

# "GOOD NEWZ #20"

An online newsletter produced by San Juan County Washington's Solid Waste Division to foster sustainability.



**SUSTAINABILITY** requires that we widen the scope of our awareness so that we understand fully the "true cost" of every decision we make. Common themes of **SUSTAINABILITY** are an emphasis on stewardship; the need for promoting no waste and careful use of resources; knowledge and respect for the principles of nature; and, an intergenerational perspective on community solutions. From "The Sustainability Revolution, Portrait of a Paradigm Shift" by Andrés Edward and David Orr



**WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HONOR EARTH DAY, APRIL 22nd?** You can make 10 easy changes in your daily life that will help protect Puget Sound from pollution and erosion from stormwater runoff. WA Dept. of Ecology's Puget Sound Action Team (PSAT) suggests "Things You Can Do to Reduce Stormwater Runoff Problems." See [http://www.psat.wa.gov/you\\_can\\_do/10\\_things.htm](http://www.psat.wa.gov/you_can_do/10_things.htm).  
[For local Earth Day actions, see San Juan Islands newz below.]



**WASTE WORLD:** Testing results from "Consumer Reports" suggest that pre-rinsing dishes before loading your dishwasher does not improve cleaning. By skipping the pre-rinse step, you can save as much as 20 gallons of water per load (6500 gallons/year).

**SPRING COMPOST RECIPE-** Alternate 2-4" layers of **green** material (grass clippings, weeds, food waste) and **brown** materials (dry autumn leaves, straw, black-and-white newspaper strips); cover food layers with sprinkling of soil; cap off with a brown layer. Mix the pile every 2 weeks and harvest finished compost in 2-3 months.

**GOT MOSS?** Simply spray undiluted white vinegar on unwanted moss (or weeds) to eliminate them. For other non-toxic gardening alternatives, see <http://www.yarddays.com>.

You can still order your FREE "**Pesticide Free Zone**" yard sign from Washington Toxics Coalition. See <http://www.watoxics.org> and welcome Springtime with this durable, adorable aluminum ladybug.



## **THE WORLD COMMUNITY:**

Costa Rica/Panama border - Palo Seco Protected Area & La Amistad Internat'l Park, spanning the entire border of the two countries, contains an ecotourism business complex built in the tropical forest, in an area that was once a military training camp. Rainforest Alliance has helped to encourage sustainable tourism in Latin American and Caribbean businesses. Eco-travelers can make a positive difference, while experiencing beautiful protected places that benefit local cultures, flora, and fauna. <http://www.eco-index.org/tourism/>

Kiribati Island Nation (archipelago of 33 islands between Hawaii and Fiji) - The world's 3rd largest marine reserve bans commercial fishing inside its 73,800 sq miles. It is the 1st reserve with deep-sea habitat, including underwater mountains, and will protect more than 120 coral species and 520 fish species.

Total installed GLOBAL windpower capacity now stands at 60,000 MegaWatts. Lester Brown, founder and President of Earth Policy Institute, said that with demand for wind energy up installation costs have come down from 38¢ per kWh in the 1980s to 4¢ per kWh today.



## **AMERICAN EFFORTS:**

"Building Green - From Principle to Practice" is a project of the Natural Resources Defense Council. The new web site is designed to help building professionals incorporate energy- and water-efficiency features into building design. There are also downloadable tools, case studies, fact sheets, LEED certification information, and even sustainable office furniture suppliers. <http://www.nrdc.org/buildinggreen>

"Advanced" electricity meters will be installed in selected millions of CA households to display at a glance how much electrical power and money is being used. State regulators and two of CA's largest utilities are investing in

the program to encourage citizens to cut back during peak hours and help alleviate perpetual power crunches in the state. Data collected by the meters will be used to offer variable-rate plans to reward good power behavior--like running dishwashers in off-peak times. Similar programs have cut electricity consumption by an average of 13% in PA, FL, Sweden, and elsewhere.

San Francisco CA - The Significant Resource Areas Management Plan, based on sound science, has received high marks from 3 independent science reviews for its progressive approach to protecting the Bay Area's most imperiled wildlife and plants. [http://www.parks.sfgov.org/site/recpark\\_index.asp?id=1896](http://www.parks.sfgov.org/site/recpark_index.asp?id=1896).

Spokane WA - The state Dept. of Ecology attributes "community-wide passion for the health of the river" with new plans to reduce pollution in the Spokane River (designated as 1 of 10 of the nation's most endangered rivers by American Rivers). The strategy, developed through an ongoing collaboration of discharging businesses and cities along the River, local governments, tribes and environmental groups, includes modernization of wastewater treatment facilities, reduction of polluted runoff, water conservation, and re-use of treated wastewater.

New York City Harbor - The U.S. National Park Service has contracted with Pepco Energy Services to supply an estimated 27 million kWh of windmill-generated electricity over the next 3 years to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island Museum. The "100% greening" will help farmers in WV and PA who lease their land for windmills.

Maui HI and Los Angeles CA - Bio-Beetle Eco Rental Cars, located near the airports, provides rental cars powered by 100% recycled vegetable oil. At costs comparable to fossil-fueled rentals, you can choose a rental car that "gives the planet a vacation." <http://www.bio-beetle.com>

∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

### **SUSTAINABLE SAN JUANS eco-bytes:**

Help clean up our beaches on Earth Day (and beyond). Call Jana at the Friends of the San Juans (378-2319) to sign up and get equipment. And, check out the beach and road cleanup at DEER HARBOR as well as other island events in your neighborhood!

A San Juan Island Roadside Cleanup is being sponsored by Kiwanis, Lions, Rotary, Soroptimist. You can sign up and get equipment for this spring's clean-up days (April 19th-30th) at FH Marketplace.

Saturday April 22nd is **HAZARDOUS WASTE ROUND-UP** day on San Juan Island from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Solid Waste Transfer Station in Friday Harbor. (Look for more details in local newspapers and on the County's Solid Waste webpage at <http://www.co.san-juan.wa.us/publicworks/solid-waste/haz-waste.html>)

∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞ ∞

"Gardening organically means you're providing a healthy habitat; you're running a nature preserve as well as a garden. The insects you tolerate are nourishing the birds you enjoy. An organic garden is really a big, natural, self-replenishing bird-feeder." Roxanna Robinson, "The Natives"

"When it comes to your yard, go natural." Cisco Morris, KING-TV gardening guru

"We can grow our way out of some of our problems." Willie Nelson, aka "BioWillie" Willie Nelson Biodiesel (distribution company) has opened several public biodiesel pumps at truck stops nationwide and a biodiesel retail filling station on El Cajon Blvd in San Diego CA.

## Happy Earth Day to the whole planet!

"Good Newz" reports on global, national, and local sustainability efforts. We welcome your input and suggestions for improving the newsletter. Contact [helenv@sjcpublicworks.org](mailto:helenv@sjcpublicworks.org) to share your newz or to "unsubscribe" from this mailing list. Please forward "Good Newz" to anyone who might be interested in sustainability.

Helen Venada, 4/06