

**Renewable Energy Primer (PART 1)** – The best source of Green House Gas-free electricity (next using none at all of course!)

Next to using less electricity, (see the Green Tips Page at [http://www.bedfordny.info/html/green\\_tips.htm](http://www.bedfordny.info/html/green_tips.htm) to learn how to use less in your home and business) purchasing renewable energy or energy that comes from non-fossil based sources is a great choice if you want to reduce your contribution to Climate Change. *Renewable energy* or *green energy* means the same thing: a process that manufactures electricity for use in our homes and businesses that contributes little or no *green house gasses* (GHG) to the atmosphere and helps us reduce the need to import energy fuels from overseas. The standard mix of power that comes into the average Town of Bedford home is about 64% fossil based (mostly Natural Gas, Coal and Oil), 23% from Nuclear sources (Indian Point), 11% from Hydro-Electric Dams (mostly in Canada), 1% from burning garbage and about 1% from green or renewable sources. This 1% mix of green or renewable energy in NY generally comes from *wind*, *solar*, *biomass* and *landfill gas* sources. We have the opportunity to increase the mix of renewable energy we use but first we should understand the advantages and disadvantages of each choice. Beginning next week in this column, we will discuss *wind* sourced energy. In following weeks look for discussions on *solar*, *biomass* and *landfill gas* derived electricity.