

"GOOD NEWZ #5" 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. 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:

Jaguar North America (the car company) is campaigning to provide grants for projects that will promote the preservation of the jaguar (the rainforest animal) and its habitat. \$83 million will be donated for the rainforest exhibit and breeding project at the Chester Zoo in England and \$1 million will go to the Wildlife Conservation Society at the Bronx Zoo in New York City.

Gold River, British Columbia: A foundation established by rock singer, Jewel, has helped to purchase a dormant mill that will generate 250 KW of green energy, enough to power 25,000 homes.

Copenhagen, Denmark: Chimpanzees at the Copenhagen Zoo are ape over organic bananas and choose them over conventional ones; in fact, they eat the organic bananas with the skin on but peel the others. Ten percent of the food at the Zoo is now organic.

Sustainable agriculture projects have been very successful in reducing poverty in developing countries. Organic rice yields in Asia are performing well. And "Taste for Life" magazine reports that it has been shown that organic crops have both higher levels of antioxidants and some nutrients than conventionally-grown foods.

Sodexo, a major international provider of food and facilities management will feature foods endorsed by the Food Alliance, a certifier of environmentally-friendly and socially-responsible agriculture practices. A spokesperson for Sodexo said that the sustainable marketplace is real and visionary companies are working to meet the market demand for healthier food and products.

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GOOD ALL-AMERICAN EFFORTS:

New York, NY: Sustainability is a growing force in the coffee market. Industry leaders from small farmers in Latin America to executives of Starbucks will attend a gala awards dinner hosted by the Rainforest Alliance. Shade-grown coffee profoundly affects the environment and way of life in coffee-producing countries, saves endangered species (including songbirds), prevents forest destruction, and encourages sustainable development.

"New Farm News" reports that organic acreage in the state of Montana has nearly tripled; 92% of consumers surveyed favor labeling of genetically modified (GM) foods. See www.newfarm.org.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the Clean School Bus USA initiative with a \$5 million grant program for cleaner school buses. Local school districts are encouraged to apply by August 1st for grants to upgrade their school bus fleet, thereby limiting exposure to diesel exhaust from buses. See www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus for applications.

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SUSTAINABLE SAN JUANS:

CONCEPT OF THE MONTH: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT combines economic growth with protection of the natural environment. The goal of "Sustainable San Juans" is to increase awareness of the value of community and the natural environment in the San Juan Islands and to promote a greater sense of responsibility to care for it.

Save paper (i.e. trees)---get your OPALCO bill online! Log on to www.opalco.com, click on E-Bill and New User Sign-up.

The Port of Friday Harbor has been promoting sustainable policies and practices for environmentally responsible boating. The marina provides full recycling services and a highly-successful re-use area for surplus boat parts and supplies to reduce waste generation. Education is provided to boaters on using non-toxic and phosphate-free cleaning products. Boaters are required to use the Port's Best Management Practices guidelines for any boat maintenance done at the marina.--see www.portfridayharbor.org. The Port's proactive policy also includes paying up to 10% more for products made of recycled materials and buying from local vendors, paying up to 10% more than equal products from mainland providers. Friday Harbor Seafoods, the privately operated floating store on the main dock, buys and sells fish, crab and shrimp from local fishermen. Electric vehicles are gradually being added to the Port's fleet of trucks and cars and the Port is working with Island Petroleum Services to bring renewable, clean, and sustainable biodiesel to the islands. Stormwater runoff from asphalt surfaces at the Airport is directed into bioswales to slow water flow and reduce pollutants. Congratulations to the Port Commissioners for their progressive thinking. "We share this planet with a great many creatures who live, move, and have their being in the ocean and inland waters. They speak to us chiefly by thriving or dying. Please join us in helping to co-exist and co-thrive. This would be a lonely place without our fellow critters." Steve Simpson, Director, Port of Friday Harbor

Did you know that you should not kill those tent caterpillars with white dots on their heads? The WSU Coop Extension Office confirms that these caterpillars are carrying wasp larvae that are parasitic to the crop-foraging caterpillars.

"Leave the world better than you found it, take no more than you need, try not to harm life or the environment, and make amends if you do." Paul Hawken, "The Ecology of Commerce"

"The environmental crisis is an outward manifestation of a crisis of mind and spirit. There could be no greater misconception of its meaning than to believe it to be concerned only with endangered wildlife, man-made ugliness and pollution. These are a part of it, but more importantly, the crisis is concerned with the kind of creature that we are and what we must become in order to survive."

Lynton Caldwell, "Journal of Political Ecology"

"Dive in the sunshine, swim the sea, drink the wild air."

Ralph Waldo Emerson