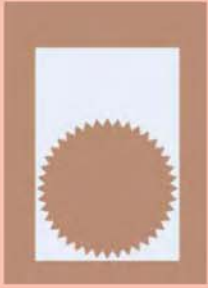


MAY 2007



Chamber Channels

A PUBLICATION OF THE AFFILIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF GREATER SPRINGFIELD
Serving Agawam • East Longmeadow/Longmeadow • Hampden/Wilbraham • Ludlow • Springfield • West Springfield • Westfield

Springfield in the Green

Affiliated Chambers of Commerce of Greater Springfield • MAY 2007



The largest solar power installation in Western Mass. will be going up on the roof of the health building at Springfield Technical Community College, thanks to a \$461,000 grant by the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC). The 82.3-kilowatt photovoltaic (PV) installation will produce 100,000 kWh annually and could save the college as much as \$20,000 annually of its yearly \$2+ million energy costs. It's also estimated the PV installation will avoid putting about 50 tons of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. All electricity generated by the solar panels would be used on site; the panels will keep producing electricity for decades to come. Photo submitted by STCC.

by John Majercak, Director, ReStore Home Improvement Center

As Springfield is finding its way out of a fiscal crisis, the City is also leading the way to saving our planet. Recently, Springfield was rated fourth out of 379 best "green cities" in the country by *Country Home* magazine. In determining rankings, the magazine drew on data from federal agencies and looked at a variety of factors including water quality, recycling programs, energy use and farmers' markets. Several Chamber members are participating in these efforts and making a difference, including

the ReStore Home Improvement Center, which was cited by the magazine for its efforts to keep useful building materials out of the landfill. The ReStore receives donations of used and surplus materials from thousands of homeowners and hundreds of businesses, including Chamber members **Hampden Zimmerman Electric Supply** and **Harvey Industries**, and then sells them at low cost to hardworking do-it-yourselfers so they can improve their homes, lives and communities.

Many other Chamber members are also embracing green practices, demonstrating that "being green" is

Continued on page 8

Springfield In the Green

Continued from page one

good for business - and for the region's quality of life and reputation. **Roger Sitterly Movers** uses environmentally-friendly biodiesel fuel in its moving trucks. **Big Y World Class Market™** separates produce waste for composting and is using energy efficient equipment in its new stores. **Pride Stations and Stores** recently set up a fluorescent lamp recycling program to manage its used lamps. **Goodwill Industries** recently added a computer recycling program to its longstanding clothing and household goods reuse efforts. **Kosmo Solar** installs solar systems for homeowners and businesses. **Dietz and Company Architects** uses energy efficient and green design elements in every project, based on clients needs. **Shriners Hospital for Children** is in the planning stages of separating food waste for composting. **Springfield Technical Community College** is planning the largest solar installation in western Massachusetts, and last February the STCC Technology Park installed a photovoltaic system on the roof of one of its buildings. **Greater Springfield Habitat for Humanity** builds homes to the Energy Star standard for increased energy efficiency, and **Tessier Associates Architecture and Interior Design** incorporates sustain-

able building concepts in the selection of building materials and systems that are energy efficient and provide high performance.

Other members are doing their part by providing research and information. **Westfield State College** recently offered an update on global warming at its 13th annual Westfield River Symposium, and **UMass Amherst** scientist Erin Baker has recently concluded a federally funded study on how advances in technologies must be made for solar power to play a significant role in the energy equation. Baker has been invited to submit the report to Energy Economics as part of a special issue on *Technological Change & Uncertainty in Environmental Economics*.

We know that this is not a complete list, and that many member businesses as well as area residents are "going green." Want to tell people about your green activities? The City of Springfield has created a "Share the Green News" place on its website (www.springfieldcityhall.com) to post your efforts so that they can be collected and promoted.