



Energy Efficiency Newsletter

May 2009

In This Issue

[May Calendar of Events](#)

[How Can Window Films Contribute to Sustainability and Green Initiatives?](#)

[Featured Product - Rechargeable Batteries](#)

Quick Links

[Store Location and Directions](#)

[News](#)

[Energy Analysis for Home and Business](#)

[Contact Us](#)



This month I have asked our friend Brad Hulett at [SolarTex, Inc.](#) to write an article about the benefits of solar window film. As summer approaches, now is the time to consider ways to cool your home more efficiently, and solar film is one of those ways.

We have also included an article on rechargeable batteries - this month's Featured Product. Be sure to check out the coupon at the bottom of the newsletter for a great deal on batteries and chargers. See the May Event Schedule for a list of "green" activities happening in Columbus and keep an eye out for an email from Watt Works about our Free Energy Saving Seminars that will resume in June.

Finally, on a serious note, if you have talked to us about lighting, you know we aren't big fans of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs). They are made poorly, do not last as long as they are supposed to and worst of all, they contain hazardous levels of mercury, a highly toxic chemical. The EPA has strict guidelines about what to do if you break a CFL in your home (to learn the proper steps to take, [click here](#)). But what about the people exposed to mercury during the manufacturing of CFLs? An article just published in London's Sunday Times investigates the effect the push to phase out incandescent bulbs is having on the health of the Chinese who manufacture them. To read the full article, [click here](#). I guess now would be a good time to remind you that [LED lighting](#) doesn't contain mercury...

May Calendar of Events

THURSDAY, MAY 7TH
7:30AM - 9:30AM

CENTRAL OHIO CLEAN ENERGY NETWORK MEETING

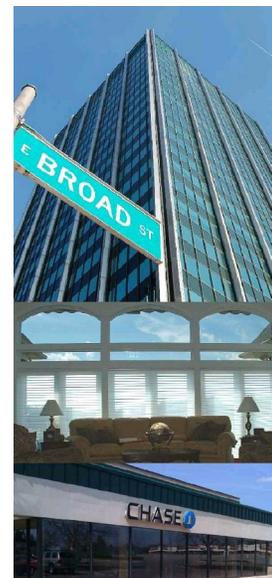
Ohio Consumers' Counsel Janine Migden-Ostrander will give a brief overview of the new RPS - Renewable Portfolio Standard rules and discuss her office's efforts to negotiate a standard contract with the utilities to purchase the RECs from customer-sited facilities. She will also touch on existing regulatory barriers to renewable energy development and will talk about how to get renewable energy installations financed and the options. The outlook for Ohio RECS - Renewable Energy Credits

➔ How Can Window Films Contribute to Sustainability and Green Initiatives?

By Brad Hulett, SolarTex, Inc.

Glass is one of the most susceptible areas in buildings and homes to the heating (and damaging) effects of the sun. Window films are designed to reduce the harmful effects of the sun by reducing solar heat gain, uncomfortable glare, and damaging UV rays, thereby dramatically increasing the solar performance of glass. The use of window films will give your windows added insulating value and increase comfort by eliminating hot and cold spots and by reducing energy consumption and resulting costs.

High performance film rejects up to 79% of the heat that would otherwise come through the windows. That can translate



will be reviewed by Ohio Farm Bureau Federation Energy Manager Dale Arnold. Please RSVP to GEO by Wednesday May 6, at Noon by calling 614-985-6131 or email sarah@greenenergyohio.org.
Ohio Governor's Residence & Heritage Garden, 358 North Parkview Ave., Columbus, OH

TUESDAY, MAY 12TH
11:30AM - 1:30PM

THE 2009 CENTRAL OHIO EMERALD AWARDS

Join the Solid Waste Authority of Central Ohio (SWACO) as they honor the best and most innovative waste reduction, recycling and litter prevention programs of 2008. Communities, organizations, businesses, schools, and individuals will be honored in six categories; Leadership, Partnership, Innovation, Entrepreneurship, Environmental Education, and Litter Clean up.

Tickets are \$35 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, [click here](#).

Aladdin Shrine at Easton, 3850 Stelzer Rd. Columbus, OH

TUESDAY, MAY 19TH
8:30AM - 5PM

GREEN BUILDING EXPO & GET GREEN BUSINESS CONFERENCE

The Sixth Annual Expo will be held concurrently with the Green Business Conference. Sponsored by the City of Columbus' Mayor's Green Team, the Green Business Conference is in its fourth year. It brings together local business leaders to position our region for Green business opportunities.

Ticket: \$25 for Green Business Conference (Half day), \$50 for Green Building Expo and Green Business Conference (Full day). (Lunch and refreshments included). Tradeshow is free & open to the public. For more information or to register, [click here](#).

Nationwide and Ohio Farm Bureau 4-H Center, Ohio State

into a savings of about one ton of air conditioning for every 100 square feet of glass!

More importantly, in light of recent initiatives to focus on how we can all support and sustain the environment, applying window film affords you the opportunity to upgrade your facility or home and make it more eco-friendly. This opportunity to demonstrate environmental leadership can earn your building LEED credit toward becoming a sustainable, green building.

Other benefits of applying window films include increasing glass safety, improving occupant comfort, alleviating heating and cooling imbalances, and improving building aesthetics and marketability.

Some frequently asked questions about window film installation:

1) Will applying window film make my home or building look like a mirror?

Not necessarily. We offer a number of types of window film products including, clear films, non-reflective ceramic films, low-reflective films, as well as traditional, metalized films. While there are varying degrees of heat and glare reduction depending on the choice of film, all of our films reduce 99% of the damaging UV rays, which is the primary contributor to fading. Our goal is to offer the best film product to your unique, individual situation.

2) Is there any kind of a guarantee or warranty if I choose to apply film to my windows?

Yes. Our window films come with a lifetime warranty in residential applications and a 10-15 year warranty in commercial applications. The warranty covers the material and labor and guarantees that the film won't chip, crack, bubble, peel, delaminate, or discolor. As such, window film application is typically a long-term investment in the performance, protection and beautification of your glass.

3) What about glass breakage or seal failure? What assurance do I have that these problems won't occur?

Our window film warranties typically include 5 years of glass fracture and 40 months of seal failure guarantees. Although rare, if such a problem occurs, the warranty covers replacement of the glass and film at no additional expense to you. In addition, in residential applications, you have the option of selecting a platinum warranty for a nominal charge that will pick up your window manufacturer's warranty verbatim. This insures that if you have newer windows where the manufacturer states that applying window film will nullify or void the warranty, you will still have the peace of mind of knowing you still have full coverage.

4) I was told that I have Low-E glass, so I don't need window film applied to my windows...

While Low-E glass is beneficial in providing insulation during the colder months, and some level of reduction in UV rays, even the best Low-E glass does very little to reduce heat-gain and glare during the warmer months, and will only reduce the UV rays by approximately 50%. Window films work well in tandem with Low-E glass to provide the insulating properties of the glass as well as the heat-gain, glare, and UV reduction of the film.

SolarTex, Inc. can provide the right products and the right people to address the needs of your particular situation. SolarTex, Inc. is an Ohio Corporation that began

**University Campus, Building
191, 2201 Fred Taylor Drive,
Columbus, OH**

FRIDAY, MAY 29TH
5PM - 10PM

**RIVERFEST ON TOUR! KICK OFF
CELEBRATION**

A special Riverfest COSI Family Friday Night to kick off Riverfest On Tour will be opened to the public from 5-9PM and a free dramatic performance by WaterFire will follow just outside on the Scioto River starting around 7:30PM. The night full of activities will include: FREE showing of the Extreme Screen movie, Rivers at Risk, Professional storyteller, Activity booths, Prizes!
Visit www.riverfestcolumbus.org for more information and a full schedule of events!
COSI & Genoa Park, 333 West Broad St., Columbus, OH

**Energy Efficient Products
from Watt Works**

[LED Lighting](#)

[Home Power Cost Monitor](#)

[Kill A Watt](#)

[Lexin Heating Panels](#)

[Geothermal HVAC Systems](#)

Watt Works is proud to be a Lighting Facts LED Product Partner and to sell Energy Star products.



operations in 1985 and through an exclusive relationship with the 3M and Huper Optik Companies, continues to provide Sun Control products for residential and commercial clients. Their product line also includes interior design films, decorative vinyl for graphics and branding, and safety & security films. For more information, please call Brad Hulett at 614-888-6211 or visit their website at www.solartexinc.com.

→ Featured Product

Don't Let Batteries Over-Charge You

A side effect of the explosion in small, portable electronics is the expense of feeding them batteries. The games, cameras, MP3 players, GPS systems and radios we and our children use push us to buy and use more and more batteries. The cost of feeding batteries to your portable gadgets can be surprisingly large, but there is a solution that saves you money and reduces your environmental impact at the same time.

One Nickel-Metal Hydride battery, managed properly with a quality charger, can keep 500 one-time use batteries out of the landfill and off your shopping list. For example, buying eight good-quality rechargeable AA penlight batteries (\$12 for 4) and charging each set of four 500 times in an intelligent charger (4-slots, \$45), is a total investment of \$69. While one set is being used, the other is being recharged for the next use. And don't worry, the power consumed by recharging is miniscule, under 1 cent per battery per year. Compare this to buying 500 sets of four alkaline AA batteries (\$2 for 4) which would cost \$1,000, weigh over 120 pounds, and nearly fill a 5 gallon bucket!

New battery uses have created a huge waste stream of dead batteries, and while thankfully manufacturers eliminated the mercury content in alkaline batteries several years ago, spent batteries are still full of other unsavory chemicals that permeate landfills and potentially reach ground water. It is not just personal electronics that use batteries today; businesses with touchless faucets, flush valves and towel dispensers can have batteries that need replaced regularly, and stick-up lights are a whole new product category that add to battery use.

Not all batteries sold as rechargeable will last so many cycles, and many chargers on the market abuse the batteries by overcharging or allowing the battery to get too hot. An intelligent charger adapts to the battery condition, temperature and age and most importantly, stops charging when the battery is full. A quality battery will consistently deliver its full charge and accept its full re-charge over hundreds of cycles if treated properly.

Watt Works handles the very best in Nickel-Metal Hydride batteries and intelligent chargers, and we can help guide your product choices to best match your needs. Batteries are available in D, C, AA, AAA, and 9-volt styles (true 9.6 volt, not 8.4 volt) and chargers for 4 to 8 cells.

We can only speculate on why a battery manufacturer would sell a charger that causes premature battery failure, or why a battery manufacturer would even hide a smaller AA rechargeable battery inside a larger D-size hollow shell (which makes the undersized model fail to perform as well as a disposable D-cell). I have theories, can you think of one?

(see below for a special offer on NIMH rechargeable batteries and chargers)

More information regarding the products mentioned in this newsletter can be found on our website at www.wattworks.com.
Products can be purchased online, by phone at 614-458-1162 or in our Columbus store.

SALE

Buy any three Nickel-Metal Hydride rechargeable batteries and get one free!
PLUS
10% off all batteries chargers!

In-store only.
Offer Expires: 5/31/09

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