

"GOOD NEWZ #11" 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; please let us know of your efforts!

- 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; it requires a paradigm shift from out-of-control consumerism to conservation ethics and economics.

"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: We live in a **BIOLOGICAL COMMUNITY** of living organisms within a geographical boundary, whose interdependencies may or may not be fully known. A biological community shares the limited resources in a given environment, including air, water, and soil. The human component in a community has the opportunity to make lifestyle choices that will reduce its impacts on the rest of the ecosystem, through individual, neighborhood, and jurisdictional management. Sustaining, and improving, our ways of living are the ongoing challenges we must meet if we are to guarantee a healthy, viable world for ourselves and the future.

THE WORLD COMMUNITY:

Wellington, New Zealand--A national tire collection system has been launched by a public/private partnership at a kick-off event held at Victoria University, where floors and benches are made from recycled tires. The Ministry of the Environment and the Motor Trade Association program now reuses the 3-4 million tires generated per year that are collected through tire dealers and delivered by registered transporters to recyclers. Playground mats are another viable product made from old tires.

Higuera, Spain--Europe's largest wind farm at Castille-La Mancha, 15 stories high, generates enough electricity to meet the needs of 640,000 people. It also generates income for the region and provides work. Wind speeds of just 10 MPH are enough to set the mills in the mother complex in motion.

Lanzhsu, China--This gritty industrial city on the Yellow River plans to plant 120 million trees over the next 5 years to stop erosion on the main waterway, reduce flooding, and reverse centuries of shifting climate and human activity that has stripped the hills bare to rock and soil. "Planting a tree in Lanzhsu takes more effort than raising a child," said Zong Xiaoxu, Director of the city's forestation project. The State Environmental Protection Administration now has a "Green GDP" index to calculate cost of environmental damage caused by booming growth.

GOOD ALL-AMERICAN EFFORTS:

Los Angeles, CA--All container ships will be able to turn their diesel engines off and plug into an electric power system while docking at the new China Shipping Terminal at the Port of Los Angeles. Residents of neighboring San Pedro, who have high rates of asthma, bronchitis and cancer attributable to air pollution from ships moving through the Port, will benefit. More than 3 tons of nitrogen oxide and 350 pounds of diesel particulate matter per ship will be eliminated. "Congratulations to L.A.'s mayor, council, and harbor commissioners for taking a big step towards cleaning up LA's air," said NRDC attorney, Gail R Feuer.

Consumerism for kids--Overconsumption is causing "strains on the environment never before seen," says a 1998 UN Human Development Report; it uses up non-renewable resources like fossil fuels and depletes forests and food stocks at rates that do not allow them to replenish; it causes pollution and waste beyond the powers of the earth to absorb them. To help ourselves and our kids quench the desire for things we don't need, here are some suggestions from the "The Green Guide." (1) Use the opportunity for discussion when watching TV ads together to

talk about misleading statements and images that play on our insecurities and desires and what resources it takes to make such products. (2) When shopping together, discuss personal reasons for the choices you make for healthier, environment-friendly products. Decide what each person will buy before entering a store (or website) and don't add any more to your shopping cart. (3) Discuss whether expectations were met by the purchase of desperately-desired purchases. (4) Talk about the lifecycle of a product...how long will it last before it's garbage?

Washington D.C.--A federal biodiesel excise tax incentive has been passed, as part of the "JOBS" bill, by the House and Senate and President Bush signed it this week. The tax credit will benefit all biodiesel consumers, including tax exempt markets like school districts.

Princeton, NJ--The technology that already exists to stabilize the climate could be implemented immediately, says a report by Princeton scientists. They have identified 15 technologies, from wind and solar renewables to conservation techniques, that are ready for large-scale application...each could address a significant part of the problem. "It certainly explodes the idea that we need to do research for a long time before getting started," said Dr. Stephen Pacala, co-director of Princeton's Carbon Mitigation Initiative. "We have the tools to do this, especially if we think in terms of 50-year campaigns, not instant solutions." Implementation could create new clean industries, reduce dependence on foreign oil, and lessen costs associated with pollution. Each of the 15 technologies could prevent 1 billion tons/year of carbon dioxide production by 2054.

SUSTAINABLE SAN JUANS eco-bytes:

Did you know that OPALCO's Green Power program has the third highest participation rate in the country? You can join the numbers of island citizens who are investing in renewable energy by signing up at <http://www.opalco.com>. For a minimum additional cost of just \$3.50/month, you can help build the market for a cleaner, renewable energy future for the Northwest. Also, each of the four renewable electric-generating facilities built here in 2002 as part of OPALCO's Solar Project (at Lopez Community Center, OPALCO's Friday Harbor office, Westsound Marina and Windermere Realty on Orcas Island), has a generating capacity of 900 Watts; and every Watt generated here is one less that has to be imported!

Inspired by last year's Low Impact Development forum and Navigating Our Future's conference on sustainability, contractors Ken Christison and Gary Miller assisted Pamela Gross of SJ Island to build a home that a local wage earner can afford. Ken, Gary and Pam held an open house in mid-September for others to learn from their experiences and to celebrate the creation of her 1,000 sq. ft., handsome home that includes radiant floor heating, non-toxic and durable materials, space- and labor-saving design, island-cut lumber from blow down, careful site layout to make best use of passive solar heat and light, and energy-saving appliances... Want to learn more? Contact Ken, Gary or Pam.

Thank you to the San Juan County Fair organizers who provided re-use of this year's Fair booklets by collecting extras at the Post Office for re-distribution at the Fairgrounds!

San Juan Islander, Frank Penwell, recently opened "Consignment Treasures," a multi-building facility at 6739 Roche Harbor Rd, San Juan Island. Consigned and donated reusable items are sold at reasonable prices (large appliances, furniture, building materials, tools, art work, etc.). Open hours are 10-4, Wednesday through Saturday (phone: 370-5562). Re-use vs landfill...thank you, Frank.

"He who plants a tree, He plants youth;

Vigor won for centuries in sooth; Life of time that hints eternity!

Boughs their strength uprear; On old growths appear;

Thou shalt teach the ages, sturdy tree, Youth of soul is immortality."

Lucy Larson (1826-1833)

Helen Venada, 10/04