

**"GOOD NEWZ #7"** 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 combines economic growth with protection of the natural environment. Sustainability requires an increased awareness of the value of community and of our place in the natural environment. Sustainability derives from a greater sense of personal and community responsibility to care for nature and all life.**

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

### **THE WORLD COMMUNITY:**

Shanghai, China: **Three Chinese companies have won the first green business competition sponsored by Citigroup and the World Resources Institute's Sustainable Enterprise Program. Two organic foods companies and a biotech firm that produces kits to detect genetically modified organisms in one minute will now have the opportunity to negotiate for venture capital with WRI and Citigroup.**

The sixth annual "Car-free Day" was held in September. In more than 1,000 cities around the world, streets were taken over by pedestrians, rollerbladers, and cyclists and mass transit fees were lowered or dropped altogether. In Paris, police blocked most vehicles from the city center. The event was particularly popular in Europe, where air pollution has had a higher profile since August's hot temperatures and poor air quality that may have contributed to heat-related deaths.

[Terra Daily, Agence France-Presse, <[http://www.gristmagazine.com/forward.pl?forward\\_id=1528](http://www.gristmagazine.com/forward.pl?forward_id=1528)>

Parque Pumalin, Chile: **Doug Tompkins, co-founder of the sportswear company, Esprit, has donated \$30M to preserve 738,000 acres of pristine rainforest as a natural sanctuary. Tompkins has created 11 additional wilderness parks (about 2M acres) in Chile and Argentina.**

Peira, Peru: **The province of Ayabacan has declared its entire territory a natural reserve and hopes to have the national government ratify the declaration as a guarantee of its biological and cultural diversity against the threat of foreign and Peruvian mining companies.**

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

Washington, D.C.: **EPA's 2002 Energy Star and Agriculture Star programs succeeded in saving enough energy to power 10 million homes, avoiding emissions from 12 million cars, and saving \$16 billion!**

Washington, D.C.: **The Natural Resources Defense Council recycled 98% of its original building materials in constructing its new headquarters. The NRDC said that sustainability is about going beyond standard code requirements to generating ideas that force new efficiencies to emerge.**

New Jersey: **A 56-foot long, one-lane bridge has been built as a pilot project in south N.J., made of recycled plastic bottles. At a cost of \$75,000, compared to \$350,000 for a standard wooden bridge, the plastic bridge needs no chemical wood preservatives for longevity.**

The U.S. Navy, the largest diesel user in the world, will recycle its waste cooking oil, processing it into biodiesel, using a modular processing center. The U.S. military (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force) is one of the largest users of B20 fuel (20% biodiesel/diesel mix) and the Navy's project is a first attempt to create a self-sustaining operation. Success here could result in the Navy using portable units overseas to process cooking oil into biodiesel, thereby reducing overseas shipping costs of diesel.

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### **SUSTAINABLE SAN JUANS:**

Hats off to Lovel Pratt, Journal of the San Juans' Citizen-of-the-Year, for her outstanding work which includes directing the Home Trust for affordable housing. One exceptional success was the Opportunity Council grant to incorporate green construction upgrades for energy efficiency and healthy homes in the Salal Neighborhood that will use up to 50% less energy and provide higher levels of indoor air quality. Very good news, Lovel and Home Trust!

Marty Mead, of North Shore Charters, reports from Orcas that biodiesel is now available at Deer Harbor Marina's fuel dock (B20) and Island Hardware & Supply's pumps (B100). Marty says that several local contractors are also helping to pioneer biodiesel use in the Islands. NSC will soon be offering charter boat trips on the high-speed vessel, the "Millennium Falcon." The 12-passenger boat is being built to meet all sea conditions, year-round, for the Pacific NW and will run on biodiesel.

The San Juan County Board of County Commissioners and the Marine Resources Committee recently announced the establishment of the county-wide "Marine Stewardship Area." The first recommended step in the MSA public process is to recognize existing protections in the Islands (federal wildlife refuges, county voluntary bottomfish recovery zones, areas closed by State and Native tribes for UW marine reserves research, et al.). In the 2nd phase, residents and all other interested parties will be asked for their input on goals and objectives and specific implementation actions that can best provide sustainability for the San Juan County marine ecosystem. Check out the new webpage [www.sjcmrc.org](http://www.sjcmrc.org) for updates and background information, including photos of the 8 Bottomfish Recovery sites and "Resources" from tidetables to local research news.

As the new year begins, THANK YOU'S are in order to all the dedicated volunteers and non-profit organizations like Islands Oil Spill Association, Wolf Hollow Wildlife Rehab Center, the Animal Shelters, The Whale Museum, Friends of the San Juans, and others who continue to work hard to protect and restore the extraordinary environment of the San Juan Islands.

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Check [www.Navigating Our Future.org](http://www.Navigating Our Future.org) for news on sustainability, esp. in the San Juans. There is much work to be done to get this hayride up the hill! Let's enjoy the task and build community along the way.

**"People and flowers help each (other) to breathe. If you pluck the flower and break off the branches, you will reduce your own life at the same time." [signpost along the Great Wall of China]**

**"For most development, sustainability is an afterthought...sticking a solar panel on top of a building to call it green. On the contrary, sustainability must be the defining principle, informing the design and engineering process from the outset of the project." [Robert Fox, leading "green" architect]**

**"They're makin' people every day, but they ain't makin' any more dirt." [Will Rogers]**

**"Our problems will not be solved by the mindset that created them...we need to create the climate for change." Klaus Toepfler, Director, UN Environment Programme**

Helen Venada, 1/05/04