

# ***Schenectady Branch AAUW Program***

## ***“Energy Sources for the Future”***

**How this program addressed AAUW’s mission:** Women need to be informed consumers and aware of our current energy policy. Dr. James Smiley put our complex energy situation into understandable terms and assessed the various options for the future based on scientific research and their technical viability, not their political correctness. Often programs on energy and our energy policy are attended mostly by men. We, the Schenectady branch, offered women the opportunity to learn about this topic with other women (and just a few men).

**The branch goals** met in doing this program included

- *Focusing on women and children’s issues* – educating women about our current energy policy and energy resources.
- *Community Outreach* – By having this program at the one of the branch libraries and opening it to the public we were reaching out to our members and community residents
- *Visibility* – Posters in the main and branch libraries, newsletter article, newspaper, TV and radio publicity in their community events segments.

**Action Steps in planning this program**

- One of our programming vice-presidents, who had heard Dr. Smiley speak, contacted him.
- We reserved the meeting room at the Niskayuna branch library

**Action Steps taken for community visibility**

- Wrote articles for our newsletter and a copy for our local TV and radio stations and our local newspapers to include in the community events segments.
- Put up signs in the main library and the branches advertising the program.

**Measureable impact on the community**

- There were 24 people in attendance – 20 of which were women
- Comments after the program about how informative Dr. Smiley’s presentation was.
- One of the men who attended asked me after the program about AAUW. He felt that this was such an interesting program that his wife might be interested in joining the organization.
- Another man sent me a thank you note.

**Lesson Learned**

This was a very informative program.. We believe that we would have had a much better turnout if we had it in the afternoon. Many women don’t want to go out on a cold February evening.

## **AAUW to hold energy program**

AAUW Schenectady is sponsoring a program, "Energy Sources for the Future," at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 16, at the Niskayuna Library Branch, 2400 Nott Street East.

The speaker will be James Smiley, who has a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering. He will speak about making sure that the current status of our energy resources based upon science, not "political correctness." He will assess the viability of available options and identify realistic solutions to meet current and future needs.

The public is invited.