

**"GOOD NEWZ #9"** 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 growing **"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 concepts; please let us know of your efforts!

- "A sustainable society satisfies its needs without diminishing the prospects of future generations."  
Lester R. Brown, Founder and President, Worldwatch Institute
- "Sustainability is the long-term economic, ecological, and social health and vitality of our community."  
Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment
- Sustainable agriculture meets today's needs without compromising the ability to meet future needs; it protects and enhances security in the health of our food supply and of the natural environment.

"Good Newz" reports on global, national, and local efforts. We welcome your input and suggestions for improving the newsletter. Contact [helenv@rockisland.com](mailto:helenv@rockisland.com) to share your news on sustainable individual, group, and business efforts. 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..

**CONCEPT OF THE MONTH:** **"Shifting baselines"** is a term, coined by fisheries biologist Daniel Pauly in 1995, which quickly spread to other disciplines. Shifting baselines are the chronic, slow, hard to notice changes that go on in our world and in our lives and that we come to accept as normal over time. For example, although the number of salmon in the Columbia River is now twice what it was in the 1930's, the number then was only 10% of what it was in the 1800's (the 1930's baseline had shifted). Conservationists have learned that without seeking input from our elders' memories of what was, each new generation could erroneously adopt shifted baselines. In our own lives, have we lowered our own standards (food quality, air quality, etc.) so that we're now accepting things that we once found unacceptable? (e.g. American "affluenza"/consumerism and waste generation are now accepted as normal human behavior when, in fact, our culture has historically thrived with more resource-conservative ethics and practices.) Have your baselines shifted?

### **THE WORLD COMMUNITY:**

Madagascar, an island in the Indian Ocean on Africa's southeast coast, has extraordinary ecosystem diversity due to its geographical isolation. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation will fund \$1.6M for conservation of millions of acres, including marine areas and wetlands, to protect species that exist nowhere else.

Uganda, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo - Endangered Virunga Mountain Gorillas' numbers are slowly increasing, up by 17% since 1990, in three national park reserves in Central Africa. Scientists from the Wildlife Conservation Society at the NYC Bronx Zoo report that there are now 670 mountain gorillas in the wild.

Copenhagen, Denmark - A new Danish energy policy will provide funding for triple the number of large windmills built in 2003 when one of the world's biggest windmill parks came on line. Windpower capacity will increase to 750 MW over the next 5 years, providing electricity, during strong winds, to 375,000 homes (25% of the annual national consumption). An estimated several thousand new jobs could be generated by the new policy.

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### **GOOD ALL-AMERICAN EFFORTS:**

Computer chip manufacturers are getting greener. Intel and National Semiconductor announced separately last week that they will begin eliminating lead from most of their products (particularly in circuit boards and cathode ray monitors). Intel will begin shipping lead-free embedded processors in the second quarter of 2004 and lead-free microprocessors in the third quarter; their lead-free memory chips are already on the market. National Semiconductor will phase lead out of its products by the end of the year, and also try to reduce the use of bromine- and antimony-based flame retardants. A European law mandates a phaseout of lead by July 2006. While no such laws are on the books in the U.S., public concerns have prompted action from manufacturers.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - Recycling in San Francisco kept 63% of all waste materials from going to the landfill in 2002. The top three recyclers were the Recreation and Parks Department, the Public Works Department, and the de Young Museum. Aggressive recycling and reuse of materials at construction and demolition sites accounted for the majority of the increase. Over a million tons were diverted through recycling, composting, reuse, source reduction and other efforts...e.g. half of the 122,000 tons of concrete and deconstruction materials at a hospital re-model was re-used on site. Public Works is re-using the sand that blows on the Great Highway to fill erosion hotspots on Ocean Beach.

"Recycling is tied directly to the economy," so (we want to) "capture everything available in the construction realm," observed the SF Environment Director. A 75% goal was adopted by the Board of Supervisors in 2002 and the mayor encourages "mandatory recycling" to achieve the target by 2010. The mayor would "hold manufacturers accountable for the environmental impacts of their products and packaging."

GAINESVILLE, FL - Archie Carr National Wildlife Refuge, the first marine turtle refuge, added 9.3 miles of beachfront to its 20.5 miles of Florida's east central coast reserve for endangered sea turtles. The reserve, built on the site of an old marina, provides nesting habitat and ongoing research opportunities. See <http://www.cccturtle.org> for more info and high resolution loggerhead photos.

ATLANTA, GA - Interface, Inc., carpets manufacturer, was honored with an EPA Climate Protection Award for reducing its carbon dioxide emissions by 46% from 1996 levels. Through programs like Cool Carpet, Trees for Travel, Clean Co2mmute and Interface Cool Fuel program, "...(we) reduced (our) greenhouse gas footprint," said Dr. Mike Bertolucci, president of Interface Research. "From offsetting the emissions associated with our air travel and individual car commutes, to changing our production, "we're helping to 'cool off' the environment."

MONROE, WA - Monroe farmers and the Tulalip Tribes announced in March that they will be partnering with four Skykomish Valley dairies to develop a manure-to-electricity plant. Revenues from selling the electricity will cover costs of collecting and treating manure, saving the dairies millions of dollars over time. The plant will also assure that manure does not get into streams and rivers where it could harm salmon and other wildlife. The project will help to keep the dairy industry viable in the Valley so farms don't have to be sold off for development.

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### SUSTAINABLE SAN JUANS:

Katie Hover, former Master Gardener educator extraordinaire for the WSU Extension Office in Friday Harbor, is taking her interest in supporting sustainable agriculture into a new direction. She'll be working with her family on LaCrover Farm to produce certified organic fruits, vegies and pastured chickens! Place your orders at 378-3515.

The draft Marine Stewardship Area zone map is online at [http://www.sjcmrc.org/programs/zone\\_map.pdf](http://www.sjcmrc.org/programs/zone_map.pdf).

See <http://www.co.san-juan.wa.us/publicworks/solid-waste> for details on the scheduled hazardous waste collection for San Juan Island (under "hot topics"). An updated "Recycling Guidelines" is also available on the site.

San Juan Islands' water quality and quantity, stormwater issues, seawater intrusion and mitigation, water conservation (e.g. rainwater catchment) are some of the topics of Navigating Our Future's water forum to be held on Saturday, 5/15 at the County Fairgrounds. Register at <http://navigatingourfuture.org/index.htm>.

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"Wisdom is knowing what to do next. Skills is knowing how to do it. Virtue is actually doing it." Thomas Jefferson

"If every American household installed one compact fluorescent lightbulb, one Chernobyl-sized nuclear power plant could be eliminated." The Solar Living Institute (See [www.solarliving.org](http://www.solarliving.org) to register for comprehensive sustainability courses in northern CA)

"Wilderness is not a luxury but a necessity of the human spirit, as vital to our lives as water and good bread."  
Edward Abbey

"If everyone honored spirit of the land, there would be peace." Chinese Feng Shui saying  
Helen Venada, 5/04