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Education Subcommittee Meeting

June 16th @ 8:00am

Planning Library

3rd Floor

75 Calhoun St.

([CARTA Route 201](#) or [210](#))

*Energy Efficiency Partnership Update*

An energy efficiency program in Charleston is intended to create a one-stop-shop for business and homeowners to fulfill all their energy efficiency and savings needs, including information, energy audits and having their home or building assessed, finding appropriate contractors to do the work, and understanding their options for financing energy efficiency improvements. A key feature of the program is to offer loans on the efficiency improvements that provide a **net reduction** in utility costs and actually leave more dollars in the citizens' savings. This program will also promote economic development, drive job creation and help attract green industry to our City.



City Council will consider various aspects of this proposal on June 15 at 4:30 pm during the Ways and Means Committee and City Council which is held at Charleston City Hall, which is located at 80 Broad Street, [.CARTA Route 201](#)

The agenda will consider the approval of:

- grant application for \$500,000 to Home Depot Foundation to Expand Local Energy Efficiency Jobs Training Program and Performance Test Low- to Moderate-Income Homes
- accept \$250,000 grant from Living Cities (Rockefeller Foundation) to support launch of community energy efficiency partnership and
- approve \$400,000 contract with Abundant Power to design and administer a community energy efficiency partnership.

**A penny saved is a penny earned.** That is one way to think of the Green Business Challenge, because any savings go back 100% into the business with no overhead. The Green Business Challenge is a checklist of voluntary measures that businesses can take, saving them pennies to thousands of dollars while reducing their energy, water and waste consumption. The draft check list (our “scorecard”) is available online at [www.SustainabilityInstituteSC.org](http://www.SustainabilityInstituteSC.org). (Click on the Link for the GBC).



Any business or institution can sign up for the challenge, from “mom-and-pop” home offices to major institutions like MUSC. Join City Hall, Wonder Works, WOK, MUSC, Holiday Inn Express Mt. Pleasant and many, many more in taking the challenge. Sign ups are encouraged in time for the Charleston Green Fair’s Best In Green and Local Expo. Interested business should contact Eric Berman at 720 1980 or email [planintern@charleston-sc.gov](mailto:planintern@charleston-sc.gov).

### The 3/50 Project



**3:** What three independently-owned businesses would you miss if they disappeared? Stop in...say hello...pick up something that brings you a smile. Your purchases are what keeps those businesses around.

**50:** If half of all the employed population spent \$50 each month in locally owned independent businesses, it would generate more than \$42.6 billion in revenue.

**1:** How many people it takes to start the trend- YOU.

For every \$100 spent in locally owned independent stores, \$68 returns to the community through taxes, payroll and other expenditures.

Read more at [http://www.the350project.net/dine\\_local\\_home.html](http://www.the350project.net/dine_local_home.html)

### Developers Plan Bicycle-only Subdivision in SC

Two developers in Columbia are planning a subdivision where bicycles will be the only form of wheeled transportation (cars would have to be parked just outside the community). The development is planned to start with 10 homes near Gaston (about 15 miles south of Columbia). The neighborhood will have no asphalt, just several miles of bike trails. It would include fishing ponds and environmentally-friendly homes. Owners would be encouraged to use solar and wind energies to power their homes. The first homes are expected to range from 800 to 1,600 square feet and cost about \$200,000, with construction anticipated to start this fall.



### Encouraging Results from Climate Change Survey

sity study pertaining to public ideas about global warming. In the last week, 1,000 randomly selected American adults were asked if they thought the earth's temperature had been heating up over the last 100 years: 74% responded yes. When asked if human behavior was the primary cause, 75% believed it to be the case. A whole 860 people out of 1000 wanted to federal government to limit the amount of air pollution that businesses emit. Huge majorities favored government requiring (or offering tax breaks) to encourage manufacturers to reduce electricity use or fossil fuel use of their products.

The City of Charleston is planning on implementing a similar survey on Saturday, June 12th at Piccolo Spoleto's Unity Day. We seek to understand the beliefs on climate change of a cross-section of Charlestonians. The information would better help us to implement elements of the Green Plan, the Green Business Challenge, and other initiatives.

Learn more at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/09/opinion/09krosnick.html?hp>

### Green Tip of the Week:

There are so many easy ways to go green in your home. Most modern everyday appliances have ways to help reduce your environmental impact in ways you may not even realize!



**Turn the dial to cold!** Instead of running your clothes in warm or hot water, simply turn your washer's dial to cold. With most clothes, you really don't need hot water to get a good cleaning. Ninety percent of the energy used by washing machines goes into the heating cycle. *The higher the temperature, the more electricity used, the more fossil fuels burned, and the more money spent .*

**Use "Energy Saver" options** Most appliances have energy saving options, instead of heated dry cycles and hot water usage. Take advantage of them, they can save money, energy, and the environment.



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