

"GOOD NEWZ #15" 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; 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 back 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. To "unsubscribe" from this mailing list, reply to this email. Please forward "Good Newz" to anyone who might be interested in sustainability.

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Waste World: (a "Good Newz" feature to disseminate community ideas to manage our waste more wisely, saving resources + money) **Did you know?**...that the first commercial product packaging in the U.S. was waxpaper wrapping for Uneeda Biscuits in the late 1900's? The packaging replaced bulk sales of the biscuits and allowed manufacturers easy distribution, contributing to the transition from mom & pop stores to chain supermarkets. **Did you know?**... It takes 2-3 tons of trees to produce 1 ton of paper; 55% of U.S. paper comes from newly-cut trees. Trees have been called the lungs of the planet, turning CO2 into clean oxygen.

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THE WORLD COMMUNITY:

The Amazon Rainforest, S. America: The government of Peru and World Wildlife Foundation have created one of the largest combined indigenous reserves and protected areas in the world. The Alto Purus National Park and Communal Reserve provides 6.7 million acres of conservation that will protect biodiversity while respecting the rights of the indigenous community which serves as the Park co-managers.

United Kingdom: Responding to pressure from parents, Tony Blair announced the new government-based "School Food Trust" that offers made-from-scratch organic meals to school age children. "It will be only a matter of months before British health, education and farming could be affected for the better," said the Prime Minister. "This could be one of the biggest food revolutions that England has ever seen."

Kabul, Afghanistan: 4.5 million indigenous sapling trees from 70 government-supported nurseries will be planted to restore Kabul's greenery decimated by 20 years of conflict and 7 years of drought. The gov't will also subsidize sales of fruit trees to citizens. "The only way to keep the air clean is to plant trees," said Dost Mohammad Amin, head of the Environmental Protection Department.

Dunbar, Scotland (birthplace of John Muir): More than 400 Scottish attractions now actively promote stewardship of the environment, recognizing that preserving nature makes good business sense. The Green Tourism Business Scheme offers visitors more ecologically-sound choices, such as locally produced food and fresh fish (supporters of the Slow Food movement), wind turbines, Living Machine sewage treatment, energy-efficient lighting, green building principles, and recycling.

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AMERICAN EFFORTS:

Northwestern Montana: A federal district court has ruled that a huge copper and silver mine proposed for the Cabinet Mountains Wilderness would jeopardize the survival of one of the last five grizzly bear populations in the lower 48 states, as well as of threatened bull trout and other Rocky Mt wildlife. The proposal would have permitted the Revett Silver Company to tunnel beneath the wilderness area and pollute clear rivers with more than three million gallons of wastewater a day.

Trenton, NJ: More than 100 public health, faith, labor, and environmental action groups across the NE have partnered in a call for reductions in global warming pollution from power plants, by sending a letter to state governors outlining a set of principles that supports a 25% reduction in carbon dioxide emissions by 2020.

"Trippin'," is the new MTV series which debuted in March with the goal of saving the planet. "Top of the food chain" celebrities (without make-up!) include Cameron Diaz, Justin Timberlake, Eva Mendes, and rappers Redman and DMX who will visit the Maasai tribe in Kenya, Yellowstone National Park, and other ecological hotspots around the world.

Beginning in June of 2005, U.S. Navy and Marine non-technical diesel vehicles will run on B20 biodiesel blend as part of the military's efforts to increase the use of domestic clean fuels. Use of biodiesel requires few or no modifications and has similar horsepower, torque, BTU content, and lubricity as petroleum diesel. The Navy, Army, Air Force and Marines already use biodiesel at several bases. And, in 2003, the Naval Base at Port Hueneme, CA began processing its own waste cooking grease into biodiesel as a pilot program for future application in overseas missions.

CA Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appeared on the TV show, "Extreme Makeover - Home Edition" to taut the wonders of PV solar panels.

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SUSTAINABLE SAN JUANS eco-bytes:

The San Juan Island Home Trust reports that green building practices used in the Salal Neighborhood include healthy materials (insulation that does not off-gas, no-VOC paints and carpets, and air-to-air heat exchange with HEPA filters); conservation-minded design that uses materials in an efficient, waste-reducing manner; and, smaller-sized homes to reduce resource/energy use while keeping costs low and affordable.

Mark your calendar! This year's hazardous waste collection on San Juan Island will be held on SATURDAY, JUNE 11th, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the solid waste facility on Sutton Road. Watch for details in local newspapers and on the county webpage at www.co.san-juan.wa.us/publicworks/solid-waste/haz-waste.html

Be sure to check out the newest installation of photovoltaics at the OPALCO site in Friday Harbor! The 7.5kW modular array has no batteries and feeds all the solar power it collects into the grid. The system was funded by a federal National Parks grant and is owned by San Juan Island National Historical Parks that will receive credit for about 10,000kWh/yr on their OPALCO bills. OPALCO volunteered to be the host site since the PV system would have detracted from the historical nature of the English Camp and American Camp parks.

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"The farmer is the real force behind the food we eat and the more we support local growers the healthier and more flavorful our food will be." www.earthdinner.org

"Eating is an environmental act." Alice Waters, Restaurateur and Food Activist

"Eating is an agricultural act." Wendell Berry

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe." John Muir

"Protect Our Planet...It's the only one with chocolate!" www.janegoodall.org

Helen Venada, 5/05