



CLEANING UP ENERGY USAGE

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MIDDLETOWN — City officials are looking for the community as well as the municipality to turn away from fossil fuels and find other energy alternatives.

Residents are invited today to a

workshop about the Clean Energy program at 6 p.m. in the Municipal Building Council Chambers. The Common Council is also expected to vote on a resolution at its 7 p.m. meeting regarding a Clean Energy proposal of "20 percent by 2010."

"Increasing clean energy is one of the solutions to the problem," said

Councilman Ron Klattenberg. "You lower the demand for fossil fuels and clean up the air by getting rid of the amount of air pollution in surrounding communities."

"Middletown will be taking steps to Clean Energy," he said. The council is scheduled to decide whether to become a part of the growing number

of communities to be a part of the Clean Energy program. Within the program, the city would commit to creating a program in which 20 percent of the energy used by 2010 will be achieved through clean energy, Klattenberg added. Creating the program in the city would bring photovoltaic cells to Middletown, he said.

Wesleyan University is also becoming a part of the Clean Energy initiative.

"We're working toward good things to be more energy efficient," said Marcia Bromberg, the university's vice president of finance and administration. Among some of the projects

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Wesleyan is currently involved in is using lead standards for energy efficiency in the residence halls currently under construction, using geothermal heating and cooling in residence housing, as well as replacing gasoline service vehicles, she said.

As part of the initiative, Bromberg said the university is committed to buying one gigawatt hour worth of energy, which is equal to one photovoltaic cell. One gigawatt hour is worth one million kilowatt hours.

"Clean Energy is an exciting initiative," said Mayor Dominique Thornton, who besides challenging the univer-

sity to sign up is challenging people in the community to sign up with Smart Power LLC.

"Wesleyan and Middletown are giving the greatest gift (to the environment)," said regional director Bob Wall of Smart Power LLC. "It promises clean air, a healthier community and energy independence."

If 100 residences support the city in the Clean Energy program, the city will receive one photovoltaic unit, which is \$10,000 worth of free electricity for 30 years, he said.

"For every 100 people that sign up for clean energy, the city will receive a free PV unit," Thornton said, adding that Wesleyan University's commitment is equivalent to 100 households. "It's a terrific partnership."