

# "GOOD NEWZ #22"

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. Sustainability means "enough---for all---forever."



**CONSERVATION** of energy and resources is **SMART** and **EFFICIENT**. Conservation uses **COMMON SENSE** + **TECHNICAL INNOVATION** to **GET MORE** out of every unit of energy and resource consumed. To lower your gas and electric bills and conserve resources, the Alliance to Save Energy says **THE POWER IS IN YOUR HANDS**. See <http://www.ase.org> for conservation tips and be comfortable without heating up the planet.

40% of total summer household water use goes to lawns and gardens. Think ahead and install simple, inexpensive rain barrels to capture rain from your rooftop. This ancient and traditional practice provides naturally soft water during dry spells that is oxygenated, chlorine-free, warmer than tap water, and better for plants and the environment.

Interested in "products for a better planet" and a more responsible lifestyle? Consumer Reports makes suggestions at <http://www.greenerchoices.org/>

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## THE WORLD COMMUNITY:

The Ocean Conservancy reports that 18,000 miles of coastline in 74 nations were part of the annual International Coastal Cleanup last year. 450,000 volunteers removed 8.2 million pounds of beach debris in one day. Cigarettes, food wrappers, caps and lids account for more than half of all debris collected in the U.S. This year's "local effort with global effect" will be held on September 16th. <http://www.oceanconservancy.org/>

Amazon Region Protected Area, Brazil - 6.2 million acres with the world's highest diversity of birds and freshwater fish, the largest rainforest, and home to 1/3 of all species will be protected in a system of 890 reserves and parks by 2010. You can see and hear the jungle's howler monkeys, jaguars, and macaws at <http://www.worldwildlife.org/wildplaces/amazon/sounds.cfm> (check out "vocalizations" under each species' info)

Kabul, Afghanistan - Snow leopards, ibex, gazelles, and the world's largest sheep (named after Marco Polo) will be protected in the country's first official system of reserves. A joint project of the gov'ts of the U.S. and Afghan and the Wildlife Conservation Society also creates a 4-country transboundary park in the high Pamirs of China, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, some of the most beautiful wildlands in Asia, in which local communities will be participating to sustainably manage their natural resources.

The Pearl Jam World Tour is using B100 (100% biodiesel) to mitigate its carbon emissions in its 9 production trucks and buses and will donate \$100,000 to 9 renewable energy/climate change organizations (including Bonneville Environmental Foundation). "We established our Carbon Portfolio Strategy to invest in the future health of our planet and its delicate ecosphere," said guitarist Stone Gossard.

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## AMERICAN EFFORTS:

Brad Pitt is narrating a new six-part TV series on sustainable architecture. "Design:e2" is aired on KCTS-TV on Fridays at 9 pm.

Columbia River Gorge WA/OR - In a collaboration of rural ranchers, gov't at all levels, and non-profit organizations, along with consumer/business/political will and grid integration, a wheat farm north of the Columbia River Gorge will be producing enough clean wind energy to power 216,000 homes. The Big Horn Project represents an "economic renewable cluster" that capitalizes on the gusting, previously-unwanted winds that now bring prosperity to the area. Once the new Big Horn Project comes online, the farm owners will receive

\$160,000+ in annual royalties for their "cash crop." There's a wealth of info on renewable energy at <http://www.harvestcleanenergy.org>

WA Department of Transportation has applied compost on test shoulders of I-5. "Compost applied as a blanket with grass seed blown on top acts as a filter, absorbs water and mimics natural systems," said DOT's senior hydraulics design engineer. Compost could be the natural solution to preventing pollution that washes off roads (oil, grease, gas, heavy metals) from entering water systems and is a much less expensive way to protect water quality than settling ponds or mechanical separators.

Reynolds IN - The Indiana Department of Agriculture's "Biotown" project plans to generate its own electricity and gas using everything from municipal trash to farm waste, hog manure, and town sewage to meet the energy needs of all its homes and businesses.

Bellingham, WA - Sustainable Connections, Puget Sound Energy, and the City of Bellingham will kick off Bellingham's Green Power Community Challenge to gain recognition on a national level and set an example for others as it becomes an EPA-designated Green Power Community!

Aleutian Islands, AL - Rare cold water coral gardens, observed no where else, will be protected under a new federal rule excluding more than 320,000 square miles of ocean floor from bottom trawling.

San Francisco, CA - The West Coast Green Building Expo and Conference will be held in SF in September to respond to the tremendous groundswell of public interest in green products, design, and sustainable building. 250 exhibitors and 120 top leaders, including Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., in the fields of green architecture, design, engineering, and planning will participate in "Green Week." <http://www.westcoastgreen.com>

Here's a free download of green building remodeling guides from Seattle (copy and paste):  
<http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/GreenBuilding/SingleFamilyResidential/Resources/RemodelingGuides/default.asp>

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

OPALCO, Bonneville Power Administration, and the Lopez Community Land Trust will be hosting two 1-day solar pre-heat workshops on October 10th in Friday Harbor and October 11th on Lopez Island. To view an energy co-op model adopted by Oregon's Pioneer Valley Photovoltaics, see <http://www.pvsquared.coop/index.htm>.

San Juan County is incorporating environmental considerations in procurement. Some of the "Environmentally Preferred Products" (EPP) being used are unbleached recycled paper towels, less toxic cleaning products, and District Court's modular carpet tiles with recycled content and low-VOCs. Public Works' new hybrid car is a pilot that could soon lead to other "green" vehicles in the fleet.

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"The Pacific Northwest has successfully demonstrated that you don't have to forego a quality environment to secure reliable, low-cost electric services." Ralph Cavanaugh, Bonneville Environmental Fndtion Bd of Directors

"The fuel of the future is going to come from fruit like that sumac out by the road, or from apples, weeds, sawdust -- almost anything. There is fuel in every bit of vegetable matter that can be fermented. There's enough alcohol in one year's yield of an acre of potatoes to drive the machinery necessary to cultivate the fields for a hundred years." Henry Ford, 1925

"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world." Anne Frank

"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail." Ralph Waldo Emerson

"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, September 06