



**Town of Chevy Chase
Climate Corps
Summer 2009
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions
For Homeowners**

Q. What is Climate Corps and how does relate to the *Chevy Chase Challenge*?

A. Climate Corps is a team of students helping residents of the Town of Chevy Chase identify easy ways to conserve energy, save money, and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases. Climate Corps is an environmental education program, both for the Climate Corps interns and for Town residents. Climate Corps is one component of the *Chevy Chase Challenge*, the climate action plan adopted by the Town in December 2008, outlining our program under the U.S. Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement. To learn more about the *Chevy Chase Challenge*, see <<http://www.townofchevychase.org/c/205>>.

Q. What has Climate Corps done so far?

A. 2009 is Climate Corps' inaugural year! During 2009 and early 2009, Climate Corps planning has been done by members of the Town's Climate Protection Committee, Town Council, and Town Office Staff. Climate Corps interns were recruited in Spring 2009 and received about 5 hours of training in June. The team has developed a Code of Conduct and has performed several practice home energy checkups in preparation for visits with Town residents.

Q. How will I benefit from a home energy checkup?

A. You will learn exactly how much energy you currently use and how much it costs. And you'll learn a lot of easy ways to save energy and money. The Climate Corps will leave you with a report summarizing your energy use and expenses, the various recommendations you thought you'd be willing to take, and an estimate of the carbon emissions reductions and dollar savings you'll realize by implementing them.

Q. Do similar programs exist in other towns and cities?

A. Yes. Student teams are making a difference in climate protection activities all around the world and are models for the Town of Chevy Chase Climate Corps. Our program was developed in consultation with Howard County Public Schools, which has run a successful program for several years.

Q. What happens during a home energy checkup?

A. A team of two Climate Corps interns will arrive at your home with the Climate Corps toolkit of information and examples of various useful energy-saving devices. They will gather information from your recent energy bills as a baseline to estimate current energy use, expenses, and carbon emissions. They will explain the typical breakdown of energy consumption in homes. Then they will go with you from room to room, and perhaps also into your garden, to identify easy ways you can save energy. They will also inform you of further steps you can take to make your home more energy efficient. You will be given a workbook detailing the steps you have agreed to take to reduce your energy consumption, including estimated savings and emissions reductions.

Q. How long will a home energy checkup take?

A. The visit should take about one hour.

Q. Who are the Climate Corps interns?

A. The Summer 2009 Climate Corps is a team of 8 Chevy Chase students, including 4 college and 4 high school students, all of whom care deeply about the environment and want to help protect it. The interns receive a small stipend for their work this summer.

Q. What is the difference between a home energy checkup and a home energy audit?

A. The checkup provided by the Climate Corps will help identify easy, low-cost ways to save energy using simple devices (such as energy-saving light bulbs), changing your behavior (such as turning off lights and appliances when not in use), and making climate-conscious choices (such as biking instead of driving). These seemingly small things can add up to very substantial energy and dollar savings. A professional home energy audit examines structural properties of your home (such as insulation, and air flow) and the efficiency of your appliances to identify changes that can save you money and energy. The Climate Corps interns are NOT trained to perform energy audits, which require professional certification.

Q. What do I need to do to prepare for a Climate Corps visit?

A. Not too much! Find your most recent gas bill and electric bill. Note the year, make, model, typical gas mileage and current odometer reading for all your vehicles. Make sure your water heater and thermostats are accessible. Don't worry about cleaning house. Get ready to learn!

Q. Will there be any follow-up to the home energy checkup?

A. Yes, you will be contacted later to give you an opportunity to provide feedback on the Climate Corps visit, and to see how you are doing in implementing the changes identified during the checkup.

Q. When can I get a home energy checkup?

A. Anytime that's convenient for you. The Climate Corps is happy to arrange visits during weekends and weekday evenings, as well as weekdays. Because many of the students return to school in August, most visits this summer will be in July.

Q. How can I request a home energy checkup?

A. Warren Rizzi, Town Management Assistant, coordinates scheduling home visits with residents and Climate Corps interns. To ensure the safety of the interns, and so that residents have time to gather the information needed for the visit, all scheduling must be done through Warren, who can be reached by calling 301-654-7144 or by email at wrizzi@townofchevy Chase.org.

Q. Who is in charge of Climate Corps?

A. The following adults oversee the Climate Corps:
Judy McGuire, Climate Protection Committee Chair
Dian Seidel and Daniel Button, Climate Corps Subcommittee Co-chairs
Warren Rizzi, Town of Chevy Chase Management Assistant