

"GOOD NEWZ #13" is an online newsletter produced by San Juan County Washington's Solid Waste Division, in line with its "Trash to Treasures" project goals. The hope and purpose of "Good Newz" and the virtual "**Sustainable San Juans**" effort is to spark enthusiasm in the concept of sustainability; its aim is to encourage community-building by providing a format for the collection and dissemination of new ideas, practices, and products that promote sustainability in the San Juan Islands. We also hope to acknowledge existing efforts by local individuals, organizations, agencies, and businesses that support sustainability; let us know of your efforts!

• **In a sustainable community, residents consume resources and produce waste at a rate that allows their children (and their neighbors' children) to enjoy the same lifestyle into the future.**

"Good Newz" reports on global, national, and local efforts. We welcome your input and suggestions for improving the newsletter. Contact helenv@sjcpublicworks.org to share your news. To "unsubscribe" from this mailing list, reply to this email. Please forward "Good Newz" to anyone who might be interested in sustainability, especially in the San Juan Islands.

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GREEN TIP OF THE MONTH: Tired of junk mail? Copy & print the following letter and mail it to the Direct Marketing Assn to dramatically reduce the number of unsolicited catalogs you get. BE SURE TO SIGN THE LETTER and be patient because it takes a few months to take effect. It works!

TO: Direct Marketing Association Mail Preference Service
P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale NY 11735-9008

Please place my address on the Direct Marketing Association's Mail Preference Service list of consumers who do not wish to be contacted by mail for marketing purposes. I understand this request is good for at least five years.

FROM: Signature: Printed Name: Address:

THE WORLD COMMUNITY:

Baghdad, Iraq: Mishkat Al Moumin, the new Iraqi Environment Minister, said she needs \$385 million for operations alone, and much more for projects. Damage from decades of war will require rebuilding vast marshes, cleaning up spilled oil and refinery chemicals, and managing the many uncontrolled landfills. "I focus on opportunity, not disappointment. If I get the money, it is great. If I don't get it, I will think in another direction."

Beijing, China: The China Daily reported that the capital city's environmental protection bureau is facing great pressure to clean up the air before the 2008 Olympic games are hosted there. Smoke from coal power plants is always a headache for the environment, an official said. Residential use was cut by 5 million tons in 2004 but industrial coal use is up by 3 million tons in this fastest-growing car and energy market. \$7 billion is budgeted to relocate factories and to upgrade sewage treatment. Planting evergreen grasses on rooftops of 30% of highrises and 60% of other buildings will reduce smog by 30%.

Shanghai, China: U.S. General Motors Corp. and Shanghai Auto have partnered to build the first hybrid bus in China. A fuel savings of 40-60% is expected and an emissions reduction of 90% is anticipated.

Way To Go AMERICAN EFFORTS:

Portland, ME - Even with 30 F temperatures and gray clouds, enough solar energy has collected from the roof to generate all the hot water for a busy night at the Washboard Laundry. Roof panels heat 500 gallons of water and yield a 65% reduction in energy use (saves resources + \$\$\$ on utility bills!).

Seattle, WA and Vancouver, B.C. - To reduce environmental stress and public health concerns, these adjacent airsheds are developing a bi-lateral airshed strategy to address rapid population growth, transportation demands, and increased energy consumption.

Seattle, WA - A NW Sustainability Conference on the "power of the individual to create change in society through everyday sustainability" will be held on April 23 and 24th at the Mountaineers Bldg in Seattle. Register early (\$15 for both days) at NW Environmental Education Council's site: <http://www.nweec.org>.

SUSTAINABLE SAN JUANS eco-bytes:

Navigating Our Future's Green Building Forum will be held on Saturday, March 12th, from 1:30 to 4:45 pm at the Mullis Community Senior Center in Friday Harbor. Learn about eco-smart building design for homes that are healthier and that have less impact on the environment. [Saving resources saves you \$\$\$.] For more info, see www.navigatingourfuture.org.

Thank you, Kings Market in Friday Harbor, for helping to circulate new, improved "Recycling Guidelines for San Juan & Orcas Islands" on the latest printing of your grocery bags!

Joni Trumbull, owner of Rose's Cafe in Eastsound, says that 90% of the meals served at the restaurant are either organic or locally-grown food. Joni leads the local chapter of a "Slow Food" group of food producers and consumers that's learning more about the national movement started by Alice Water...and about each other. Social interaction is a recognized part of the food picture (good conversation=good digestion). The "Small Green Island Convivium" has members from Orcas, Lopez, San Juan, and Lummi Islands. The convivium is open to everyone and new chapters can easily be formed; see www.slowfoodusa.org. Rose's Cafe joins the growing list of business establishments on the San Juan Islands that are providing good healthy food to their customers while supporting sustainable agriculture.

The end of February is the TIME TO PRUNE and FERTILIZE ROSES. To discourage black spot mildew, try "Remedy," or other less-toxic fungicide made of potassium bicarbonate; or spray wettable sulfur (wearing protective gloves, goggles, and hat and following all label directions). Choose disease-resistant roses for new plantings.

Solar Power to the People! Eric Youngren, of Rainshadow Solar on Orcas Island, asks us to call Rep. Jeff Morris ([360-786-7970](tel:360-786-7970)), Rep. Dave Quall ([360-786-7800](tel:360-786-7800)), and Sen. Harriet Spanel ([360-786-7678](tel:360-786-7678)) to ask them to vote for Senate Bill 5101 and its companion bills. Tell them you support state financial incentives for renewable energy. This bill will pay owners 12-42 cents/kWh for electricity generated by grid-tied solar or windpower; it is a production-based lowering of electric bills, rather than an installation rebate. It will benefit WA's solar industry and will reduce the payback time for renewable energy installation to ~15 years. It only takes a few minutes of your time to leave a message and voice your preference for clean, renewable energy.

OPALCO's rebate program 2005 has been expanded to the end of June. Incentives to promote smart energy consumption include purchase rebates of \$50 for Energy Star-rated refrigerators and clothes washers; \$25-\$40 for hot water heaters with high energy factor; \$400 for Super Good Cents manufactured homes; and \$500 for Energy Star heat pumps. Call 376-3571 for program details.

George Post, long-standing member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, proposing an alternative approach to waste management: "We can create wonderful art and crafts from trashed materials for sale to tourists; that will reduce costs for waste disposal and for transportation to the mainland!"

"Poorly planned coastal development has compounded the impacts of the tsunamis," said Mubaria Ahmad in Indonesia. The Director of World Wildlife Fund said, "It is vital that we don't repeat past mistakes. We need to rebuild in a sustainable and safe way." [Reportedly, coral reef protection implemented by the government of the Maldives, greatly reduced tsunami damage to the shorelands.]