

**PLEASE NOTE NEXT MEETING WILL BE FRIDAY OCT. 17  
AT 9:30 IN THE MORNING IN THE SACO CITY HALL**

**SACO ENERGY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES OF SEPT. 12, 2008 MEETING**

Committee members present: Howard Carter (Treatment Plant Director); Mark Mitchell (Saco Code Enforcement); Eric Cote (Saco City Councilor); Patrick Wiley (Saco Treatment Plant ); Hilary Skillings (student); Maggie Daigle (Ferry Beach Ecology School); Peg Mills (Saco City Councilor); Cynthia Chadwick-Granger (Saco Planning Board)

Guests: Erin Carleton (Gardiner Public Works Dept.); Brian Phinney (Biddeford Environmental Code Officer); Owen Grumbling (Chair Dept. of Environmental Studies UNE)

**1. TOUR OF SACO SOLAR STORE**

See card below:



Steve Fennell gave the group a tour of the Saco Store. The store occupies the first floor of a very nice 1913 Sears and Roebuck kit home on Route One in Saco. A couple of years ago Steve's son was deployed to Iraq and this family experience caused Steve to begin researching alternative energy. He went to the Solar Fest in Vt. He discovered there was a strong demand for education in the field. Steve googled solar stores and four months ago learned about the solar store chain. Steve applied, was tested, and was accepted. The Saco Solar Store opening happened on Sept. 6. Steve's wife Kathy is a co-owner. Through the nationwide chain that began in Vermont, Steve has access to 8,000 products purchased with a group discount, and the experience of other

store owners. Steve plans to collaborate with installers of products purchased in the store.

Steve built a light display exhibit that Efficiency Maine marveled at. A board contains different types of lighting hooked up to a watt meter. Each light can be turned on individually and the watt meter shows how many watts the bulb uses. Therefore a customer can actually see the lighting quality of each bulb, and how much energy the bulb uses. Steve feels LEED lighting is the future of lighting. The board contains traditional incandescent bulbs, CFL bulbs, and LEED bulbs. A CFL flood light uses 20 watts.

Steve thinks making hot water from the sun is a good payback. A system is on display that has electric backup in the tank.

Photovoltaic systems are on display. Steve expects that the cost of this technology will be falling in the future.

Steve plans to install on the exterior of his building a hot air exchange unit that is combined with and powered by a small photovoltaic system for power. The unit on display would be good to heat an office in the daytime.

Solartubes, energy efficient refrigerators, compost bins, and many other products, are on display.

The Saco Energy Committee recommends a visit to the store to anyone interested in reducing their energy use.

## **2. NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be on Friday Oct. 17 at 9:30 in the morning in the Saco City Hall. The agenda at this time is:

1. Review status of current projects;
2. General discussion.