

## Conserving for the Future

by Dennis Burton, Executive Director



This is the time of year when we winterize our homes to conserve heat and energy. It then falls to us environmentalists to remind the public of the need to conserve energy all year long. This becomes easier with more public awareness, and recent media focus has made energy issues hard to avoid. We are fortunate to live in the greater Philadelphia area where several well organized groups have joined forces to help us reduce our energy excesses.

Once a month from October through June the Urban Sustainability Forum convenes at the Academy of Natural Sciences, bringing together international urban practitioners who have lead their cities toward a more sustainable future. This year the forums include “Urban Voids” focusing on designing greenspaces, “Sustainable London” discussing that city’s sustainable successes, “Bike Sharing” a seemingly obvious but under-utilized resource, “Green Economy” focused on the green industry, and “Clean Energy” a discussion of how Philadelphia can create a renewable energy infrastructure. To find out more about the Urban Sustainability Forum and its affiliates go to: [www.sustainablephiladelphia.com](http://www.sustainablephiladelphia.com)

There are also more immediate approaches to conserving energy and saving money as a result:

**Compact Fluorescent Lights (CFLs)** last ten times longer than incandescent bulbs and use 66% less energy. If every house used only one CFL it would have the pollution reduction equivalent of removing a million cars from the roads. They cost more up front but save hundreds of dollars in the long run. [www.efi.org](http://www.efi.org)

**The Energy Star Program** of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has great resources for the home owner and home builder. A must for serious energy saving.

[www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)

**A Home Energy Audit** will let you assess your energy use and find the means to lowering your energy bills. [www.energyguide.com](http://www.energyguide.com)

The above approaches and the few additional links below will help you invest in a healthier, wealthier, and ultimately wiser future.

Solar Energy: [www.ases.org](http://www.ases.org)

Wind Energy: [www.awea.org](http://www.awea.org)

Alternative Fuels [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov)

Recycling: [www.earth911.org](http://www.earth911.org)

