

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CITY OF OXFORD
MAYOR'S HOME CONSERVATION TIP OF THE MONTH:

With the arrival of March, comes warmer days and those March winds that make you want to get outside and enjoy the prelude to spring. While it is a great time to get out and maybe fly a kite, it is also a time to realize that there may be a better source of energy than the fossil fuels that we have been using, two examples of that would be wind and solar power.

According to the United States Department of Energy (DOE), **Wind energy is the most rapidly advancing source of energy worldwide.** It is a clean source of power that does not contaminate the environment. It is also one of the cheapest sources of renewable energy. Wind energy has been used for more than 5,000 years for sailing to powering windmills that were used for the automation of grinding grain and pumping water. In 1888 Charles Brush first used a windmill in America to produce electricity in Cleveland Ohio.

There are concerns about the use of windmill farms; these include the negative impact on the populations of birds and bats, and their visual effect on the sea and land, particularly in tourist locations although, with proper ecological surveys and studies of migration paths these concerns can be alleviated.

Solar energy is a renewable energy source. This means that we cannot run out of solar energy, as opposed to non-renewable energy sources (e.g. fossil fuels, coal, and nuclear).

The International Energy Agency has said that solar energy can make considerable contributions to solving some of the most urgent problems the world now faces.

The state of future energy resources is expected to change dramatically from the current 24/7 availability of conventional fuels to a state where different energy sources are used in different circumstances, at different times. Wind and solar energy would be used when the sun is shining and the wind is blowing, and more conventional methods would be used at other times – much like an energy production jigsaw puzzle.

There is a way to use solar power in your home right now without spending a dime. If you open your blinds during the day, the sunlight through the windows will allow you to leave the lights off and the thermostat on a lower setting.

There is no perfect solution, but by using the natural power of the wind and the sun, we can begin to leave a greener, cleaner world for future generations.

Green Challenge Committee members:
Commissioners: Betty Moseley (Chair), Ron Bullock, and Calvin "C.J." Harris

