

## **Thetford Energy Committee**

Thetford participated in the Vermont Home Energy Challenge in order to increase the number of weatherized homes in town. The TEC organized a Challenge forum, worked with Thetford Elementary School on a pledge card drive for TES families, trained volunteers to do Home Energy Visits, followed up with residents who had previously done energy audits, promoted the program at the Recycling Center with a drawing for prizes funded by a mini-grant from Efficiency Vermont, and offered open home tours of weatherized properties so that interested residents could learn more about the process and benefits.

The TEC extended its Thetford HEAT program, which trains and coordinates volunteers helping homeowners weatherize properties to increase comfort and reduce fuel bills. The committee applied for several grants to help pay for weatherization efforts and received funding from the Vermont Community Foundation and Ben and Jerry's. The Thetford HEAT program was honored with the award for best community energy project in the state at the Vermont Energy & Climate Action Network conference.

The TEC researched possible solar electric options for both the elementary school and the town and will continue to support efforts in this area in 2014, as well as programs to assist individual homeowners interested in solar.

The TEC continued its work to make biking a more viable transportation option. Bike racks were obtained and installed through a grant at the Latham Library, Peabody Library, Town Hall, and the Town green. The TEC and volunteers staffed a bike tuneup event at Cedar Circle Farm's annual Strawberry festival. The TEC thanks Wells River Savings Bank and the Baptist Church in East Thetford for providing parking for bike commuters.

Other activities included working with town garage staff to review and begin implementing recommendations from the energy audit of the garage and continuing our Warmth in the Winter series of movies and speakers at the First Congregational Church of Thetford. The TEC also teamed with the Vermont Department of Public Safety, Efficiency Vermont, and the Norwich Energy Committee to present a well-attended training course for contractors, architects, realtors, bankers and other professionals on the Vermont Residential Building Standards.