

"GOOD NEWZ #12" 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 virtual **"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@sjcpublicworks.org 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.

GREEN TIP OF THE MONTH: Get a new cellphone this holiday? Or, battery-operated toys and gizmos? You can now recycle your old cellphones and rechargeable batteries at any of the 960 Office Depot stores in the US and Canada. Non-profit partner, Rechargeable Batteries Recycling Co. (RBRC), provides for full reclamation of all battery components by a PA recycler, for re-use in new batteries. Used cellphones are refurbished for re-distribution. [Did you know rechargeable batteries last 50 to 300 times longer than non-rechargeable batteries?...saves you \$\$\$ + reduces need for toxic nickel, cadmium, lithium, and lead. About 200 million cellphones are purchased each year in the US and 130 million become discards!] Call 1-877-2-RECYCLE for info from ToolTime's Al Borland. **SPECIAL GREEN TIP** for the season: Humans are part of the ecosystem too, so being kind to the environment includes being kind to each other.

THE WORLD COMMUNITY:

Nyeri, Kenya: The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to Kenyan ecologist and Asst Mgr for the Environment, Wangari Maathai, for her decades of work that have contributed to sustainable development, democracy, and peace. Dr. Maathai's leadership of the Green Belt Movement led to more than 30 million trees being planted across Africa in 2004 to stave off deforestation. She said that since many wars in Africa are fought over natural resources, "...ensuring that they are not destroyed is a way of ensuring there is no conflict." "We have added a new dimension to the concept of peace," said Ole Danbolt Mjoes, head of the Norwegian Nobel Committee. "Peace on earth depends on our ability to secure our living environment."

Russia has now signed onto the Kyoto Protocol, a global effort to slow down the accelerating release of greenhouse gases that cause global warming and climate change, giving the required 55% of nations that contribute to global warming (the U.S. and Australia are the only developed nations not signed on.) The Protocol recognizes that the use of biodiesel can cut carbon dioxide emissions by 78%, making it the lowest cost alternative to reduce asthma-causing pollution from diesel engine exhaust. (Biodiesel is positioned to be an economic boon for Russia and other soybean/sunflower seed/wheat producers.)

London, England: Buckingham Palace has been retrofitted for energy efficiency. Queen Elizabeth hosted the high-profile conference on climate change in Berlin this fall. Her interest in the issue allegedly emerged from her observations of climate shift impacts to the royal estates and gardens.

Buenos Aires, Argentina: Scientists at the UN International Forum on Climate Change announced that the solution to slow down climate change may be as simple as planting trees! ...LOTS of trees...on marginal ag and range land. NASA satellite photos complement the scientists' findings that 2004 was a record-setting hot year. It would take 20% of every square mile left to forest to sequester the carbon emitted by today's power plants.

GOOD ALL-AMERICAN EFFORTS:

Redmond, WA: **Green Disk** recycles CD's and DVD's for 10-cents/pound + postage. CD's, although made from recycled material, are either landfilled or incinerated to the tune of 45 tons discarded globally. [Interested in piloting a collection/recycling project?]

Americans throw out nearly half their food! Table scraps and refrigerator discards cost an average of \$590/household/year (i.e. \$43 billion of food is wasted nationally). The good news is that careful food consumerism and conservation would not only feed 835 million people (10% of the starving people on the earth) but would also reduce the amount of cultivated land and ag chemicals needed to grow it; also reduced would be the greenhouse gas, methane, produced by food and other putrescibles buried in landfills. [You can easily compost all unwanted kitchen scraps (except meat or dairy) into an excellent nutrient builder and conditioner for your soil.]

Check out Jay Leno's desk and drink tables on the Tonight Show. They're made from EcoTimber, sustainably-grown or reclaimed, socially- responsible, top quality wood, including affordable, very durable bamboo. Get info for architects and others at www.EcoTimber.com.

The US Navy, Army, USDA, Dept. of the Interior, Dept. of Energy, and Soybean Boards from several states are partnered in offering a domestic-use public biodiesel pump located near the Pentagon in D.C. A 2004 survey of Americans found that the #1 reason for using more biodiesel is to make the US less dependent on foreign oil. 500 major truck fleets, 4 military branches, and tens of thousands of individuals across the nation have switched to biodiesel. "There's a light at the end of the tunnel and it's called biodiesel," said Willie Nelson, Farm Aid president, visiting the Muckleshoot Indian Reservation near Auburn, WA recently.

New Orleans, LA - Habitat for Humanity completed its first polyvinyl chloride (PVC)-free house. (PVC is found in some flooring, carpets, cables, wiring, furniture, moldings, siding, etc. PVC's manufacture and use is associated with dioxin and other pollution that can lead to cancers, endocrine disruption, hormone disorders, asthma, and neurological damage. For alternatives to PVC, see www.healthybuilding.net or www.noharm.org.

SUSTAINABLE SAN JUANS eco-bytes:

BE A LOCAL HERO: Just think of the gasoline saved and the pollution prevented when you shop on the Islands! Especially, if your purchase is made or grown here so it doesn't have to come from hundreds or even thousands of miles away! Now it's even easier to buy a full line of local beef, lamb, pork, organic eggs, locally-caught salmon, as well as arts and crafts at the newly-opened "Local Island Meats." The store at 80B Web Street in Friday Harbor is a developing cooperative enterprise started by Tiar Black with SJ Island growers like Dodie Gann, Greg Black, Rob Waldron, Guard Sundstrom, Jim Lawrence, Joan Roberts, Ashley Black, Heritage Farm and Lopez growers/fishers, Nick & Sara Jones. Also available is custom-milled grain and other animal feed. New sellers and buyers are invited to stop by!

Also in Friday Harbor, Jim and Michele Makinson, new owners of "Basils" restaurant, formerly known as The Fat Cat, are committed to serving fine food made only with local naturally-raised beef, lamb, chicken, eggs, and produce. Locally-baked organic breads are also on the menu. Help support our local economy, farms, and families while eating safer, sustainably-produced local food!

"Tread lightly on the planet when you walk on your hardwood floors." Forest Stewardship Council, www.usfsc.org

On the 40th anniversary of The Wilderness Act: "If the Act had not passed, the bulldozers and cement mixers would have gone to work and we would have lost that which could not have been replaced," said former Maryland Senator Charles Mathis, who helped steer the bipartisan effort. The landmark conservation law, "unique in its history and achievement," now protects 662 wilderness areas (106 million acres in 44 states...4.7% of the U.S.).

"Every little thing you do makes a difference."
Helen Venada, 12/04

Nell Newman, author of "Guide to a Good Life"

