

## FAIRLEE ENERGY COMMITTEE 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

In 2012, the Fairlee Energy Committee (FEC) chose to focus on establishing priorities for energy savings in Fairlee's municipal buildings: the Town Hall, the Library and the Emergency Building. Our goal was to reduce the buildings' energy use, and in doing so, reduce the cost of their electricity and heating. The committee, led by Jon Haehnel, performed energy audits of the Town Hall in 2009, the Emergency Building in 2010 and the Library in 2012. The committee sought and received a \$2,500 grant from New Hampshire based Clean Air-Cool Planet to be used to insulate the Library's basement and provide some air sealing. We used Building Energy, a certified "*Building Performance*" firm that collaborates with Efficiency Vermont, which offers rebates for demonstrated energy efficiency improvements. The committee also worked with the Library Board and the Selectboard to have capital funds cover some of air sealing and basement wall insulation in the Library and basement wall insulation in the Town Hall. Part of the post-flood restoration of the Town Hall included insulation of the 1<sup>st</sup> floor exterior walls, which was another FEC weatherization priority for the Town Hall. Current estimates for the Town Hall are that weatherization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor will result in energy savings.

The committee also participated in Efficiency Vermont's statewide Home Energy Performance program that offered Fairlee residents home energy audits, with recommendations on the most cost effective home weatherization actions. Information about the program was shared at Town Meeting, via the Fairlee Listserv, at the dump, and via phone calls to residents. This program offered incentives up to \$2,600. Efficiency Vermont will reward towns with the greatest participation with \$10,000 for weatherization upgrades for municipal buildings. More momentum is needed in Fairlee to participate in this program to save residents money and to keep homes warm and comfortable.

The committee looks forward to collaborating to continue weatherizing the Town Hall in 2014. We also look forward to working with residents to address the many and varied ways to save the Town money by reducing our electricity and heating costs. Contact [barbara.duncan@valley.net](mailto:barbara.duncan@valley.net) for more information about the energy committee's activities. We welcome your participation in the committee.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jon Haehnel, Bill Weale, Bob Wertheimer  
Barbara Duncan, Chair