

"GOOD NEWZ #8" 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.

- "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; it 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 for all life.
- "Sustainability is the long-term economic, ecological, and social health and vitality of our community." Seattle Office of Sustainability and Environment

"Good Newz" reports on global, national, and local efforts. We welcome your input and suggestions for improving the newsletter. Contact 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..

CONCEPT OF THE MONTH: **THE "PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE,"** as described by the 1992 Rio Declaration, says that "In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."

THE WORLD COMMUNITY:

Norway: Moon power is bringing electrical energy to homes in the far north of Norway. A sub-sea power station is driven by the rise and fall of the tides, under gravitational pull of the moon, and resembles an underwater windmill. This is the first time electricity from a tidal current has been fed into a power grid.

London, England: BBC News reports that 32 national "green" parties have united to form the first pan-European Green Party. The Party's common banner is environmental protection, social justice, and sustainable development.

Munich, Germany: Shell Solar GmbH and GEOSOL are partnering to build the largest solar power station in the world, south of Leipzig. Due on stream in July, the solar power station will be built over a former lignite mine ash deposit. The free-standing array, of 33,500 solar modules, will feed 5 megawatts directly into the grid and will meet the electricity demand of ~1800 households...while avoiding ~3700 metric tons of CO2 emissions yearly. High performance photovoltaic (PV) modules will be used in series for the first time in large-scale industrial production.

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GOOD ALL-AMERICAN EFFORTS:

Wellpinit WA: The Spokane Tribe is working in an interagency partnership, formed with the Department of Ecology, to develop a Native Americans green building training and apprenticeship program. The Tribe has been working on educational programs meant to support sustained economic development. Members from any Native American tribe can enroll through the federally-funded TANF program. For info, contact Jim Wavada at DOE: jwav461@ecy.wa.gov.

Seattle WA: Federal District Court Judge J. Coughenour, in a ruling that came in a case brought by fishing and conservation groups, has restricted the use of 38 pesticides near salmon streams and has required point-of-sale warnings on products containing pesticides that may harm salmon. Seven pesticides have been singled out for

retail sales warnings; 2,4-D, carbaryl, diazinon, diuron, malathion, triclopyr BEE, trifluralin are known to have polluted urban salmon streams. The warnings must be provided to purchasers in home and garden stores throughout WA, OR, and CA.

The San Francisco CA Board of Supervisors has adopted a resolution by a 10 to 1 vote to support the European Union's proposed law to control hazardous chemicals. Their "precautionary principle" approach addresses the weakness of U.S. chemical laws that have permitted 90% of chemicals on the market to be used despite the lack of basic safety/health info. The resolution also notes the strong lobbying effort by the U.S. government and the chemical industry to weaken this international proposal.

Hollywood, CA: Oscar winning movie stars like Charlene Theron, Robin Williams, and Diane Keaton, joined Will Ferrell, Sting, and other Academy Awards guests as they drove up in alternative fuel vehicles. Keisha Castle-Hughes, young star of the "Whale Rider" said, "By taking a hybrid car to the Oscars, I can show my support for helping our planet."

Detroit, MI: The North American International Auto Show named the 2004 gas/electric hybrid, Toyota Prius, "Car of the Year." The Prius has a 50 kw electric motor, gets 55 mpg, with near-zero pollution emissions (10 lbs of smog per 50,000 miles). The \$20,000 car uses energy generated from its brakes to recharge the batteries.

San Francisco CA: Finance giant, Citigroup Inc., leads the way for the financial sector by agreeing to deny financing for commercial logging in tropical rainforests. The "Citigroup New Environmental Initiatives" recognizes the need for environmental "no-go zones, areas of high ecological value that are integral to a healthy planet; it commits Citigroup to work to increase investment in clean, renewable energy. "We aspire to operate according to the highest standards in every arena in which we do business and the environment is no exception," said Citigroup CEO Charles Prince. "We believe we can make a difference by holding ourselves accountable for our own impact on the environment." The company is offering energy efficient mortgages. www.citigroup.com/citigroup/citizen/environment

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SUSTAINABLE SAN JUANS:

AHOY VOLUNTEERS! Learn more about how you can get active in promoting sustainability, esp. in the San Juans at www.NavigatingOurFuture.org. For news, research, and photos of our inimitable, irreplaceable MARINE ECOSYSTEM, see www.sjcmrc.org. For FREE MANURE, contact Heather at the SJC Conservation District (heatherh@rockisland.com).

After 2 years of "real world experience" with several users trying out biodiesel here, Charlie Meyer at Island Petroleum Services will offer B20 (20% biodiesel made from soybeans) at the Port of Friday Harbor fuel dock, 100% biodiesel in drums and B20 in pumps at the IPS station in Friday Harbor. Anticipated prices will be from \$1.72 - \$1.90/gallon at the dock and \$2.30/gallon at the pump. Call IPS at 378-4430.

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"I have great faith in a seed...I am prepared to expect wonders." Henry David Thoreau

"The use of vegetable oils for engine fuels may seem insignificant today. But such oils may become in the course of time as important as petroleum and coal tar products at the present time." Rudolf Diesel, inventor of biodiesel from peanut oil, 1912 speech to the Engineering Society of St. Louis.

"Source reduction is to garbage what preventive medicine is to health." William Rathje, 1989

HAPPY SPRINGTIME!
Helen Venada, 3/04

"HASTE MAKES WASTE."
John Heywood, 1546