

- Plainfield Elementary School as an excellent education option for children of faculty.
 - Fifteen (15) KUA faculty-children (living on campus) and attend PES.
- Plainfield Elementary School as an academic source for some of KUA's most well-rounded students.
- Full-time municipal staffed building with supported Planning and Zoning offices helps to facilitate efficient local approvals for KUA's various campus projects.
- Full-time Police Department to assist with student and staff issues.
- Access to two local fire departments, with six, in-town firefighting vehicles.
- Plainfield's strong commitment to conservation and set-aside land projects. A vast public trail network provides ample outdoor recreational opportunities for KUA students and faculty.
- Plainfield's continued commitment to rural zoning maintains the rural agricultural-based environment that is touted in KUA's marketing.

- **Streetlights**

At the request of the town's Select Board, your committee discussed the night-time safety of the crosswalks on Main Street. The Select Board has received numerous concerns from residents about the limited visibility when students are crossing the roadway during night-time conditions. Kimball Union has agreed to enhance the streetlights along Main Street. Kimball Union assumed the responsibility for these lights some years ago as part of a campus-wide lighting project approved by the Plainfield Planning Board.

- **Meriden Post Office**

The USPS has recommended closure of over 3,500 rural post offices throughout the nation. We are extremely fortunate that KUA has now renewed the lease for the Meriden Post Office, which should guarantee the post office stays in Meriden for the next five years, with an option to renew for an additional five years.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Yacavone-Chair, Shelley Andrews, Eric Brann, Betsy Duany, Myra Ferguson-PES School Board, Jim Gray-KUA, Steve Halleran-Town Administrator, Robyn Hadlock, Rob Hewett, Joe Williams-KUA.

Plainfield KUA Committee 2011/12

ENERGY COMMITTEE- 2011

A highlight of 2011 was the Upper Valley Energy Expo, produced by the Town of Plainfield Energy Committee. On Saturday, January 29, 2011 our Elementary School was a scene of high energy and interest as our second expo got underway.

The focus of the day for most participants was the schedule of workshops on a range of subjects, from biofuels to weatherization. Lee Lynd, a Plainfield resident, Professor of Engineering at Dartmouth's Thayer School and a founder of the Mascoma Corporation, gave a keynote address to an enthusiastic crowd outlining his perspectives on the necessary transition to sustainable energy.

Other speakers included Mike Higgins and Allan Ferguson of the Plainfield School Facilities Committee, who described the dramatic energy-saving changes to some of the school classrooms; Bob Walker of SERG who provided a popular "Button Up"

workshop; Kim Quirk of the Enfield Energy Emporium who spoke about her retrofit of an historic property; Paul Leveille and Dick Henry of the Jordan Institute who provided a session on green building; Bill Cable of Cornish who spoke about his own on- and off-grid solar and wind systems; and Ted Emerson of South Face Design Build, who focused on solar thermal systems.

The gym was home to exhibits which included vendors of weatherization and renewable energy products, as well as non-profit and governmental groups with information on planning, transportation, building, and community energy challenges, and local energy and transition town committees.

Finally, Plainfield Elementary School students provided food and bike blender smoothies for this event, adding to the community spirit.

During the summer and early fall, the Energy Committee promoted and sold raffle tickets for a free home energy “audit” or assessment. Bill and Liz Taylor bought some chances and won the raffle and their home energy audit was performed on November 22 by Will Davis of Radiant Energy. Other prizes included a cord of wood and energy efficient light bulbs, both generously donated by the Rogers Family.

During the fall, the Energy Committee helped to promote a Green Buildings Tour which was coordinated by the New England Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA) and held on October 1, 2011. Local participants included Townline Equipment, which showcased its photovoltaic array, and Dave and Sue Taylor, who provided a tour of their innovative and energy efficient home on Freeman Road.

The Plainfield Library and the Town Garage are among a group of buildings in New Hampshire chosen for demonstration audits by the NH-LAX program. Both have gone through intense inspections and at the time of this writing we are awaiting the reports which will be available to the Town and the subject of an open meeting in the spring of 2012.

The Energy Committee has also taken advantage of services offered by the Energy Technical Assistance and Planning program (ETAP), which helps us track the energy use of our municipal buildings. We are still in the process of collecting and entering data and hope to have some useful tools for town planning in the near future. Our ETAP enrollment provided a free energy audit of the Town Office and Police Station. Results of this assessment are expected by February, 2012.

Members of your Energy Committee will be mapping the town streetlights and discussing options with our multiple utilities to determine whether our current configuration represents the best use of the town’s energy dollars. If you have concerns or comments about light placement, timing, brightness or any other related issues, please let us know.

As always, the Energy Committee welcomes ideas for projects, reports of successful energy conservation efforts, questions about products, services, funding, etc.- and especially new members! For further details about our activities and mission, please see our pages on the Town website.

Submitted by
Nancy Magielnicki, Chair