

# MELROSE

## ENERGY COMMISSION

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### Energy Fair provides diverse approaches

The fourth annual Melrose Energy Fair, held Nov. 8 at Memorial Hall, drew more than 200 area residents, providing a wide array of approaches to energy efficiency by vendors, speakers and films.

The Energy Fair was organized and hosted by the Melrose Energy Commission (MEC), a group of Melrose citizens who are volunteering their time to help the city and its residents save energy. National Grid sponsored the event.

Among the several dozen exhibits were displays about the recently installed solar panels at the Melrose Middle School and the new heating and air conditioning system at Memorial Hall. Films describing these projects were shown during the last hour of the fair (and will also air on MMTV). Melrose was also represented by the City's recycling program, Cub Scout Pack 615's energy-efficiency panorama and a display by a local resident who is installing a solar-powered heating system in her home.

An MEC exhibit, staffed by member Gregg Aloï, explained how to use Kill-A-Watt meters to measure energy usage in the home. These meters are now available for loan at the Melrose Public Library.

Peter Pruyn, personally trained by Al Gore and the staff of The Climate Project, made a 90-minute presentation based on Gore's 2006 award-winning film about global warming, *An Inconvenient Truth*. Paul Eldrenkamp, a member of Governor Patrick's Zero Net Energy Buildings Task Force, gave an interesting, and highly practical, presentation about energy efficiency in older (historical) homes, which obviously had major relevance here in Melrose.

Covanta Energy accepted compact fluorescent light bulbs for disposal and exchanged mercury thermometers for digital models.

"This was the most diverse fair we've had to date," said Melrose Energy Commission Chair David Shakespeare. "The vendor exhibits covered just about everything, from solar power to green construction to geothermal systems and insulation. ENERGY STAR and the Mass Climate Action Network were here.

"Both of our speakers, Peter Pruyn and Paul Eldrenkamp, were excellent and the films provided an inside look at two of the City's important energy-saving projects. If you wanted to learn about energy efficiency, you could find something of interest at this year's fair."

For more information about the Melrose Energy Fair or the Melrose Energy Commission, call 781-662-2616 or contact the Commission by e-mail at [melroseenergy@yahoo.com](mailto:melroseenergy@yahoo.com). The Melrose Energy Commission meets monthly at City Hall; residents are welcome to attend and/or participate.