

Letter to Editor
Enterprise, Falmouth, MA

12/26/17

Sustained, Long-Term Focus

The editorial "Misplaced Energy And Focus", on December 22, suggested that the non-profit corporation The Green Center, Inc. was formed recently by the local group 'Friends of Falmouth Wind', the group that is seeking a legal path to allow Falmouth's wind turbines to operate. If you scan back through many decades of Enterprise stories, you will see that the organization started in 1970 as the New Alchemy Institute, Inc. doing environmental research and education in Falmouth for 20 years, with these goals:

"Among our major tasks is the creation of ecologically derived human support systems - renewable energy, agriculture, aquaculture, housing and landscapes. The strategies we research emphasize a minimal reliance on fossil fuels and operate on a scale accessible to individuals, families and small groups."

The Institute produced major innovations in organic food production, solar architecture, and renewable energy. In 1991 the organization retired its original name The New Alchemy Institute and changed its name to The Green Center, Inc.. Since then The Green Center has been active in public education promoting sustainability, water quality, ecological wastewater management, and now, recently, is supporting the Friends of Falmouth Wind project. Fixing the global climate crisis will require a rapid change of existing technology; local renewable wind energy is a critically important part of that change.

"It is our belief that ecological and social transformations must take place at the lowest functional levels of society if humankind is to direct its course towards a greener, saner world."

Earle Barnhart
president, The Green Center Inc.
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Reference

The New Alchemy Institute

From 1971 to 1991, the New Alchemy Institute conducted research and education on behalf of the planet:

"Among our major tasks is the creation of ecologically derived human support systems - renewable energy, agriculture aquaculture, housing and landscapes. The strategies we research emphasize a minimal reliance on fossil fuels and operate on a scale accessible to individuals, families and small groups. It is our belief that ecological and social transformations must take place at the lowest functional levels of society if humankind is to direct its course towards a greener, saner world."

"Our programs are geared to produce not riches, but rich and stable lives, independent of world fashion and the vagaries of international economics. The New Alchemists work at the lowest functional level of society on the premise that society, like the planet itself, can be no healthier than the components of which it is constructed. The urgency of our efforts is based on our belief that the industrial societies which now dominate the world are in the process of destroying it."

Fall 1970. Bulletin of the New Alchemists