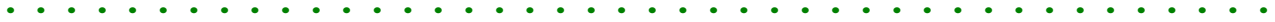


"GOOD NEWZ #19"

An online newsletter produced by San Juan County Washington's Solid Waste Division, in line with its "Trash to Treasures" project goals to foster sustainability.



* SUSTAINABILITY requires widening the scope of our awareness so that we can understand fully the "true cost" of every choice we make.

* Common themes of SUSTAINABILITY are an emphasis on stewardship; the need for promoting no waste and equitable economic distribution; 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



Waste World: Did you know? Laptop computers use 50% less energy than desktop machines. During its 2005 energy crisis, California asked office workers to turn off computers when not in use. Turning them off not only saves energy but prolongs the life of the machine by reducing heat and mechanical stress. Did you know? The electricity generated for use by one typical home puts more carbon dioxide into the air than two cars driven for a year. Your conservation efforts at home and work really do make a difference! Did you know? Clay-based kitty litter products do not break down in landfills (which doesn't mean you should add them to your garden or yard, especially near any water body). Choose clay-free litter instead.



THE WORLD COMMUNITY:

Mexico City, Mexico - An ambitious plan to drastically cut fuel emissions to improve air quality in Mexico went into effect this summer, with limits that are among the strictest in the world. The gov't-owned oil company, Petroleos Mexicanos, must reduce sulfur content of its diesel and unleaded gasoline by at least 84% by 2008.

U.N. Secretary General, Kofi Annan, has won the million dollar Global/Zayed Leadership for the Environment Prize for 2005. The jury said that Annan has "...done more than most to catalyze political and public opinion to an understanding that the environment is a fundamental pillar of sustainable development and global security."

Torino, Italy - 2500 athletes from 75 countries experienced the greenest Olympics ever this year! Eco-friendly buildings in the Olympic Villages were constructed of pollution-free materials. From the Zero Waste goal for garbage (68% recycled + 32% reused as fuel) to the planned Green Dinner, organizers applied the European Union's tools, in line with the Kyoto Protocol, to be carbon neutral; 16 environmental indicators (water, air, soil, energy, ecosystem, et al.) were monitored to meet the objectives of environmental sustainability and of green certification. The overall goal was to leave a long-lasting legacy of sustainable development. Vancouver's 2010 Olympics planning team will attempt to raise the sustainability bar even higher.

Oslo Norway - Norsk Hydro plans to install a windmill prototype floating on the high seas that is expected to start generating electricity in 2007...a shift from land-based turbines (often denounced as eyesores). Out of sight over the horizon, parks of non-polluting windmills could eventually supply power to coastal cities or to offshore oil and gas platforms anywhere from the North Sea to the Gulf of Mexico. Hydro has been measuring wind conditions over 30 years of North Sea drilling, with promising results.



AMERICAN EFFORTS:

Seattle WA - Puget Sound Energy (PSE) has acquired development rights to the Wild Horse Wind Power Project from Horizon Wind Energy, formerly Zilkha Renewable Energy. PSE now owns 100% of the planned 229-megawatt project located in Kittitas County. The wind project, expected to be completed by 2007, is the first to be approved by Washington's facilities siting process.

The 11/29/05 Wall Street Journal reported that oil giant BP plans to invest up to \$8 billion of its oil-and-gas profits into clean energy technologies and greenhouse-gas abatement projects over the next 10 years...an eightfold increase over BP's clean energy investment of the past decade. BP expects an eventual 15% return on the funding and expects to hire several hundred staffers for a new business unit that will consolidate solar, wind, hydrogen, carbon sequestration, and ultra-efficient power generation projects.

Where the (Pronghorn) Antelope Play - President Bush signed a bill that guarantees permanent protection of 100,000-acre Cedar Mountain and Wilderness Area in Utah. The 7000-ft range runs through the Great Salt Lake Desert. <http://www.leaveitwild.org>

Detroit MI - Super Bowl XL provided for the planting of 300 trees in Wayne County Parks to help offset adverse environmental impacts of the event. The December 2005 game between the St.Louis Rams and the Philadelphia Eagles was the 1st NFL game to have its carbon pollution offset with renewable energy purchases.

Bellevue WA - On-board inspections, per a 2004 voluntary agreement with the WA Department of Ecology (DOE), Port of Seattle, and the NW Cruise Ship Assn., found no violations by cruise ships in 2005 of tough wastewater discharge standards (exceeding federal requirements) into Puget Sound. Jay Manning, DOE Director, said, "We appreciate the cruise lines' continued investment in equipment and training to protect the beautiful waters their passengers come to enjoy."

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SUSTAINABLE SAN JUANS:

Energy Independent Islands?!!! Along with Lopez Community Land Trust's plans to build zero-net energy homes, LCLT is spearheading the formation of a SJC renewable energy producers/buyers cooperative. Residents of other islands are invited to form their own satellite groups or to set up visits by the Lopez group to tour local renewable sites. Please call 468-3723 for more details or email lclt@rockisland.com. For more good info, see <http://smartcommunities.ncat.org>.

Inn at Ship Bay and Turtleback Inn on Orcas Island are part of an international trend - green hotels. The lodging facilities are certified as using best management practices (BMPs) to reduce negative impacts on the environment (such as energy and water saving practices and waste reduction efforts). People for Puget Sound reports that a significant number of hotel guests live in WA who may therefore be more likely to link personal behavior and value-based purchasing with travel. "Value-based purchasing" is the purchase of goods and services by individuals or groups that reflects the personal value system, beliefs, and morals of the consumer. Details on BMPs for Lodging and Food Arts businesses and for marine tourist-related businesses are available at <http://www.pugetsound.org/index/tourism> and also at <http://www.greenhotels.com>.

WA State Ferries' ELWHA is fueled with ultra-low sulfur diesel, reducing sulfur dioxide pollution by 90% and particulates pollution by 30%. WSF is working with Puget Sound Clean Air Agency on plans for a biodiesel pilot for the ferries. Contact Celia Shorr at WA Dept of Transportation (shorrc@wsdot.wa.gov) for more info. The winter Bellingham-Friday Harbor run on the SJ Islander Commuter has been fueled with B5 biodiesel (the run is due to end on March 31st). All the creatures in the Puget Sound region can be thankful for the cleaner air.

Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services(DVSAS) collects used cell phones to send to an organization that refurbishes them to provide to women in need. In return DVSAS receives a cash rebate for the donations. Please call Patty at 378-8680.

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"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community."
Aldo Leopold

"Protecting habitat is known to be the best way to protect endangered species. Habitat protections are critical not just for the intended plants and animals, but for numerous others as well—including, it appears, species we have long written off as extinct." Brian Nowicki, conservation biologist, Center for Biological Diversity

"Of course we can change the world." John Goekler to Leadership San Juan Islands class, 2005

"The grand show is eternal. It is always sunrise somewhere." John Muir

"Good Newz" reports on global, national, and local efforts. This is a forum for acknowledging existing efforts by local individuals, organizations, agencies, and businesses that support sustainability. Contact helenv@sjcpublicworks.org to share your news or to "unsubscribe" from this mailing list. Please forward "Good Newz" to anyone who might be interested in sustainability.