

"GOOD NEWZ #21"

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



Some things are worth repeating! The "PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE," in summary, states that precautionary measures should be taken when an activity raises threats of harm to the environment or human health, even if some cause and effect relationships are not fully established scientifically. In other words, says the Science and Environmental Health Network at <http://www.sehn.org> --"Better safe than sorry." "Look before you leap." "First do no harm." The ethical presumption is that humans are responsible to protect, preserve, and restore the global ecosystems on which all life, including our own, depends. Learning more about the consequences of actions and acting appropriately is precautionary, it's preventive medicine, it's common sense.



WASTE WORLD: Got garden bugs? Trap them easily (and avoid pesticides) by placing long newspaper cones with pointed end near the base of vulnerable plants; remove for disposal and replace with new cones. Here's a  fun way to keep birds from eating your strawberries. Paint some stones to resemble strawberries and place them in your garden as the fruit ripens. Birds will tire of pecking at the stones and will lose interest in visiting your patch!



THE WORLD COMMUNITY:

The government of Rwanda has arrived at a preliminary agreement with Conservation International to protect over a million acres of rainforest, bringing Rwanda's total protected area to 37% of its territory, the highest of any African nation. Associated ecotourism will create jobs and there is hope that there will be a boost in investment to a country that demonstrates care for its environment.

The World Watch Institute reports that the Cambodian government is promoting organic farming to reduce the use of toxic agricultural chemicals. Some 2000 farmers are already producing their own organic fertilizers; those who are making their own insecticides (from lemon grass, tobacco, and bitter sdao plant) say they are experiencing fewer headaches, nausea, and other health problems.

The ozone layer is beginning to recover! phase out CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons that refrigerants in refrigerators, freezers, and air conditioners); since then, ozone holes over the Arctic, Antarctic, and other parts of our stratosphere are significantly smaller, thereby reducing the harmful effects of solar UV rays that damage DNA in living cells. Proof that "global cooperation for the good of all our futures can work."



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AMERICAN EFFORTS:

Baltimore, MD - The 1st National Conference on Precaution will convene hundreds of people working on environmental and health issues. The BE SAFE campaign is a nationwide initiative to build support for applying the Precautionary Principle to decision-making in order to prevent pollution and environmental destruction before it happens. You can sign the Precautionary Platform at <http://www.BeSafeNet.com>.

This summer's selection of movies includes some with "carbon-offsetting" built in. "Nacho Libre" star, Jack Black, drives a hybrid car; "Superman Returns" will kick off a host of environmental initiatives by Warner Brothers including use of electric vehicles; Orlando Bloom of "Pirates of the Caribbean" paid for enough tree plantings in Scotland to help mitigate his carbon use. Also, the release of "Hoot" coincided with the "Give A Hoot" campaign; 100+ volunteers in 27 cities in 12 states educated viewers about the peril of owls and other wildlife and collected petition signatures supporting habitat protection.

Washington DC - 17 federal agencies and the Executive Office of the President have signed the first Memorandum of Understanding committing to the design, construction, and operation of high performance and sustainable buildings. The federal gov't owns 445,000 buildings and the goal of "leading by example" is to accelerate the implementation of measures that will improve the health and productivity of workers, the economy, and the environment.

New York, New York - Verdant Power of Virginia will submerge turbines in the East River to draw energy from the tides. The Roosevelt Island Tidal Energy Project will run 6 turbines to supply 10 megawatts of energy to help power a nearby supermarket and parking garage. The 18-month pilot project is one of several in other global sites that are being developed or are under consideration for this hydrokinetic "in-stream" technology; studies report that marine life will be able to easily navigate the watermills.

Washington, D.C. - Some of the nation's top climate scientists who have viewed Al Gore's documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth," have given it 5 stars for scientific accuracy. Movie critic, Roger Ebert, said, "It is not boring....You owe it to yourself to see this film....I went home and turned off the lights!" The film includes ways that you can learn to take action now to address the impacts of global warming.

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SUSTAINABLE SAN JUANS eco-bytes:

Celebrate Independence Day by reducing your "ecological footprint." The average American requires 24 acres of productive land to provide for his/her food, clothes, shelter, transportation, entertainment, and waste disposal (the average European requires 12 acres). The Earth provides an estimated 4.5 acres per person. This is like spending more money than you earn! How much land, water, and energy do you need to support what you use and throw away? Take the 15 easy-question quiz at <http://www.myfootprint.org> and learn what you can do now to improve the forecast.

Energy independence for the Islands???? The Lopez Community Land Trust has received a \$16,000 USDA Rural Business Enterprise grant to develop the San Juan County Renewable Energy Producers Cooperative. Its mission includes providing economic and environmental benefits to islanders by exploring, developing and maintaining renewable energy resources. At the next meeting (July 17th at 3:30 pm, Lopez Library), groups will present their findings on solar hot water, conservation techniques, electric car stations, bio-diesel, solar photovoltaics, wind sites, and energy audits. LCTC has contracted with the NW Cooperative Development Ctr for help with creating the Articles of Incorporation and by-laws. Contact Sandy Bishop on Lopez, Kyle Davies on San Juan, or Eric Youngren on Orcas or lct@rockisland.com for more info.

Island Petroleum Services reports that biodiesel use is increasing here. B20 (blend of 20% soybean-based biodiesel + 80% petro-based fuel) is available at the Port of FH fuel dock and at the IPS station in FH; B99 is also available at the station. Cost per gallon is the same as conventional diesel due to IPS's commitment to providing cleaner fuel. Bon Accord Kayaks mothership, *Henrietta*, has had smooth and clean sailing on B80. On Orcas Island, biofuel is available at Island Supply; North Shore Charters is using B99; and, Mead Biofuel says more farmers, contractors, and others are choosing biodiesel to reduce harmful emissions and obnoxious odors.

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"In the 21st century, we envision a world in which our food, water and air are clean, and our children grow up healthy and thrive. Everyone needs a protected, safe community and workplace and natural environment to enjoy. We can make this world vision a reality. The tools we bring to this work are prevention, safety, responsibility and democracy."
from the Center for Health, Environment, and Justice

"The best way to predict the future is to create it!"

Anonymous

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

Mahatma Gandhi

"Good Newz" reports on global, national, and local sustainability efforts. We welcome your input and suggestions for improving the newsletter. Contact helenv@sjcpbublicworks.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, June 06