

**"GOOD NEWZ #17"** 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!

- **Sustainability** requires widening the scope of our awareness so that we can understand fully the "true cost" of every choice we make.
- **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](mailto: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:** Did you know?...that 380 landfills in the U.S. now capture methane produced by garbage decay for industrial energy use. Many farms are following suit using manure to produce energy. Did you know?...North America's five Great Lakes contain 1/5 of the planet's fresh water supply (!) and are considered an international treasure (What does this have to do with "waste?"...see Duluth, MN news below.)

**FREE YARD SIGNS:** Washington Toxics Coalition is offering high quality, durable "Pesticide Free Zone" signs to Washington residents who sign a pledge to reduce their use of pesticides. To get your ladybug sign, go to: <http://whatcounts.com/t?ctl=EBCABF:389F92F>

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**THE WORLD COMMUNITY:**

Antananarivo, Madagascar: The world's 4th largest island is home to the most pristine and rare rainforests, with plants and animal species found nowhere else. Hopes are that the hit movie, "Madagascar," will spark eco-tourism to the Island, providing incentive for the extremely poor local people to protect their priceless heritage.

Aichi, Japan: 1,000 children from 150 countries met at this summer's Children's World Summit for the Environment to discuss their concerns about the planet's future. Koko, the 33-yr old gorilla who uses American Sign Language to communicate, was Ambassador for the summit and led a multi-media workshop to teach kids about the plight of gorillas and great apes today (there are 700 Mt. gorillas left in Africa). Koko, who is gentle, self-aware, and smart (with an IQ of 70-95) appealed to future global leaders to help save her species and to become stewards not plunderers of the Earth. "People need to hurry," Koko signed. [www.koko.org](http://www.koko.org)

The Canadian printing of the sixth Harry Potter novel saved the equivalent of 28,000+ trees by using only recycled paper...at a 5% increase in cost.

Paris France: An environmental charter has been amended to the French constitution. It guarantees citizens the right to access environmental data and obligates political leaders to promote sustainable development and to minimize risks of irreversible environmental damage in all their decisions.

London England: A study funded by the British government's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs reported that organic farms in the UK support, on average, 32% more birds and 35% more bats than non-organic farms. According to the study, thicker hedging, smaller fields and the lack of pesticides on organic farms were all contributing factors to the richer wildlife (more birds + bats = fewer bugs).

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**AMERICAN EFFORTS:**

Washington D.C.: The U.S. Senate Partners for Fish & Wildlife Act (S.260) will provide for habitat conservation on private land. \$75 million/year for 5 years will fund improvement projects through voluntary agreements with

landowners and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. In Oklahoma alone, the Partners Program has helped to restore and conserve 24,000+ acres of habitat through 700 individual voluntary agreements.

Duluth, MN: A draft strategy to restore and protect the Great Lakes has been issued by a new collaboration of federal, state, city, tribal, and non-governmental organizations. Efforts of the Great Lakes Regional Collaboration will be synchronized with Canadian projects. 1500 people worked in teams on 8 critical environmental priorities (invasive species, nearshore and coastal issues, habitat conservation, areas of concern, non-point sources, toxic pollutants, regional database management, representative indicators, and sustainability). Reports and action recommendations are available at [www.epa.gov/glnpo/collab](http://www.epa.gov/glnpo/collab).

Seattle's "Zero Waste Initiative" is called the next generation of social/civic responsibility, with the long-term goal of moving beyond recycling to preventing garbage. Reduced need for landfills, lower costs for disposal, transportation, and energy are the proposed future of waste management. Mandatory recycling with fines for violators begins in January! It is hoped this will encourage residents, gov't agencies, and businesses to re-think what they buy and how they dispose of things from eggshells to electronics.

The Campus Climate Challenge will be launched on October 19th as a coordinated response to global warming. It will engage 500 colleges and high schools in the U.S. and Canada in long-term actions and hopes to transform students into leaders in the switch to clean energy. See [www.energyaction.net](http://www.energyaction.net) (Western WA University in Bellingham now purchases 100% renewable energy (33,000 Mwh/yr from solar arrays or wind farms). Students pay \$10.50 per quarter to support the effort.)

See [www.LeaveItWild.org](http://www.LeaveItWild.org) where you can take action to protect your favorite wild areas as part of the Campaign for America's Wilderness.

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### SUSTAINABLE SAN JUANS eco-bytes:

Thinking of building in the near future? See [www.navigatingourfuture.org/resourcesandnews](http://www.navigatingourfuture.org/resourcesandnews) for detailed steps on "How to protect your trees during construction." Lori Larkin of SJC Conservation District explains how trees can be unknowingly damaged during construction, with decline or death that may not show for several years.

"Reusable Treasures Room" is open at Spirit Tree in downtown Friday Harbor. "Gently" used items are accepted for "sale" by donation to support local efforts. Spirit Tree feels strongly about re-use as a community value.

The Lopez School cafeteria is serving fresh, local produce and beef as part of the "Farm to Cafeteria" movement which is being implemented in 200 colleges and 400 school districts. Lopez HS ag students are helping to raise, harvest, and prepare food from local farms. See "Farm & Food" at [www.navigatingourfuture.org](http://www.navigatingourfuture.org)

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*"By changing our patterns of consumption and resource use, we can redirect our energy from frenzied efforts at **having** more to a more community centered focus on **being** more....Resolve to tread lightly on the earth...learn to use the earth's gifts wisely at home, work and play...speak up to protect and sustain our shared natural world. Join others who thoughtfully walk the talk. Teach the children to live responsibly."* from "One Caring Place," 1991

*"Green cars today...Blue skies tomorrow."* [www.newdream.org](http://www.newdream.org)

*"...little pockets of inspiration slowly begin opening up, joining together, building a collective force, and can suddenly give way to tremendous momentum and change." Robert Redford, actor and environmental activist, at a 3-day "mayors camp" for 46 mayors at the Sundance Summit conference on climate change in Salt Lake City UT*

*If you don't live it, it won't come out of your horn."* Charlie Parker