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POWER2 CHARLOTTE

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OCTOBER 2011

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OCTOBER IS ENERGY AWARENESS MONTH

*TRUTH OR MYTH?

Energy efficiency and energy conservation are the same thing.

- **MYTH!** Efficiency refers to using less to perform a specific task. Examples include replacing traditional lighting with compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs), or installing a high performance appliance. Conservation refers to reducing your need for energy through changes in behavior, such as setting the thermostat lower or riding a bike to work.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **October** - Energy Awareness Month
- **October 25th**- USGBC October Lunch Program: "The Many Shades of Green" ([INFO >](#))
- **October 26th** - UNCC IDEAS Center hosts " The Green E3 Speaker Series: Panel 2" ([INFO >](#))
- **October 27th**- USGBC Signature Event:"Charlotte: An Emerging Leader for Sustainable Change" ([INFO >](#))
- **October 28th**- Envision Charlotte launch party ([INFO >](#))
- **November 1st**- National Weatherization Day
- **November 15th**- America Recycles Day Event ([INFO >](#))
- **November 9th**- NCSEA's "Making Energy Work" Conference in Raleigh ([INFO >](#))

CITY ENERGY PROGRAMS HONORED

The City of Charlotte won two Sustainable Business Awards for the Power2 campaign this month at an event hosted by the Charlotte Business Journal and the U.S. Green Building Council. The event honored businesses in the Charlotte area that are making efforts to incorporate environmentally sustainable practices into their businesses and community work.

The City won in two categories: General Excellence in Sustainable Business for the **Neighborhood Energy Challenge program** and Not for Profit and General Excellence in Sustainable Programs – Government Action Plan for its **Commercial Building Retrofit Program**.

[\(CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ABOUT THE AWARDS >\)](#)

get rid of "energy vampires"

MONTHLY FACTOID

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On average 70% of the energy used in your home is used for appliances. Replacing old appliances with those that are EnergyStar-rated can help families save significantly on utility bills.

FORWARD TO A FRIEND

PROJECT UPDATE: WILMORE WASHER GIVEAWAY



The "Wilmore Washer Giveaway" is part of the energy strategy the Wilmore Neighborhood launched with the funding they received as one of the **Neighborhood Energy Challenge Project** winners. Lowes delivered 10 high efficiency Energy Star washing machines to 10 randomly selected Wilmore neighborhood residents.

Their energy strategy consists of minor energy up fits in homes, energy efficient appliance giveaways for residents, and educating the public on the importance of energy efficiency.

(CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT THE WILMORE NEIGHBORHOOD PROJECT >)

PROJECT UPDATE: AVENUE CONDOS ENERGY EFFICIENCY



Avenue Condos, a Neighborhood Energy Challenge winner, gave out energy efficiency kits.

[\(CLICK TO READ MORE ABOUT THE AVENUE CONDOS PROJECT >\)](#)

COMMERCIAL RETROFIT PROJECT UPDATE: MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS INC.



As one of the Commercial Building Retrofit Program recipients, Mechanical Contractors Inc. used the funding to support the installation of solar panels on the roof, as well as the installation of solar tubes and sun lights in the ceiling.

[\(CLICK TO SEE MORE INFO ON THIS PROJECT >\)](#)

OCTOBER'S 'POWERFUL' PROFILE: VINCENT DAVIS



Vincent Davis is the Director of Smart Energy Now Community Partnerships at **Duke Energy**, and also serves as Duke Energy's spokesperson for one of the most exciting new sustainability initiatives: **Envision Charlotte**.

When speaking about the project, he said, *"I can say that Envision Charlotte has been one of the highlights of my career because it deals with the issues of today that will shape our future."* That is one thing Envision Charlotte definitely has the opportunity to do, to help shape Charlotte's future, aiming to make it the most measurably sustainable community in the nation.

The goal is ambitious: to reduce energy use in Uptown Charlotte by 20% in five years. Envision Charlotte is a first-of-a-kind collaborative partnership among major employers, building owners and managers along with municipal and technology leaders. It is powered by Duke Energy's Smart Energy Now, a program that uses digital grid technologies to display real-time energy data throughout uptown Charlotte – creating awareness

and driving behavioral change. Envision Charlotte also promises exciting economic benefits to all in our urban core. Attracting cost-conscious, green-minded companies to Uptown, this initiative will position Charlotte as a highly progressive business center.

[\(CLICK HERE TO READ MORE ABOUT VINCENT AND ENVISION >\)](#)

ENVISION CHARLOTTE LAUNCHES ON OCTOBER 28TH

Envision Charlotte, powered by Smart Energy NowSM, is hosting an event on October 28th to celebrate the launching of their plan to make Charlotte the most environmentally sustainable urban core in the nation. Using education, interactive displays and digital smart grid technology, they believe we can curb electricity use by 20 percent over the next five years in the Uptown area – the equivalent of the amount of energy used by 40,000 homes annually.

The launch party is open to the public, and will begin at 11:30 a.m. Free lunch and surprise performance by a platinum recording artist will accompany the unveiling of the educational kiosks, which will provide real-time information about the area's energy consumption.

[\(CLICK FOR DIRECTIONS AND MORE INFO >\)](#)

ECODISTRICT HOSTING FREE BIKE CLASSES

EcoDistrict (Villa Heights, Belmont, Optimist Park), one of the **Neighborhood Energy Challenge** winners, has teamed up with neighborhood bike recyclery "Trips for Kids" to offer residents of all ages 2 fun, free bike classes beginning in October! Complete both 2 hour classes and receive a FREE bike helmet, light kit and lock.

[\(CLICK FOR MORE INFO & HOW TO REGISTER >\)](#)

LOCAL FIRMS RECOGNIZED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utility Department honored 37 local companies this week for environmental excellence in protecting our community's water quality.

Environmental Excellence Award winners have complied with their pollution discharge requirements, have cooperated fully with Utilities, and have exhibited a proactive and innovative approach to protecting water quality. The honorees were recognized during a luncheon at the Lee Dukes Water Treatment Plant in Huntersville.

[\(CLICK HERE TO SEE A LIST OF THE WINNERS >\)](#)

CLT AIRPORT ADDS ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS



Two electric vehicle charging stations are now operational within the Charlotte Douglas International Airport's Business Valet Parking Deck (located at 5601 Wilkinson Boulevard). These charging stations, which are the first of their kind to be used at the Airport, are free of charge and available to customers using Business Valet or Curbside Valet parking services.

The Airport was selected earlier this year by Praxis Technologies as one of 25 proposed locations to receive the units as part of a NC Green Business Fund grant. These are not the only charging stations available for public use in Charlotte at this time. More of Charlotte's charging stations can be located at mychargepoint.net, and more will be available soon as installations get underway with Power2's **Electric Vehicle Charging Station Project**. Be on the lookout for these popping up throughout Uptown and transit corridors by the end of this year.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT HONORED

All five Charlotte area wastewater treatment plants earned Peak Performance Awards from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) for the calendar year ending 2010. These awards recognize wastewater treatment professionals throughout the nation for protecting the environment and public health through outstanding treatment and discharge regulatory compliance.

(CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO >)

RESTORED MUDDY CREEK WELCOMES WILDLIFE AND IMPROVED AIR QUALITY

The city recently celebrated the completion of the Muddy Creek Stream Restoration Project, a project that highlighted the City's effort to improve water quality. "The Muddy Creek Stream Restoration Project brings wildlife back and is a natural asset to the entire community," said Nancy Carter, District 5 Council Member.

The Muddy Creek Stream Restoration project reduced house and street flooding by improving the storm drainage system, restored the floodplain to its natural state and function, enhanced water quality and improved habitats for aquatic life and wildlife.

(CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO ABOUT THE RESTORATION PROJECT >)

IN HONOR OF HALLOWEEN: HOW TO GET RID OF "ENERGY VAMPIRES"

"Energy vampires" are devices that use electricity even when they are turned off. Together they can account for up to 20 percent of your electric bill. You can improve your home's energy savings by identifying and unplugging your energy vampires.

Here are some examples of "energy vampires":

- **Wall Warts:** Devices – such as cell phone chargers – have a large plug. They consume energy, even when the device to be charged is not attached.
- **Bricks:** Cords used with laptop computers, televisions and some cable TV equipment are often joined in the middle by large black boxes. These "bricks" use energy continuously as long as they remain plugged in.
- Cable/satellite boxes
- Digital TV converters
- DVR, VCR, DVD players
- Mobile/cellular devices
- MP3 players
- Video game consoles
- Standby coffee makers
- Devices that turn on instantly via remote control
- Devices with standby light or clock

Plug wall warts and bricks into power strips, and turn them off when not needed. Using "smart" power strips makes it even easier. These power strips automatically cut off power when devices are not in use.

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