties.
We wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday season. Please, everyone, be gentle and kind to your family, friends, and neighbors, and the biosphere that surrounds us all.

Happy reading,

Katharine Dodge
SEEDS Chair

Local News

SEEDS on WVIA TV on December 6th!

Tune in to WVIA public TV on December 6th at 7 PM for The Keystone Edition. Our executive director Olga Trushina will be part of a panel discussing:

- Energy-saving incentives that are being offered to businesses and consumers
- Costs/benefits and pros/cons for businesses and consumers that are looking at sustainability
- Challenges businesses might face in moving toward sustainability
- Practical things businesses and consumers can do right now to start moving toward a more sustainable model

SEEDS Thanks

Thank you, Volunteers!

Heidi Finkelberg and Pete Snyder put in many hours helping board members Sue Currier, Jenna Mauder and Kathy Dodge put our year-end letters in the mail.
Dear All,

Ten SEEDS friends have joined together to match donations to SEEDS by the end of December up to $6,000. I think that is an amazing testament to the value people see in our organization. We hope you will help us surpass this goal with your donation. This annual appeal is our biggest source of income, which we use very wisely.

I am so proud of everyone at SEEDS. Here is what we were able to do this year, thanks to donors like you:

- Twelve SEEDS volunteers helped install 294 solar panels at different sites this year for a total of 120.5 kW. Wow!

- Fifty volunteers helped process 30,000 books at the SEEDS annual book swap. 17,000 of those books found new homes. Unclaimed books were recycled rather than sent to landfills.

- Our radio and podcast series *Today’s Main Ingredient* launched to thousands locally. Each episode showcases local farmers and chefs sharing their knowledge with home gardeners and home cooks about using local produce in healthy and delicious ways. Find all episodes at TodaysMainIngredient.org.

- We enhanced our website, seedsgroup.net, to be a more valuable resource. Oh, and that is where you can give your donation online: check out the new donation categories and premiums.

- We posted a variety of fun and educational videos on our YouTube channel.
Executive Director Olga Trushina will be returning soon from maternity leave. Please join us in welcoming our newest and youngest SEEDS member, little Ludmila!

We hired Shannon Cilento, part-time Outreach Assistant, to substantially boost our educational efforts.

We advocated for renewable energy legislation, especially community solar, which would allow people whose homes or pocketbooks are not suited for solar to buy into local solar power.

We launched a new solar energy blog, Solar Buyer Beware, authored by our solar guru, Jack Barnett.

Jacob Mohring was awarded the annual Jake Burkhardt College Scholarship. Read more about it here.

The Stourbridge Solar Project won the Northeast Environmental Partners award! This public-private partnership with the Clean Energy Co-op and Wayne County government of a 33.2kW solar array will offset about 5 tons of coal annually. The Co-op was a 2013 spin-off of SEEDS. Read more here.

With your continued support we can exceed these accomplishments next year. Please give today!
Every dollar is appreciated. Donors at our sustainer level ($250.00 +) are eligible to receive a signed, limited-edition print on archival paper called “Wild & Wonderful World of Books” which I made for our SEEDS Reads program. Donors at our advocate level ($100.00 +), can get a SEEDS Reads tote bag (while supplies last).

Sincerely,

Katharine Dodge
SEEDS Chair

#SEEDSGoodNews

Covering Canals with Solar Panels is a Power Move

Solar-paneling canals would produce renewable energy for use across states, and run water systems. In California alone, the panels would save 63 billion gallons of water from evaporating each year. And it would help increasingly hot southwestern states and Texas, which learned the hard way this year that it needs to overhaul its energy system.

Solar-paneling California’s canals could also prepare the state for the widespread adoption of electric cars. The California Aqueduct runs along Interstate 5, the major traffic artery between the northern and southern halves of the state. In the future, car-charging stations could draw power from the nearby aqueduct and replace gas stations. In water-stressed regions of the world with open canals, this makes a lot of sense. To learn more, see this article from Wired.com.
--Jan Goodwin
SEEDS Volunteer

More #SEEDSGoodNews
Funding for charging stations, and funding for mass transit including rail service.
President Biden signed into law the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act on November 15th.
“Pennsylvania will receive tens of billions of dollars to improve and build new roads, bridges, public transportation, rail service, broadband, and safe water systems. This landmark legislation makes the largest investment in our Nation's infrastructure in generations.”
--Senator Bob Casey
$11.3 billion for roads and highways and $1.6 billion for bridge repair and replacement

$2.8 billion for public transportation

Replacement of the 160,000 lead service lines in Pennsylvania

$171 million to expand electric vehicle charging networks

$100 million to expand broadband internet

More than $3 billion for abandoned mine reclamation
#SEEDSGoodNews

Do a few simple things during this month that will make a big difference

- Wear a mask in public places as an example for others, even if you are vaccinated.

- Turn your thermostat down two degrees, and wear a sweater in the house like Mr. Rogers.

- Drive less and walk more.

- Replace every single one of your old-style light bulbs with LEDs.

- Eat less meat (except for locally harvested venison).

- Read a book authored by Wendell Berry.

- Do one small or large insulation project in your house or apartment.

- Encourage someone who isn't vaccinated to get the vaccine.

- Contemplate holiday traditions in terms of value to you and the Earth.

- Share this list with some other people.
Peace from,
Dave Falvo
Energy Circle member

If you are not a member of SEEDS, please consider joining us today!
You can use this link to share our membership page with others:
https://seedsgroup.net/become-a-member/

You will continue to receive our newsletters, invitations to our educational forums and other events. Members are eligible for free solar evaluations, have voting rights at our annual meeting, and help shape our programs and initiatives. For more information visit our website at www.seedsgroup.net.

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