

**"GOOD NEWZ #2"** 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.

**Here are a few definitions of SUSTAINABILITY:**

- **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.**
- **Sustainability is when the functions and processes of an ecosystem can be maintained.**
- **Sustainability requires a paradigm shift from out-of-control consumerism to conservation ethics and economics.**

"Good Newz" will carry reports on global, national, and local efforts. We welcome your input... your comments and suggestions for improving the newsletter. Items you share on sustainable individual, group, and business efforts will be posted here. Please contact [helenv@rockisland.com](mailto:helenv@rockisland.com). If you want to "unsubscribe" from this mailing list, please respond to this email. We ask that you forward "Good Newz" to anyone who might be interested in the topic of sustainability, especially here in the San Juan Islands.

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**THE WORLD COMMUNITY:**

The governments of Zimbabwe, South Africa, and Mozambique have created the world's largest cross-border conservation area and "super wildlife park" (13,000 square miles...larger than Switzerland!). Some of the fencing that had been put up as an apartheid effort to separate people, has been cut and opened to create the Great Limpopo Transfrontier Park, allowing cheetahs and other wildlife in this rich animal kingdom to move across national borders. The area's 10,000 elephants now have "a new lease on life." And, politicians feel hopeful that this regional cooperative effort will stand as a commitment to sustainable development of the African continent.

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Social architecture is an instrument for progressive change that increases human dignity, reduces suffering, and improves community by making it more beautiful and beneficial. The Urgent Africa program, in its dedication to working with AIDS orphans, is partnering with small villages in Kenya to develop locally-owned "micro-enterprises" that rely on readily available resources to help promote sustainable, healthy communities. Brick-making, water filtration and irrigation, soil building, organic gardening, edible landscaping, tree crops, appropriate technology and housing, and relevant economic development are some of the continuing efforts of Urgent Africa volunteers, local villagers, and American college and postgraduate students who can gain gratifying work experience as well as school credit. [See [www.urgentafrica.org](http://www.urgentafrica.org)]

**ALL-AMERICAN EFFORT:**

Portland, Oregon: Silk SoyMilk will be made with windpower (100% renewable energy)! The Bonneville Environmental Foundation announced its largest sale to date of wind-generated power--55,000 megawatt hours of credits over three years--to Silk SoyMilk producers, White Wave, Inc. The company's electrical power use, in all its operations, will be replaced with wind energy generated by 31 utility wind turbines. The upgrade will help to reduce combustion pollution of coal and natural gas power, eliminating exhaust pollution that is equivalent to taking 9,000 cars off the road for a year.

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Los Angeles, CA: Rock band legends, the Rolling Stones, performed a free concert on 2/7/03 to raise awareness of global warming. The nonprofit Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) organized the event, held in one of the nation's smoggiest areas. Former President Bill Clinton, the "opening act," said, "The new energy future is decentralized, entrepreneurial, and needs average citizens like us to say, 'Give me a clean car, give me solar shingles for my roof...give me a clean future.'" Other celebrities attending were Pierce Brosnan, Rob Reiner, and Leonardo DiCaprio; Leo urged the public to adopt an environmental lifestyle and to buy hybrid gas/electric cars, like the one he drives.

The concert was certified "Climate Cool" by Native Energy. NRDC purchased clean energy credits to offset every ton of carbon dioxide generated by the event for sound, lighting, air and ground travel. Donations were made to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to build electricity-generating wind mill farms on the Rosebud Sioux reservation in the Midwest. The Foundation also purchases electricity from wind farms in the Northwest. **See [www.nativeenergy.com/windbuilders.html](http://www.nativeenergy.com/windbuilders.html).**

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### **SUSTAINABLE SAN JUANS:**

- Can fishing in the San Juans be sustained? Are marine protected areas part of the answer? The San Juan County Marine Resources Committee (MRC), interested in public perceptions about the state of our marine environment, has scheduled public meetings around the county. The next one will be at the Shaw Island Community Center on March 19th from 4-6 p.m. Please see [www.co.san-juan.wa.us/mrc/index.html](http://www.co.san-juan.wa.us/mrc/index.html) (under "committee") for the complete schedule of upcoming meetings.
- Do you have or want manure for your gardens? Contact [heatherh@rockisland.com](mailto:heatherh@rockisland.com) about San Juan County Conservation District's all-islands "manure share program."
- Park Rangers at Lime Kiln State Park, on San Juan Island, report that the Clivus Multrum compost toilets have proved to be a good solution for their waterless system. Composter performance is rated high and a good maintenance system has been developed. The finished product, "beautiful soil," is spread to fertilize landscaping at the site, for low maintenance/low water use. Seven island state parks now have composters.
- The San Juan County Conservation District and WSU Conservation Extension will co-sponsor a Composting Clinic in Friday Harbor on Saturday, June 7, noon to 4 p.m. The workshop is for novice and experienced composters and it is hoped that home composters (Earth Machine?) will be available for only \$15. Become expert at the art and science of turning bio-scrap into enriched soil. Watch for further details.... See [rockisland.com/~sjccd/update/html](http://rockisland.com/~sjccd/update/html).
- Earth Day, April 26th: The Soroptomists and Spring Street School will co-sponsor a public forum on environmental issues to be held at the School from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.. Celebration will follow.

EDITOR'S NOTE: "Sustainable San Juans" remains a mere virtual reality without other San Juan Islanders contributing their ideas and sharing their good news, knowledge, products, and skills with our community to help build a sustainable future in the Islands. No meetings! No elections! Many benefits! Let us hear from you...the more the merrier!

Helen Venada

**"We are in a perpetual state of yearning, but the yearning may be for less, not more, for a simplification of existence that allows the poor to rise, the rich to level off, other species to survive, and the world to go on." from [Consuming Desires: Consumption, Culture, and the Pursuit of Happiness](#) by Roger Rosenblatt, 1999.**