

## Renewable Energy Generation

☛ Solar photovoltaic panels (80) installed in 2011 are a 15.2 kilowatt system which generates approximately 15,500 kilowatt hours of clean, renewable energy annually. This will displace the production of 10.7 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, the amount that is sequestered annually by 2.3 acres of pine forest. This, along with other conservation measures take will offset almost 25% of the electrical use of the entire campus of Wisdom House.

☛ Wisdom House is signed on for clean energy with the utility company.



## Wisdom House

### Supporting a Sustainable Environment 2011

The ancients knew that Wisdom was found in nature and creation. Reverence and care for nature and the cosmos is core to living spiritually, humanly and in respectful relationship to the community of all creation.

Wisdom House, since 1770, with its original owners and dairy farmers, was dependent on the land. In 1949 with the arrival of the Daughters of Wisdom, the commitment to simple living furthered the ancient tradition of care for the land and its natural resources. Now, in the years since 1990, several initiatives based on contemporary awareness have taken place at Wisdom House. These give foundation to our belief that Wisdom permeates all reality. (Bible's Book of Wisdom 7, 13-30)

*In Wisdom is a spirit that is intelligent, holy, unique ... Wisdom penetrates all reality ... She is found in the design of the universe and cosmos. Wisdom is the Artisan of all.*



## WISDOM HOUSE

Retreat and Conference Center

229 E. Litchfield Rd., Litchfield, CT 06759  
www.wisdomhouse.org  
(860) 567-3163

## Energy Conservation

- ☛ Compact fluorescent bulbs are used in 98% of the center.
- ☛ Electric light fixtures and kitchen coolers have been retrofitted for energy efficiency.
- ☛ Energy Efficiency Rated / Energy Star appliances are replacing older appliances.
- ☛ Natural ventilation with ceiling fans in most rooms in the center.
- ☛ Programmable thermostats and computerized heat controls regulate the interior climate in combination with heat zoning, allows us to heat only the rooms in use.
- ☛ Cast iron boilers/furnaces (c.1950) were replaced with energy efficient Buderus furnaces.
- ☛ All 380 windows in the Main House, Farm House, Marie Louise Carriage House and Spruce Brook Barn meeting space have been replaced with thermal windows. Seven doors were also replaced.
- ☛ Motion sensors regulate lights in halls, washrooms, some offices and meeting rooms and outdoor areas.

## Water

- ☛ Artesian wells at Wisdom House provide all the water for the center.
- ☛ Sign and notices in our literature advise guests to use our well water rather than bring commercially bottled water to the center.
- ☛ We offer reusable drinking water bottles at our gift shop.
- ☛ The Casagrande Interfaith Institute focused on “Water” in 2006 and on “Climate Change” in 2009.
- ☛ Toilets are gradually being replaced with low water use models.

- ☛ Low flow shower heads are installed.
- ☛ Our drought resistant plants require no watering of the landscape.

## Reduction of waste and recycling

- ☛ 50% recycled trash liners are used where possible.
- ☛ Paper and cardboard are recycled.
- ☛ Paper is reused on reverse side in copiers/faxes and pre-printed envelopes are used for interoffice communications.
- ☛ The center’s paper newsletter, “At Wisdom’s Table” has been replaced with electronically transmitted communications, news, program updates and the blog, “At Wisdom’s Table”.
- ☛ Bubble wrap and packaging are reused/recycled.
- ☛ Biodegradable and recycled paper napkins and towels are used.
- ☛ Biodegradable paper, not Styrofoam, cups and biodegradable eating utensils are used only when necessary.

## Environmental care

- ☛ No toxic pesticides are used on grass or gardens.
- ☛ 14 acres of Grassland and 7 acres of Wildlife Habitation for nesting of native wildlife are registered with the US Dept. of Agriculture.
- ☛ Most plants are native to Northwest CT; most invasive plants have been removed; deer resistant plants are in the landscape.
- ☛ Our plants are drought resistant and deer resistant (to minimize the presence of Lyme disease ticks).

## Historic preservation

- ☛ The 70 acre campus is bordered by stone walls from New England’s “Golden Age of Stone Walls” (1775-1825). The walls closest to the main center were restored in 2010.
- ☛ The external appearance of the 1780 Farm House has been preserved, and a list of owners appears next to the front and rear doors.

## Community emergency preparedness

- ☛ Wisdom House can operate self-sufficiently for up to 48 hours (and longer with fuel refills) with water, heat, electricity and communications by virtue of its generator. The center serves the Town of Litchfield as an emergency shelter, approved in 1985 by the American Red Cross.

## Nutrition

- ☛ Our chef prepares healthy, nutritious food. Greens and grains are always served.
- ☛ Guidelines of the American Heart Association are the norm for meals, with consideration for gluten and dairy free, vegetarian, vegan and nut-free diets.
- ☛ Pork and beef are not usually served as an entrée. The reason: pork, for interfaith considerations and beef for the amount of water and grain needed to produce 1 pound of beef (2500 gallons of water and 12 pounds of grain to produce 1 pound of beef).
- ☛ Fair Trade coffee through Sara Lee/Douwe Egberts sustainability program is used.