

Watershed group receives grant

MARQUETTE — The Superior Watershed Partnership has received a \$150,000 grant from the Michigan Public Service Commission to distribute compact fluorescent light bulbs to U.P. households.

Cooperating with various networks, the partnership will distribute about 35,000 of the bulbs to households in all 15 U.P. counties.

Compared to general incandescent light bulbs giving the same amount of visible light, CFLs use a fraction of the electricity and have a longer life. Through this project, organizers said the partnership will continue to raise awareness about energy conservation, climate change, and further reduce the U.P. carbon footprint by an additional 4 million pounds.

The partnership also recently released the results of the April 2008 Energy Conservation Project. During April, U.P. congregations participating in the Earth Keepers project and the general public were asked to complete an energy conservation checklist highlighting simple ways to reduce energy usage.

More than 250 households participated and documented a carbon reduction of over 3 million pounds. Organizers said this development occurs at a timely point amid heated state and national discussions regarding global climate change

and the effects of a warming planet.

In addition, the partnership and Earth Keepers has scheduled a visit from renowned polar explorer Will Steger.

Steger, considered one of the leaders in the climate change movement, will be the featured speaker at an event hosted by the partnership on Oct. 19. The location has not yet been announced.

Partnership officials said Steger has traveled tens of thousands of miles by kayak and dogsled over 40 years, leading teams on some of the most significant polar expeditions in history while at the same time witnessing the ongoing consequences of global warming.

Recently, Steger formed the Will Steger Foundation, with a personal and professional commitment to foster leadership and cooperation in environmental education and policy.

The foundation's first initiative, Global Warming 101, engages and empowers individuals and policy-makers to translate their concern into action on this critical issue.

The partnership has worked with the Will Steger Foundation for the past several years to highlight some of the work being done to combat climate change.

For more information, visit www.superiorwatersheds.org