UD COASTAL COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE TO HOLD FORUM ON ENERGY

GEORGETOWN: The University of Delaware Coastal Community Enhancement Initiative will sponsor a town forum on “The Energy Problem” at the Lewes Public Library, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., Thursday, November 15, 2007. Participants will use the National Issues forums guide “The Energy Problem – Choices for an Uncertain Future.” The guide is designed to stimulate public deliberation, which is a way of making decisions together that is different from discussion or debate. The guide states “America's way of life seems threatened by unstable sources of energy, while many see growing evidence of environmental damage. As demands for energy escalate, both in this country and in rapidly developing nations, we may soon reach a point of no return. It is time to face the difficult choices that must be made to ensure a sustainable future.”
The guide invites people to consider the following three approaches:

“**Approach #1: Unreliable Sources - Reduce Our Dependence on Foreign Energy**

Much of the oil Americans use comes from the Middle East and other politically volatile countries that cannot be relied upon to continue supplying our needs. This poses an ongoing threat to our security. The United States has many untapped reserves of oil and natural gas. Our best course of action is to make all possible use of these domestic energy sources.

**Approach #2: Get Out of the Fossil-Fuel Predicament**

The escalating use of fossil fuels is wreaking havoc on our environment. Most scientists agree that global warming has begun in earnest and unless we slow down the burning of fossil fuels, we face catastrophic climate changes. We must get serious about developing alternative energy sources such as wind farms and solar power, and rethink the use of another clean energy source—nuclear power.

**Approach #3: Curb Our Appetite - Reduce Our Demand for Energy**

We are missing the point when we go looking for new sources of energy. What we need to do is find ways to use less energy in the first place or to use it more efficiently. The United States is home to less than 5 percent of the world's population but uses more than 20 percent of its energy. Cutting back on consumption is the cleanest and most workable way to deal with impending shortages.”
Please join us for an interesting evening of deliberation on a very important and timely topic. Light refreshments will be served.