

**"GOOD NEWZ #4"** 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:**

- **"A sustainable society satisfies its needs without diminishing the prospects of future generations."**  
Lester R. Brown, Founder and President, Worldwatch Institute
- **Sustainability is when functions and processes of an ecosystem are maintained for the common good.**
- **Sustainability requires a shift from consumption- to conservation-based ethics and economics.**

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

### **THE WORLD COMMUNITY:**

**Amsterdam, the Netherlands:** The Dutch Environment Ministry, in taking the lead in Kyoto Protocol commitment and implementation, announced 18 projects to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Renewable energy projects (solar, hydroelectricity, windpower, geothermals) in Bolivia, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Jamaica, India, Indonesia, and developing nations in South and Central America will eliminate 16 metric tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

**The Andes, S. America:** The monthly installment cost, with a 30-month payment plan, on an array of solar cells for lighting villages equals the cost of candles. A similar price relationship exists for remote villages in India that had depended on kerosene lamps for light.

The UN Environment Programme launched a \$7.6 million initiative with two of India's largest banking groups to offer 18,000 households in southern India low-cost financing for solar generated power. With support of the Shell Foundation and Greenstar India, 2500 Indian villages and hamlets now have solar power. The Barefoot College campus in Tilonia was the first large-scale solar installation (1986) and is now self sufficient. It trains rural unemployed youth and women as solar engineers.

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

**California:** BP Solar's new marketing campaign for homeowners gives 50% rebates on solar energy installations that can reduce or eliminate electric bills while producing zero carbon dioxide emissions. Home meters spin forward to track grid electricity and backward (a credit) when the main supply connection is used. See [www.bpsolar.com](http://www.bpsolar.com).

**Dallas, TX:** Kinko's Inc. has increased its annual use of green power by 37%, part of the office supply company's ongoing efforts to integrate sustainable business practices into its operations. Clean, locally-produced renewable energy in 66 Kinko locations in CA, OR, PA, WA will reduce CO2 emissions equivalent to planting 270,000 trees a year.

**Washington, D.C.:** The World Wildlife Fund headquarters will soon get 10% of its annual power needs from wind energy (installed by The Mountaineer Wind Energy Center of West Virginia).

**Berkeley, CA:** Clif Bar, Inc. is supporting construction of the first largescale Native American wind farm, owned and operated by the Rosebud Sioux Tribe Turbine Project in South Dakota. The company will offset emissions

generated by electric energy used in its offices, manufacturing, and bus travel, an environmental benefit equivalent to taking 250 SUV's off the road for a year (2000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>). Other such forward-thinking companies include Stonyfield Farms Yogurt, Ben & Jerry's, Green Mountain Coffee, Timberland Co. For info on Native Energy's WindBuilders program, see [www.nativeenergy.com](http://www.nativeenergy.com).

Flagstaff, AZ: Hopi tribesmen of Native SUN Solar have installed the first phase of solar panels for the Grand Canyon Trust office building, which now produces some of its own electricity, reducing its contribution to global warming and air pollution. The five KW solar array meets AZ's mandate to produce a percentage of its power from solar and other renewable sources. A sun-tracking feature allows panels to be 25% more efficient. Arizona Public Service provided \$3,000 of the \$15,000 installation cost. The Trust began in 1985 with a mandate to improve air quality by pursuing cleanups of coal-fired power plants.

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### **SUSTAINABLE SAN JUANS:**

#### **Mark Your Calendar:**

• Can fishing in the San Juans be sustained? 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 in Friday Harbor on June 4th, from 8:30-10:30 AM. and on June 18th on Stuart Island at the Schoolhouse. 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.

• **June 7th, noon to 4 pm, Spring Street School, Friday Harbor: SJC Conservation District and WSU Cooperative Extension will sponsor a FREE Composting Clinic for beginners and advanced composters. Register at 378-6621. Low cost compost makers will be available.**

**CONCEPT OF THE MONTH: "LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT" = The purpose of LID is to generate no measurable impacts to natural environments affected by construction projects LID tries to preserve or restore the natural ecosystem on a developed site, using resources and energy efficiently, economically, and sustainably throughout the building process.**

The San Juan County Low Impact Development Conference on May 17th in Friday Harbor was a great success! It kicks off a coalescing effort in the Islands to develop an ongoing LID program. About 125 people met for an all-day gathering to look at what practicing sustainable building means in our county. All islanders are invited to participate in continuing the process. Visit [www.sanjuanlid.org](http://www.sanjuanlid.org) regularly for up to date information. Some of the suggested issues and practices from the group's first outline on defining LID include: (under "Natural Environment") retaining all water runoff and rainfall on the property and avoiding soil compaction during construction; (under "Social") incorporating stewardship practices and infrastructure in residential settings, like composting and educated septic system care; supporting local farms, businesses, and labor force, especially those that use or sell sustainable practices or products. **KEEP POSTED AND GET INVOLVED IN OUR COMMUNITY'S LID EFFORT! And watch for more news on the sustainability exhibit at the County Fair!**

**"All nature is a compost heap."**

**Mrs. Greenthumbs**

**"You have to be more careful with an island."**

**Eleanor Howard, San Juan County Commissioner, 1980**