

Environmental issues focus of 'Green Night' series

Event helps city officials reach out to community

BY JONATHAN WILLIAMS
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MORGANTOWN — Green is the new black. It's increasingly popular, particularly in college cities around the country, to embrace the environmental movement and "green up" one's life. Not only is it better for the environment, but over time it's also better for the pocketbook.

But as tempting as the concept may be, it can be difficult to figure out where to start.

For Morgantown residents, the answers can be found, with a little help from the city, at the downtown public library.

On Nov. 16, the Morgantown Municipal Green Team hosted "Green Transportation: From Bicycles to Solar-Powered Cars," its latest Green Night at



PHOTO BY JONATHAN WILLIAMS

Morgantown continues to support green transportation initiatives, such as encouraging bicycle use in the city. The Morgantown Municipal Green Team recently hosted a meeting on bicycles and other ways to travel in an environmentally friendly way as part of its "Green Nights at the Library" series.

The Library, continuing a series of events aimed at helping Morgantown residents save money and live a more environmentally friendly lifestyle. The Green Team was started in 2007 to help the Morgantown city manager and

city council make informed decisions on environmental issues that face the city. Though they started in an advisory capacity, combining the knowledge of experts in subjects like architecture, energy and transportation, Pamela Cubberly, a

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Biofuels

farmers, coal operators and equipment manufacturers in establishing biomass as a potential fuel.

This is the sixth such award made through USDA's Agriculture and Food Research Initiative, aimed at developing regional, renewable energy markets, generating rural jobs, and decreasing America's dependence on foreign oil. In September 2011 Agriculture Secretary Tom

was recently designated as a Bronze Level Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists, the only city in the state to win such an honor.

In the past few years, the city has installed bike rack loops on parking meters in downtown Morgantown and implemented a pilot bike locker program at the Public Safety Center and at the Wharf Street parking garage.

Even if people have to use a car, there are common-sense things they can do to improve the fuel economy of their vehicle, such as keeping tires properly inflated and following the speed limit. An electric vehicle has even more fuel efficiency potential, and Nick Hein of Mountain View Solar talked about the potential of solar-powered fueling stations for these vehicles, a project his company is already working on.

Cubberly said there are not systems, safety and health, extension and educational programs and leadership and evaluation.

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Regional Research Center and the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Idaho National Laboratory.

Spanning from New England to West Virginia, the project also will engage state and local agencies, citizen groups, environmental and economic development organizations, and companies in fields such as crop genetics and

the financial sector.

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