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NSTAR hits the road with energy solutions: Introducing the Energy Solution Trailer

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If you're considering cost-saving energy solutions and ways to make your home a greener place to live, you're poised to join a growing number of citizens who have committed to making changes that will benefit their families, their communities and our planet. Like many before you, it's likely you're wondering where to begin. With the numerous tried-and-tested products on the market being joined by an array of new technologies, it's important to become familiar with your options in order to decide which are right for you.

Health and environmental benefits are just some of the advantages of living in a green home. Green homes can also provide cost savings, as they typically help to reduce energy consumption as well. In addition, many local and state governments offer tax breaks for installing renewable energy technologies, while utilities and retailers offer various rebates and incentives to consider when greening your home.

To help inform consumers about the exciting new technologies, products and scientific breakthroughs available, NSTAR has introduced a mobile demonstration unit known as the Energy Solutions Trailer. Developed by NSTAR's Energy Efficiency Department, the Energy Solutions Trailer showcases some of the latest energy efficient and renewable technologies, including solar and wind power. The trailer utilizes a whole-house approach to incorporate various technologies with both functional and demonstrative displays for the viewing audience. Here are highlights of just some of the various technologies you can see and learn about from the NSTAR Energy Solutions Trailer.

Compact Fluorescent Lights: At less than \$3 a bulb, they are among the least expensive, most cost-effective ways to save energy, reduce your energy costs, and help prevent greenhouse gases.

Power Cost Monitor: The Blueline Innovations power cost monitor can analyze home electricity usage, and provide energy usage and costs in real time. This feedback technology can help consumers reduce electricity consumption in the home by up to 15%.

Smart Thermostat: A digital, programmable thermostat with a built-in transceiver can be remotely controlled by the local utility to adjust the owner's central air conditioner on-and-off cycles. This technology has the potential to increase energy savings and reduce summer peak electric demand.

Cellulose Insulation: Made of recycled materials like denim or newspaper, this insulation is a good alternative to fiberglass batts. The insulation is blown in to easily fit around obstructions and has an R-Value of 3.13 - 3.7 per inch.

LG Mini-Split Heat Pump: A small, high-efficiency, ductless heating and air conditioning unit that features a contemporary style wall mounted unit that is also a customizable picture frame.

Solar Electric: Evergreen's ES-180 solar panel converts sunlight into electricity using the photovoltaic effect. The panels require little maintenance and can be interconnected to the local

electric utility.

Solar Thermal - To further-reduce dependence on fossil fuels, consider the Heliodyne Helio-Pak closed-loop heat transfer appliance and Gobi collector panels. The system can provide 40-70% of annual domestic hot water needs.

Wind Power: Wind energy is renewable, clean, and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. The Southwest Wind Power AIR X Wind Generator, with a 46' diameter rotor, can deliver up to 400 Watts with 28 mph winds.

NSTAR offers numerous energy efficiency programs and services for residential and business customers, including energy audits as well as design and engineering services, to help lower usage. To learn more, go to www.nstar.com.

NSTAR plans to showcase the Energy Solutions Trailer at various home shows, community events, schools and universities throughout the NSTAR service territory.

Jonathan Reich is principal environmental engineer, environmental affairs, NSTAR Electric & Gas, Westwood, Mass.

New England Real Estate Journal - 17 Accord Park Drive #207, Norwell MA 02061 - (781) 878-4540