



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Reduce Your Carbon Footprint By Taking the Bus to Earth Festival**

MILFORD – “Make this the year you ride the bus to Earth Festival!”

Martha Clarvoe, president of the Otsego County Conservation Association Board of Directors, encourages county residents along State Route 28 to hop on the bus this year to attend Earth Festival 2010.

According to Clarvoe, the City of Oneonta Public Transportation (OPT) buses will provide service to Earth Festival on Saturday, April 10 at Milford Central School from Oneonta and Cooperstown – and all points in between.

Saturday bus service leaves from the OPT Clinton Plaza bus station in Oneonta (across from the Salvation Army Store) at 6 a.m., 8 a.m., 10 a.m., noon, 2 p.m., and 4 p.m. Return trips from Cooperstown are at 7 a.m., 9 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., and 5 p.m.

“So,” says Clarvoe, “if you want to be at the Earth Festival Seminar Series at 9 a.m., you can catch the 8 a.m. bus from Oneonta to arrive in Milford in time to register and get a cup of coffee and a muffin before the energy audit talk begins.”

OPT buses will take a short detour from the regular route in Milford to deliver and pick up persons attending Earth Festival activities. The last pick-up from the school will be the Cooperstown to Oneonta run that leaves Cooperstown at 5 p.m.

By using the bus rather than burning fuel in their own vehicle, a rider reduces his or her carbon footprint, thus reducing their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions into the atmosphere.

“Your carbon footprint is a measure of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions that result from various activities during a given time period. It’s the total amount of CO<sub>2</sub> that your lifestyle produces, indicating your impact on the environment through those CO<sub>2</sub> emissions,” explains Clarvoe, who will give a presentation during the Earth Festival Seminar Series on “The Low Carbon Diet” book by David Gershon. The Low Carbon Diet is a step-by-step program designed to calculate and reduce CO<sub>2</sub> output.

OPT Director Paul Patterson says, “If the 56,000 annual riders that use the OPT from Oneonta to Cooperstown and back drove their cars instead, they would use 112,000 gallons of fuel. That is equivalent to the fuel used by all OPT buses for one year. Ride the bus – the benefit to the environment is tremendous!”

For more information about riding the bus to Earth Festival, call OPT at (607) 432-7100 or OCCA at (607) 547-4488.

Earth Festival 2010 will include a seminar series from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Milford Central School auditorium, with topics ranging from renewable energy to drilling for natural gas, as well as the traditional information and vendor fair from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the gymnasium. MCS students will be leading children's activity stations throughout the day, and are currently preparing a wide array of eco-art for public viewing. The Milford Education Foundation will end Earth Festival with a special "recycled fashion" show (by ticket only). Earth Festival activities kick off with a free Family Movie Night, including a special eco-art/fashion preview, at the school on Friday, April 9 beginning at 6:30 p.m. with the movie "WALL•E."

Now in its fifth year, Earth Festival is an environmentally focused, interactive event featuring exhibits, workshops, vendors, food and entertainment, all with a fun, earth-friendly twist. Earth Festival 2010 is sponsored by the Otsego County Conservation Association and Wildlife Learning Company, and is funded in part by the Bezos Family Foundation. For more information, call OCCA or e-mail [admin@occainfo.org](mailto:admin@occainfo.org).