

Club ACTION Gets Results

Most of them can't yet vote, but they got Congressman John Hall to answer their call for help.

Fewer than two months after meeting with the Congressman to ask for help in funding a solar power project at Arlington High School, he surprised them on March 27 with a giant-sized check for \$108,000.

The Dyson Foundation is providing a grant to the Arlington Education Foundation, a not-for-profit foundation established to enhance the educational experience of Arlington students. The Dyson Foundation considered the project at Hall's request. The grant will partially fund the installation of solar panels on the roof of Arlington High School. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) is providing approximately \$140,000 for the project, but additional funds were needed.

Club ACTION, the school's political action club, met with Hall in February about their proposal to install a photo array to provide electricity equivalent to that used by the marine biology lab, three large aquaria, a large science room, and an AP biology lab. The solar panels will promote community awareness of renewable energy sources, such as solar power.

"The Arlington High School Club ACTION students should be an example to us all," said Hall. "When I met with them I saw first hand how young people can take control of the earth's future by helping protect the environment."

As part of the club's mission to increase awareness of pressing local and global political issues, Club ACTION members have declared "Going Green" as a priority and consider themselves "Green Ambassadors" who bring awareness of and commitment to green changes to the school and surrounding community. Two public display meters will be placed in highly visible areas so that students and members of the community who use the school will be able to see exactly how much electricity is being solar-generated.

"This project will show others in Dutchess County and beyond how important it is to 'Go Green' and it will provide very important teaching and learning opportunities as well," said Dyson Foundation President Robert R. Dyson.



From left to right:

Cecilia Stancell, Dyson Foundation;
Jeremy Lechterman; Robert Dyson,
Dyson Foundation President; Caitlin
Zinsley; Peter Prunty; Congressman
John Hall, Laurel Leggiere; Elliot
Rudoy, Arlington Education Foundation
President; Eileen Scholes, Arlington
Education Foundation Director; Richard
Carroll, AHS Assistant Principal; James
Lillis, Club ACTION Advisor