

Bayfield's bragging rights

WE POSED THE QUESTION IN LAST YEAR'S CONSERVATION ISSUE: THINK YOU'RE GREENER THAN BAYFIELD? IN A YEAR, WE HAVEN'T SEEN ANY COUNTY-WIDE EFFORTS AS EXTENSIVE AS THAT OF BAYFIELD, SO WE FEATURE THEM AGAIN IN THIS YEAR'S CONSERVATION SECTION.

CITY OF BAYFIELD

- Built a regional Wastewater Treatment Facility to serve both the City and Town of Bayfield's wastewater needs. The plant was designed to achieve zero percent discharge into Lake Superior and went online in December 2005.

- Responding to a Focus on Energy audit, added insulation, installed door sweeps, repaired garage door moldings, replaced old florescent lighting with the new T8s, added automatic light sensors in rooms and insulated hot water pipes.

- In 2008 the City of Bayfield Common Council adopted Resolution #383: "Achieving 25 x 25," following the state's initiative to generate 25 percent of their own electricity and transportation fuels by 2025.

- The Clean It, Green It campaign was launched in 2008. Bayfield homeowners were provided a CFL bulb and information on how to reduce their energy consumption along with other "green cleaning" items. They

were also given the opportunity to apply for a mini-grant to implement energy saving measures in their homes. To date, the city has awarded 31 grants to homeowners who have engaged in energy reduction and/or projects that have reduced their environmental impacts.

- In 2008 the City of Bayfield notified property owners that they would no longer accept lawn/garden waste in plastic bags during the 2009 Annual Spring Clean-Up. Homeowners were provided with a biodegradable 2-3 ply, 30-gallon brown bag for their use instead.

APOSTLE ISLANDS NATIONAL LAKESHORE

- Converted diesel boats to biodiesel.
- Reduced boat fleet size significantly to reduce fuel usage.
- Developed climate change and sustainability wayside exhibits for Visitor Center and Bayfield City Hall.
- Plans to move all island operations "off the grid" to solar and propane, and hopefully

soon to entirely solar.

- Member of Do Your Part for Climate-Friendly National Parks.

- Developed, with community input, Climate-Friendly Action Plan.

THE ARTESIAN HOUSE

- Replaced all incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescents.
- Created a 20 by 15-foot rain garden, featuring native plants and using rainwater from a downspout for some of the garden's irrigation.

- Complimentary bottled water to guests is no longer offered because of the massive accumulation of bottles.

- Replaced disposable cups in guest bathrooms with locally made ceramic cups.

- Removed fiberglass batts in the basement and replaced them with foam insulation.

- Installed solar panels and added an 80-gallon tank for solar-heated hot water to handle about 50 percent of the inn's hot water needs.

- Replaced old bathroom fans with high-efficiency fans that include a compact fluorescent light.

- Changed location of

compost barrel to make it easier to use.

BIG WATER CAFE & COFFEE ROASTERS

- Composted 4,048 pounds of coffee grounds and 1,631 pounds of kitchen scraps for a total of 5,679 pounds of waste diverted from the landfill in the last six months of 2008.

PINEHURST INN

- Garden House and garage built using green building materials and systems.

- Uses solar panels for heating water and space.

- Produces biodiesel for transportation, which has reduced fossil fuel use by over 70 percent and provided good use of local restaurants' used vegetable oil.

- Reduced energy usage in buildings over the last 5 years by nearly 45 percent through the following efforts: replacement of windows, significant insulation, replacement of boiler in main house, new zoning, use of CFLs and Energy Star appliances.

- Implemented facility-wide recycling program

with recycling bins in every room and a comprehensive guest and employee education program.

- Use local food sources for breakfast including but not limited to: fruits and vegetables, locally roasted coffee, local eggs and meat products, and only Wisconsin cheeses.

- Organic cotton bedding and towels now sourced from a Wisconsin company.

RECREATION CENTER & POOL

- Serves as a local drop off point for recycled printer cartridges and cell phones.

- Upgrades to heating and ventilation systems have cut gas use by 40 percent.

- New fluorescent light fixtures have cut energy use by 25 percent.

- A new saline chlorination system will be installed for the swimming pool.

ISLAND VIEW INN & COTTAGES

- Property has been certified as wildlife habitat through the National Wildlife Federation.

- All guests are given

the opportunity to buy carbon credits to offset their travel and stay.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & VISITOR BUREAU

- Collect approximately 1,000 gallons of gray water that would normally be run off into Lake Superior from Apple Festival food vendors each year, as well as leftover food scraps for composting.

- Purchased and distributed 50 rain barrels to residents and sponsored a workshop on how to effectively use a rain barrel.

- Purchase and distribute free "leave no trace" cards in the Visitor Center for Bayfield visitors.

- Provide a "green tip" once a week to members via a Friday e-mail blast of pertinent current information.

- Annually assist high school students with energy efficient light bulb fundraiser (sold 700 bulbs in 2008).

- Provide visitors with a downloadable "Earth Care Home Handbook" written by the local organization Sustainable Bayfield. **wt**