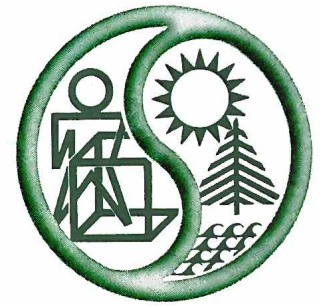


Ecology CENTER of ANN ARBOR

417 Detroit Street
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104
313-761-3186



30 June 1980

Final Narrative Report

MSEA Contract #MSEA -80-004

The Ecology Center Solar Workshop was designed as a two-part program and was originally scheduled for presentation on Friday and Saturday, June 13-14. The first part was an evening lecture and discussion session. The second was an on-site skill-building workshop at a private home which is currently being retrofitted.

Due to heavy rains early on the morning of June 14, the hands-on segment was postponed for one week and held on June 21.

The Friday evening program took place in the auditorium of Community High School. Center staff anticipated that no more than 50 would attend. In actuality over 70 people participated (64 registered). As a result, there was a shortage of handout materials. Preparation for this session included:

- generating publicity in the form of a press release, public service announcement, newsletter article, posters (see enclosures)
- assembling, condensing, typing and reproducing nine-page handout on solar principles (enclosure)
- contacting, scheduling speakers
- selection and preparation of the site.

The program itself consisted of three 50-minute presentations on solar principles, attached solar greenhouses and solar retrofit options. Speakers were Ed Kelly and Pat Lyons from Sunstructures, Inc., and Reed Maes from Environmental Research Institute of Michigan.

Evaluations of the Friday program were returned by 38 people. The enclosed summary indicates that of those responding:

- approximately 60% learned of the workshop through the Ann Arbor News; 25% through the Ecology Center newsletter
- more than 75% plan to use at least some of the material learned from each speaker
- over 75% felt that the workshop met their needs either "well" or "very well."

Negative feedback was received about the length and slow pace of the program, uncomfortable seating, inadequate voice projection by the speakers, some information overlap and the need for a longer question/answer period.

On the positive side, respondents were impressed with the "variety of applications" detailed, the volume of information and the range of resource materials available.

The outdoor program was divided into two sections--a four-hour morning group and a similar afternoon session. Workshop participants were eligible for only one of the sessions. The original plan called for a maximum of 15 people at each four-hour block (30 total for the day). In each case, 14 of the 15 registrants actually attended.

The site was an old home owned by Ann Arbor City Engineer Dan Hanlon. It is located at 516 Detroit St. in Ann Arbor. Hanlon produced his own blueprints for the project.

The work program consisted of 5 major elements with a supervisor assigned to each:

- insulating existing walls with cellulose (Steve McCargar, Ecology Center staff)
- framing and installing windows in an attached greenhouse (Vince Peters, greenhouse builder)
- erecting and supporting a trombe wall frame (Jim Frey, construction supervisor)
- building a field stone flower box in front of the greenhouse (Dan Hanlon)
- explaining the installation and operation of a solar hot water system already in place (Tony Weil, Sunstructures Construction Co.).

Each supervisor had a maximum of three participants to coordinate. Each group of three rotated through four of the five work areas, thereby exposing everyone to a variety of challenges.

Twenty-two evaluations (out of a possible 28) were returned. The summary analysis indicates a high positive response overall:

- 65% felt that useful information was gained in every work area
- 20 out of 22 learned some or many new skills
- 19 of 22 rated the workshops as meeting their needs "well" or "very well"
- the ratio of supervisors to participants was deemed "good."

More than one participant suggested the following improvements: (1) more time for questions and answers; (2) having more workshops; (3) directing people with specific interests to the appropriate program element; (4) more technical information; (5) more explanation of what was being done and why.

All in all, Saturday's workshop was rated "inspiring" and "a beneficial community project" by several respondents. The Ecology Center staff agrees.